

# 16

---

## Managing Education as a National Security Instrument for Economic Development in Nigeria

---

By

DR. L. EZEUWA

*Department of Educational Foundations,  
Ebonyi State College of Education,  
Ikwo.*

### **Abstract**

*This paper discussed managing education as a national instrument for economic development in Nigeria. The origin of security services was traced to about 4,000 years ago and around 722 to 705 B. C., when padlock had been discovered by the Persians. The paper established that with time the issue of security became sophisticated and needed better handling mechanisms. Existing security policies as enshrined in the Nigerian constitution were adjudged inadequate and a case made for the use of education as a credible option. The present education system in the country was however faulted as so poorly managed that it cannot offer sufficient knowledge necessary for imbibing security strategies. Effective management of education was accepted as a desirable instrument for national security that will lead to economic development. Recommendations were made which include that managers of education should adopt apolitical approach in mobilization and disbursement of adequate funds to the education sector.*

**Keywords:** Managing Education, Security, Economic Development

Security issues being as old as human existence have remained of paramount concern throughout human history. Historical records indicate measures taken by nations to ensure their security. Nwankwo (2013) wrote that about 4,000 years ago wooden security locks known as “Pin tumblers” were used by the Egyptians to secure the castles while around 722 to 705 B.C., the Persians had discovered the first wooden padlock which was used in a security gate for the palace of Sargon 11. The Christian

Holy Bible in Nehemiah chapter 3 stated that when repairing the old gates of the city of Jerusalem which took place probably in 445 B.C. doors, bars and locks were set up.

During the medieval era, there were security cases of wars, conquests, annexations and domination between nations. The situation aroused the consciousness for national security focused on protecting the nation from security issues such as wars, natural disasters, plagues, famine, attacks and domination. In the African traditional context, security was defined according to the principles of internal courses of actions using the rules of religion, divination, mysticism, cults and age-grades (Nwankwo, 2013:22). The highly placed Africans such as kings, Monarchs, Chiefs and Emperors built large and high walls, maintained large armies bonded under magical rites and masquerades. The Nigerian City of Benin by 1485 had been a walled town of 25 miles in circumference. These actions were precipitated upon ensuring secure environment.

In recent time, which is an era of science and technology unprecedented security issues confront the entire globe. The issues are mainly based in militarism and weaponization ranging from physical, terrestrial, radiological, nuclear and biological, among others. This condition has brought in new dimensions to the concept and issues of national security. The conventional security agenda in all nations of the world have therefore been compounded by nascent explosion of scientific and technological inventions. Nigeria as a nation is not excluded from the malady. Kehinde (2011) listed kidnapping, hijacking, assassination, abduction, militancy, terrorism, murder, robbery and bombing as the most recent security problems confronting Nigeria especially as perpetrators seem to be aided by sophisticated technological tools. Similarly, Odogbor (2013) enumerated factors that often lead to insecurity in Nigeria to include: disunity, ethnicity, bribery and corruption, religious intolerance, election rigging, poor economy and political instability.

Nigeria is aware of the prevalence and threats of insecurity issues hence the efforts already made in recruiting qualified security personnel, establishing more security outfits such as the National Civil Defense Corp, Joint Police and Military Patrol and significant budgetary allocations from 2009 to 2013 for defense and security related institutions. Below is the representation of the budget.

**Table 1: Capital and Recurrent Budget Allocation by Selected Priority Sectors in Nigeria**

Sectors		Type of Budget	Year				
			2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
0	Education	Capital	40.01	53.67	51.83	54.65	71.94
1		Recurrent	184.67	195.42	304.67	342.73	360.82

	<b>Total</b>		<b>224.68</b>	249.09	356.5	397.38	432.76
0	Health	Capital	50.80	49.99	55.41	55.90	60.08
2		Recur	103.76	111.86	202.46	224.51	219.74
	<b>Total</b>		<b>154.56</b>	161.85	257.87	280.41	279.82
0	Agriculture and water resources	Capital	110.93	117.13	93.46	74.53	135.04
3		Recur	28.0	31.58	43.30	41.85	40.21
	<b>Total</b>		<b>138.93</b>	148.71	136.76	116.38	175.25
0	Defense/MOD/Army/ Air force/Navy	Capital	46.80	39.45	38.25	35.97	64.01
4		Recur	176.22	192.59	309.78	296.30	300.40
	<b>Total</b>		<b>223.02</b>	232.04	348.03	332.27	364.41
0	Security – office of The Nation security adviser	Capital	9.60	35.09	54.38	64.63	50.00
5		Recur	32.71	39.96	50.86	59.64	65.51
	<b>Total</b>		<b>42.31</b>	75.05	105.24	124.27	115.51
0		Capital	0.18	0.82	10.06	2.58	4.43
6	Police Affairs	Recur	1.84	2.12	3.22	3.53	5.23
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2.02</b>	2.92	13.28	6.11	9.66
0	Police formation and Commands	Capital	11.76	29.97	8.12	9.04	16.14
7		Recur	183.69	186.48	287.54	298.82	295.01
	<b>Total</b>		<b>195.36</b>	216.45	295.66	307.86	311.15
			462.71	526.46	762.21	770.51	800.73

**Source:** Adopted from Nwankwo 2013

The table compares budgetary allocation to education with other four priority sectors during the five year period, 2009-2013. In Nigeria, the high priority status accorded education by the national policy is yet to be reflected in the annual budget for the sector.

**Table 2: Federal Government of Nigeria Budget Allocation for Education, Health, Agriculture and Water Resources and Defense and Security-As Proportion of Aggregate Budget Expenditure 2009-2013**

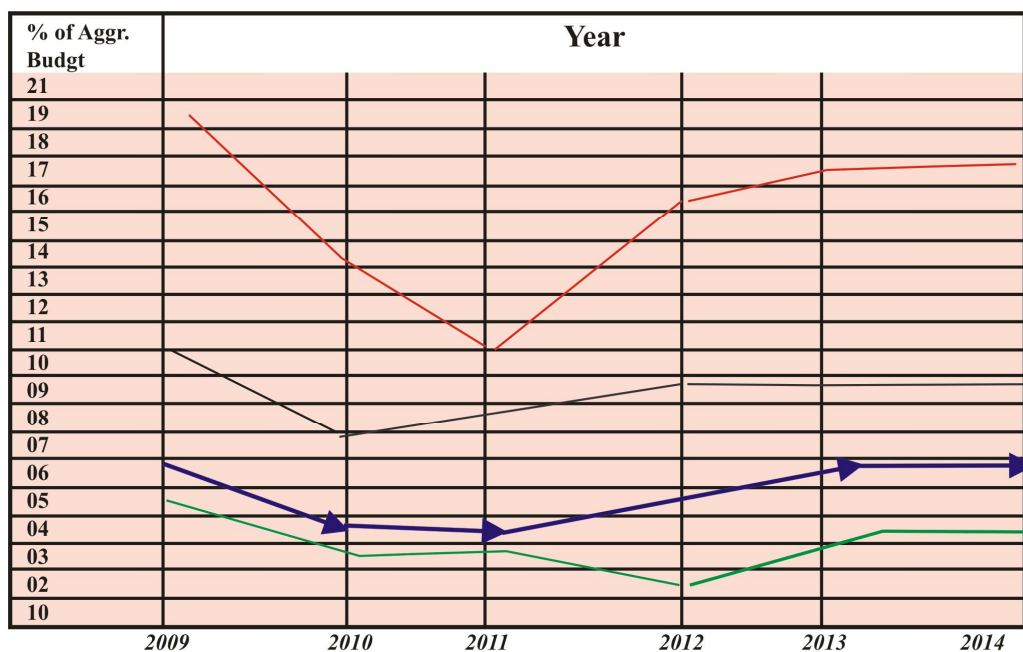
Federal government of Nigeria budget 2009-2013 (N <sup>o</sup> Billion by sectors Allocation as % aggregate Expenditure)										
Year	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
Sector	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Education	224.68	8.2	249.09	6.1	356.50	7.9	397.38	8.5	423.76	8.5
Health	139.61	5.1	153.75	3.8	167.27	3.7	397.38	8.5	284.59	5.7
Agric.& Water Resources	138.93	5.0	148.71	3.6	136.76	3.0	116.38	2.5	175.25	3.5

Defence, Police & Security	462.71	18.8	526.48	12.9	453.22	10.0	770.22	16.6	814.59	16.3
Aggregate Budget Expenditure	2,726.28		4,079.65		4,508.47		4,648.85		4,987.22	

**Source:** Adopted from Nwankwo, 2013

Data in the table above shows that during the 5-year period, defense, security and police institutions received between 10 and 18% of the aggregate annual budget while education, health, agric and natural resources received 6.1 and 8.5%, 3.7 and 8.5%, 3.0 and 5% respectively. Defense, therefore, tops the list when compared.

The scenario is equally graphically represented as shown in figure I below.



Education = →  
 Health = →  
 Agriculture & Water resources = →  
 Defence, Police and Security = →

Fig. 1: Graphical representation of annual Federal Allocation to selected sectors Viz a Viz defense and security 2009 – 2014

Remarkably, in spite of significant budgetary allocation to the security sector by the Nigerian government, the country is still passing through difficult period of insecurity. There has been prevalence of terrorism, armed robbery, corruption, economic backwardness, political instability and even climate-related problems that constitute security risks; such as erosion menace. Best (2012) warned that the insecurity situation in the country was inimical to economic development as high cost of living, high inflation rate, unemployment, scarcities, lack of food and lack of access to critical resources presently being experienced are attributes of poor security system.

Nigerian security challenges seem to have defiled existing national defense policies enshrined in the constitution. There is therefore the need to find a way forward by relying on education which is the most reliable instrument of change. A well managed education can reposition the nation's security sector and pave way for economic development. It has become important for people to be educated to the point of understanding that while they cannot totally control the actions of others, they can take steps to lessen their own anxiety, improve their common security and remain informed about current challenges and how to avert, respond ameliorate or cope with the risk, whether personal, communal or national. Nwankwo (2013) asserted that it had become imperative to augment the current national security structures with new information, new knowledge and understanding and indeed new education mode and strategy capable of enhancing the security capabilities of all citizens.

In order to appropriately address the topical issues of managing education as a national security instrument for economic development in Nigeria, it seems necessary to vividly make some conceptual clarifications.

### **Concept of Managing Education, Security and Economic Development**

The word managing is a verb in continuous tense derived from the noun, management' which, Hornby (2005) defined as the act or skill of dealing with people or situations in a successful way. Obi (2003) described management as involving strategy, innovation, initiating about change, creative problem solving and decision making, actively seeking out alternatives and opportunities, reformulating goals and priorities, redeploying resources, negotiating, resolving conflicts dynamic or active leadership, diplomacy, statesmanship and a high degree of risk taking and entrepreneurship. Management can therefore be viewed as the interactional process involving a sequence of coordinated events such as planning, organizing, coordinating and leading in order to achieve set-goals using available resources. Education managers include those who legislate on the direction and dimensions of education such as Federal and State Ministries of Education, Education Commissions, Boards, Councils, School heads and all stakeholders in education. Managing education is a process with organic efforts in the co-ordination of human, material and intangible resources and liabilities for the

realization of both expressed and unintended goals of national education tradition (Nwadiani, 2012:25).

The word security means various things to various persons, groups and situations. Security is explained as:

- (a) a state of well-being, characterized by freedom from danger, risks, lack and uncertainty.
- (b) freedom from care, anxiety, or doubt.
- (c) something that guards or makes safe, creates protection and assures defense.
- (d) freedom from financial cares, from want or poverty in any form. It can as well be seen as precaution taken to guard against crime, attack, fear, terror, sabotage and espionage (Nwankwo, 2013:21)

Security is a state of personal, organizational or national safety. Economic development is defined by Inyanga (1998) as a change in the economic growth whereby the benefits of the growth are shared among the populace in such a way that the obstacles to the development are reduced to the barest minimum or if possible totally eliminated. Wilcox 1976 in Egu (2009) stated that economic development calls for new attitude fundamentally different from those that prevail in a traditional society whereby each household produces mainly for itself. Economic development requires: an indigenous base for growth process, absence of reduction of market imperfections that lead to factor immobility and inhibit sectorial expansion and development, structural change from a traditional agricultural society to modern industrial economy involving a radical transformation of existing institutions. These requirements cannot be met in a society where there is no security.

### **The Rots in the Present Education Management**

The seemingly nagging situation bedeviling educational management in Nigeria is inadequate funding. Table 2 above indicates that during the 5-year period, defense, security and police institutions received between 10 and 18% of the aggregate annual budget, compared with education which received between 6.1 and 8.5%. Ezeuwa (2005) had lamented inadequate funding of the education sector in Nigeria.

Nigerian educational system is unable to inculcate the right type of values in both learners and those who pass by such as,

- 1. National consciousness and unity;
- 2. Patriotism and sense of national cum individual survival;
- 3. Love for one another and empathy for others;
- 4. Respect for the worth and dignity of individuals and labour;
- 5. Respect for truth and honesty;
- 6. Integrity; uprightness and holiness; are dethroned and abused by schooled and certificated Nigerians (Nwadiani, 2012).

The hope has been that educated people in Nigeria will be equipped with the philosophy of the nation rapped in the educational services being provided. Education according to the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2004) is the inculcation of the right types of values and attitudes for the survival of individuals and the acquisition of skills, abilities and competences both mental and physical as equipment for the individual to live and contribute to the development of his society. Education should therefore instrumentally effect national security awareness and alertness devoid of conspiracy and malpractices.

Research (Nwadiani, 2012) showed that using indices such as intellectual and knowledge power; skills development, economic potentials, global worth, self determination and creativity, most consumers of Nigerian education fall below expectation with low relevance manifestation. Presently, there are several indicators to prove that Nigeria educational system is poorly managed, such indicators include:

1. Poor quality of the education offered.
2. Deficient and overloaded curriculum
3. Poorly trained teachers
4. Examination and certificate oriented with massive malpractices
5. High failure rate in public examination
6. Cultism and indiscipline
7. Inflation and abuse of grades
8. Unemployable school leavers
9. Infrastructural decay
10. High wastages among several other indicators.

Poor management is a strong force that may impede efforts in managing education as a national security instrument for economic development.

### **Managing Education for National Security**

Education cannot be effectively managed in such a way that awareness would be created among citizens for the essence of personal and national security unless the managers of education at all levels; primary, secondary and tertiary have clear focus on what education would or should do in the future lives of every citizen. The objectives of education, at all levels need to be repositioned and tailored to individual and collective needs with overall national goals in perspective. This implies that education resources should not be politicized rather should be elaborate enough to accommodate national security expectation and strategic interest. Managing education for national security in Nigeria demands that the concept, education be seen and applied, in its broad sense, as a means of socializing and equipping the citizen with the necessary knowledge, skills, values, morals, attitudes, awareness and understanding of individual

personal and collective rights, liberties, obligations and responsibilities as citizens of a nation so as to:

- i. be well informed, understand, appreciate and exhibit the value of individual and collective peace;
- ii. understand the limits of liberty and freedom which makes the extension of that limit a violation of those of the other(s);
- iii. respect the rights of others no matter their age, sex and religion,
- iv. seek for and acquire all necessary knowledge and skills, including modern science and technology, to the highest level of human capacity, so as to contribute to the society and thereto live a good life and to support others for same;
- v. understand and accept food, life and well being as inalienable rights accruing to civility, hard work, diligence, service, character, responsibility and accountability for every action to oneself and to all others within the same setting in today's borderless community; and
- vi. accept the obligation and avow to the readiness to protect and defend oneself and every other person, or otherwise to serve, in any situation that threatens the peace or security (Nwankwo, 2013:31).

Equally, managing education for national security demands that there should be deliberate political will leading to new policy framework accompanied by a well articulated designed programme to nurture children, youths and adults to be properly informed, understand, appreciate and practice all it takes to be security conscious.

### **National Security and Economic Development**

The role of economic growth and development of enhancing people's living standard, sustaining growth of an economy, breaking the vicious circle of poverty of the society and taking care of the social upheavals in the society is a function of prevailing security circumstances. Economic development makes room for an effective marketing where different goods such as drugs, electronics, machines, flood the market and increase the standard of living of the citizenry. Security is a necessary condition for the expansions that follow economic development. Investors may find it difficult to invest in a country where there is no peace. For Nigeria to attain appreciable economic height, a tranquil security environment is mostly needed.

### **Conclusion**

This paper has examined the place of a well managed education in national security for economic development. Works cited were in consensus that since available defense instruments seem to have not achieved much in the area of security, education, well managed will create desired impacts on Nigerian citizens on how best to handle security issues. The present educational system in Nigeria is faulted for



improper management while a case was made about what it takes to properly manage education for national security that will usher in economic development. The paper recommended that there should be proper planning of educational policies, programmes and projects to reflect national thinking on security which heralds economic development.

### **Recommendations/Suggestions**

Based on the revelations made, the paper offers the following recommendations/suggestions as a way forward in managing education as a national security instrument for economic development in Nigeria.

1. Education planners should ensure proper planning of educational policies, programmes, projects and transcending normative, strategic and operational levels to reflect security needs.
2. Curriculum experts should be mobilized to restructure, Diversify and improve on existing curriculum to be more relevant to the security needs of the country.
3. Education managers should adopt apolitical approach in mobilization and disbursement of adequate funds to the education sector.
4. Security operatives should ensure maintenance of law and order to create favourable security atmosphere for economic development.
5. Economists as well as the government of Nigeria should ensure that it is based on prevailing secured environment that foreign investors can be attracted to invest in the country for economic development.

### **Reference**

- Best, S. G. (2012). *Introduction to peace and conflict studies in West Africa*. Ibadan: spectrum Books Limited.
- Egu, A. O. (2009). Marketing and economic development. *Business search* 1(1)52 – 57
- Ezeuwa, L. (2005). *Issues in educational management*. Enugu: Hipkus Additional Press.
- Federal republic of Nigeria (2004). *National policy on education*. Lagos: NERDC
- Hormby, A.S. (2005). *Oxford advanced learner's dictionary of current English*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Inyanga, J.I. (1998). *Marketing for a developing world*. Owerri: Global Press Ltd.

- Kelinde, A. T. (2011). *Terrorism, threat and emergency management*. Lagos: Divine methodology concept.
- Nwadiani, MON (2012). *Managing Education for national transformation*. Keynote Address Presented at the conference of Nigeria Association of Education Administration and planning (NAEAP) held in Makurdi, Benue State; October 9 – 13.
- Nwankwo, J.I. (2013). *Managing education for national security*. keynote Address presented at the conference of the Association of Education Administration and planning (NAEAP) held in Ilorin, Kwara State; October 7 – 11.
- Obi E. (2003). *Educational management: theory and practice*. Enugu: Jamore Enterprise (Nig.)
- Odogbor, P. I. (2013). Rebranding the Nigeria Citizenry through social studies: A recipe for positive global image for Nigeria. *Journal of Qualitative Education* 9(4) 123 - 130