
Security Challenges in Nigeria and Their Implications for the Country's Educational System

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Abstract

Insecurity has become a very common word in our country these days. This paper therefore tried to look at the security challenges in Nigeria and their implications to the nation's educational system. It looked at the concept of security, the security problems in the country, the concept of education and how it is affected by insecurity. The paper finally recommended among other things that good leadership and good governance will go a long way in helping the country.

Since after the 1970 civil war in Nigeria, there has been peaceful co-existence among the people of Nigeria. People move about freely without fear. People travel to and live in any part of the country they like. The different ethnic groups and tribes in Nigeria accommodate and accept each other without harassment. The country was calm. And the law of the land was guiding everybody. However, according to Idoko and Dasuma (2014), the case of insecurity was noticed in Nigeria as far back as the year 2000 in some local government areas in the country but the negligence of this evil act by the constituted authority then made it spread to different parts of the country.

What is Security?

Security as a concept has been defined in different ways by many people. Ogbidi (2014) has seen security as the protection of an individual's personal safety and freedom from direct and indirect threats of violence such as environmental destruction, over population and spread of infectious discuses, food supply, energy crisis, physical, mental harassment, racism and others that can endanger the well being of an individual. Also Fayedede in Ogbidi (2014) defined security as the composition, structure and responsibilities of the security sector and comprises of the personal and communal state of being secured from a wide range of critical and pervasive threats including but not

limited to all forms of violence injustice and violation of human right. Following from above definitions, it is clear that Nigeria has witnessed drastic and frantic security challenges in the last few years. Deudo and Mustapha (2018) stated that challenges are in various forms, communal, religious, political and socio-economic with varying degrees of casualty mostly on innocent citizens of the country. Dambazau (2014) on the other hand stated that Nigeria is currently facing serious internal security, insurgency in Northern Eastern part of the country.

Nwamana (2018) has listed to problems of security in Nigeria as follows;

1) Unemployment: There is high level of unemployment in Nigeria especially among the youths. These are so many graduate roaming the street seeking for employment. According to Nwamana a lot of frustration arisen as a result of this unemployment and that the need for survival makes the youth vulnerable to manipulation into committing crimes even for very little pay. Other pride up given and resort to all manner of crimes.

2) Ethnicity: Nigeria is a multi-ethnic nation and so many of the problems in the country have to do with ethnicity. This ethnicity has brought a lot of lack of credibility, suspicion, fear and some very violent confrontations between groups as seen in some of the problems examples are the movement for the actualization of the sovereign states of Biafra (MASSOB) and The Fulani herdsmen attacks.

3) Poor Control of Borders: Nigeria has very porous frontiers where movement of individuals are largely untracked. This results to smuggling of weapons, drugs, and other equipment and so promotes violence in the country. The smuggled weapon use to enter the hands of the militants and criminal groups and enable them to cause atrocity. The porous borders also make it possible for miscreants from neighboring countries to enter the country. They are most often used to perpetrate crimes.

4) Terrorism: The country has in recent times been witnessing extreme violence from various terrorist groups. They have employed factors such as suicide bombing, kidnapping, sabotage of oil facilities, vandalization and other means that all result to destruction of life and property. Boko-Haram movement for the emancipation of Niger Delta and Fulani herdsmen are the major groups that are posing big problems for the country.

5) Inefficient Government Intervention: Failure on the side of government has been seen as a major cause of the state insecurity in Nigeria. This is because in spite of the nations rich mineral resources the government has not been able to provide basic needs of the masses.

6) Lack of faith in security agencies: There seems to be inadequate equipment for security personnel and this results in poor disposition of the security men to tackle criminals. The country's security personnel also appear to lack the expertise needed to tackle and overcome the criminal elements. This has made the citizens of the country not to have enough faith in them since the security agents are sometimes seen to run away from the criminals.

7) Corruption in Government: Oftentimes, people hear talk about people in government stealing public funds. This according to Nwamana (2018) is done in their bid to continue to stay in power. This also makes them to sponsor terrorist groups.

8) Poverty: Poverty in Nigeria has increased with an alarming rate and this often leads to increase in small crimes and other social vices that add to the problems of security in the country.

9) Imbalance in Development: Ethnic groups in some of the country are feeling highly marginalized as a result of imbalance in development of the state. This causes dissatisfaction and grievances in such places and as a result gives rise to agitations most times. Currently, there are calls from different parts of the country for restructuring because of this feeling of marginalization.

10) Loss of socio cultural and communal value system: Formally, the country has been known for keeping traditional value system. People were loyal to local authorities and the traditions and culture of their communities. It is no longer so now in the country. There are total disregard to the norms of the land and people are committing crimes with impunity.

Following from all these security challenges outlined above economic growth, development and education are suffering. There in therefore need for serious steps to be taken to save the country before it in too late.

Education and Insecurity

Education is the bedrock of societal development and no nation can rise above the quality of its citizen's educational level as the type of education given to the people of a nation determines the type of governance that might exist in the country, Odel and Atonuje (2016). Where there is a state of insecurity and bad governance, there is absence of quality education and development is elusive as a mirage. Education has been defined as a process by which individuals are assisted formally through proper direction and guidance to develop their capacities for their own benefits and that of the society (Orikpe, 2013). Orikpe also maintained that every sovereign state must train, sustain nature men and women to serve in its security and intelligences outfit According to Esiemakhai in Orikpe (2013), in Europe and America, these men and women are selected from the best and brightest citizens who are endowed with keen and subtle intellect. Recruitment into defense and military intelligence outfit, therefore needs serious assessment of the persons educational background, intellectual sharpness, smartness and patriotism. Sadly enough, it is not so in our own country. In recent times therefore Nigeria has been plagued by so many security problems which has generated negative effects on the education system. The condition of education in the country has recently been made worse by all the security challenges for instance people are now afraid to send their children to school because of the abduction of school children as witnessed in Borno state and things like that.

Many towns and villages have been displaced as a result of either insurgency or storms. By this, thousands of children who are the future leaders are not in school

anymore as they should be. Basic infrastructure in the schools have been crushed with bombs. It is no longer a question of poor provision of these things but they are no longer there. Education according to (Tebolo 2000) has been at the top of the priority lists of some previous Nigerian governments, yet the education system is still far from being okay because of the challenges of insecurity. As if the Boko Haram, kidnapping and other associated problems are not enough, the so called herdsmen have started their own and are gradually but seriously destroying communities so the question is what do we do?

Conclusion

There is serious and urgent need to address the security issues now. The government should despite the challenges facing the nations education system, move on to provide quality education since absence of it brings about all the security problems facing the country. This will go a long way in reducing the security issues

Recommendations

- 1) **Good Leadership and Governance:** As a result of high rate of insecurity in the country now, there is need for a real God fearing leader, who will work for the well-being of all Nigerians regardless of ethnicity, religion etc.
- 2) **Socio-Economic Development:** Nigeria is currently going backwards in terms of development . There is serious need for improvement in the areas of infrastructure, education, medical, employment and provision of other basic needs of the people.
- 3) **Good Security Outfit :** There is need to put in place well trained security personnel that will be well equipped to tackle all manners of terrorism and criminalities in the country.
- 4) **Corruption free Nation:** Nigeria should change to a corruption free country, it will go a long way to reduce security problems.
- 5) **Involvement of all Stakeholders:** If all the people - the government, security agencies, civil societies, religious heads, individuals and companies should join hands to tackle security issues, it must surely come down.
- 6) **Good Policies:** If the legislative and judicial arms of government should come out with policies that will tackle most of the security issues make sure that they are implemented, it will help to solve the problems.
- 7) **Fortifying the Borders:** Straightening of the borders of the country in such a way that smuggling of arms and influx of migrants into the country would become impossible.

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