

Quality Education as a Panacea to Global Security Challenges: A Case Study of Nigeria

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Abstract—The most fundamental function of a state is to secure the lives of her citizenry and make them live amicably. Any nation that is unable to provide security puts a serious threat to the peoples' lives and their continuous corporate existence is in jeopardy. This paper examines the importance of national security to the development of a nation, the spate of security crises in Nigeria and the roles of quality education at addressing this challenge. The paper recommends among others the re-invention of, moral, civic, technical and entrepreneurship education at all levels with the aim of providing right political education and entrepreneurship skills to the people.

Keywords—About four key words or phrases in alphabetical order, separated by commas.

I. INTRODUCTION

EDUCATION is a process by which an individual is assisted formally and informally through proper direction and guidance to develop their potentials for the development of self and the society. Education makes people to live effectively and efficiently in the society and to contribute to its advancement and upliftment. Therefore through education the attitudes and practices of the people could be patterned along that direction. In other words, quality education will make people to understand and appreciate one another better and help to restore the dignity of man. Thus, it is imperative to recognize the roles education plays in equipping individuals with requisite knowledge and skills for survival and societal progress.

In Nigeria, happenings in recent times have called for thorough appraisal of our educational system with the aim of ascertaining if they have achieved the desired results. The quality of Education of a nation determines the quality of the people and the quality of the people determines the development level of the nation. National integration is all embracing as it covers all activities and arrangements put in place to ensure the exercising of the citizens; fundamental human rights without any threat whatsoever. In Nigeria today, despite the fact that the government has not put up any overt policies that threaten the exercising of the peoples' fundamental human rights, the government has failed at

making the people to enjoy one of the most fundamentals of these rights; the right to live. The country is bedeviled with different cases of insecurity that have cut short peoples' lives. The insecurity comes in different shades such as election related killings, robbery, kidnapping, assassination, human trafficking, hunger, militancy, terrorism etc, all these happen on daily basis in Nigeria and thousands of Nigerians have been killed, maimed or displaced.

These crises have remained with us and become intractable despite all efforts being put up by the government to address them, it is therefore pertinent to consider the education option as a panacea to the national security challenges.

II. NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

In Nigeria today, the issue of security is the most discussed because people live in fear of being harassed, maimed, kidnapped or killed. It will be parochial to narrow down the issue of security to defense and military might alone. This myopic gauge of the issue of national security has made successive Nigeria government to keep committing the same error of allocating a lion share of the national yearly budget to defence. It is unfortunate that this huge expenses on military and defence has been rubbished by the spate of insecurity that remains unabated in the country. Therefore the deliberate neglect of other vital sectors of the economy that bear directly on security remains the nemesis of the government.

National Security was defined by (1) as the ability of a State to overcome any form of her challenges no matter what the challenge is. He explained further that national security is wider than military might, defence or law enforcement and pointed out other rather basic dimensions like employment, water and food security. It is therefore safe to infer that a national security policy would be of no use to the unemployed and hungry citizens that constitute the majority of the population in a poor country like ours. The President of United States of America, (2), in 2010 gave his own all-encompassing world view of what constitutes security as; a strong, innovative and growing economy in an open international economic system that promotes opportunity and prosperity.

(3) identified the ingredient of national security as "the struggles to secure the most basic necessities of life such as food, fuel, medicine and shelter". This broader view of national security from the perspective of human physiological needs conforms with Maslow's Developmental theory that puts tissue needs at the peak of the needs of every man. (3)

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identified some of the major security challenges confronting the nation to include political and electioneering conflicts, ethno-religious crises, ethnic militarism, boundary disputes, cultism, organized crimes etc. (4) opined that Nigeria is plagued with social disorder, insecurity, poverty, illiteracy, balance of payment deficit, poor health statistics, ethnic and religious conflicts, corruption, crime and political crises. The implication of all these is that we very insecure as a nation and this constitute threats to peace, security and development of the country.

Recent social unrests in various African countries no doubt have roots in the failure of the government policies to provide or manage the basic human physiological needs of their citizens. In Nigeria today the spate of bombings by the Boko Haram sect is a big blow to the nation's security, this position was attested to by the declaration of Inuwa Bwala (Borno State Information Commissioner) in a recent interview granted by the (5) that 'the Boko Haram issue is not just a Borno problem. It is a Nigerian problem, it is a sub-regional problem'. It was on record that the Boko Haram sect killed more than nine thousand people in more than three hundred and fifteen attacks. Analysts are quick to blame the Boko Haram catastrophe on unemployment, hunger, and deprivation. Specifically, the US government submitted that illiteracy, unemployment and inexorable demands of survival from the effects of poverty make the northern youths vulnerable and ready for recruitment into crime and social vices including terrorism of the Boko Haram genre.

The catalyst for violence in the Niger Delta, where the country's energy sector is concentrated could be grouped into two:

1. The indigenous population dissatisfaction with their impoverished condition despite the wealth generated by the area's resources, and
2. The environment degradation caused by energy-related development.

This disenchantment has spawned many militant groups prominent of them being the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND). In 2006, MEND militias started attacking oil installations and kidnapping foreign oil industry workers in an effort to press home their demand. This action led to 20% reduction in Nigeria's oil production.

Another form of internal security challenge in Nigeria is sectarian and religious violence. It has claimed over 11,000 lives since 1999, every little event triggers suspicion, hatred and killings between one ethnic group and the other and between Muslims and Christians, mostly in the Northern part of the country. Unemployment and illiteracy have been identified as major triggers of these crises. (1) Citing the National Bureau of Statistics, stated that there are about 35 million unemployed youths in the country who are forced to resort to anything that can serve as a means of livelihood.

There are also security challenges from food, water and health. National security starts with the social components as represented by health care, food, shelter and clothing, lack of

these basics often breeds discontents and social unrest. Water resources management would yield more security dividends to the nation than many other sectors, when water is too much, it causes flooding and erosion with its trail of catastrophe; when it is scarce, it can cause drought and have a significant toll on agricultural production. At the political level, desperate, intolerant and ruthless politicians put up efforts to win elections at all cost, they recruited hungry youths to perpetrate attack on their opponents and at the end of the day scores of innocent citizens are maimed and killed. Kidnapping is now a daily routine that attracts global attention and make Nigeria unattractive to foreign investors and insecure for citizens. Armed robbers are now kings as they unleashed terror on innocent citizens at any available opportunity, no one is spared and no one is safe, the nation is in trouble as nobody is sure of coming back when he/she goes out.

III. QUALITY EDUCATION: PANACEA FOR SECURITY CHALLENGES

Equality education is the one that frees the mind of its recipients from their misconceptions. Education has earlier 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. Therefore there is need to carry out a total overhaul of the curriculum at all levels of education with a view to providing its recipients broad based education in the development of the mind, soul and body; and in comprehending the environment and in the development of appropriate attitudes, skills, abilities and competencies to co-exist with and contribute to the development of the society.

The country should train, sustain and nurture men to serve in her security and intelligence outfit; these people are selected from the best and the brightest citizens who are endowed with keen and subtle intellect (6). Recruitment into defense and military intelligence outfits needs scrupulous assessment of the recruits' educational background, intellectual sharpness, smartness and patriotism. Graduates with the best grades should be deployed not those who got ranks by the federal character formula.

Education helps to create informed citizenry which is vital to our democratic society. It increases the potential for individual to perform as citizens. The introduction of vocational programmes into the school curriculum will be a good innovation that will go a long way to strengthening the popular liberal education. There is also the need to introduce moral and civic education into the curriculum. Graduates should actually be found worthy first in character and then in learning. Also political education should be given to the people. This type of education considers the conduct of public life in the polis or polity. This education is necessary to enable people acquire some basic skills, knowledge and competencies that distinguish them from others and may be used to describe their work as political education.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

As a result of the revelations and implications of this discourse, the following recommendations become imperative:

1. Government should provide more fund to education in order to make quality and proper education available to the people.
2. There should be regular revision and introduction of innovative curricula such as in Civic Education, Family living Education, Entrepreneurship Education which will help to bridge the gap between people's knowledge and practice.
3. Need to resuscitate agriculture in order to create employment for our youths.
4. Curriculum should include both security and political education
5. There is need to do something urgent to stop spate of examination malpractices in our schools in order to guarantee the quality of our graduates.
6. Youth unemployment should be addressed urgently.
7. Political education should be given a priority.
8. The issue of federal character especially as affects recruitment into security units should be addressed.

V. CONCLUSION

This paper believes that insecurity is a serious challenge to the corporate existence of Nigeria and to the lives of Individuals. The country cannot afford to be indifferent and non-committal to these issues of national security challenges. The government has been taking panic approach of resolving the issue by making huge budgetary allocation to defence. The central lessons that inform and underpin every other recommendation to emerge from this paper is that course design should prepare citizens for proper integration into the society and that would make them useful to themselves.

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