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Moral Philosophy as a Panacea for Security Challenges in Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper discussed the security challenges facing Nigeria, its nature and causes. This paper discovered that political leaders are traceable to wide spread of insecurity in Nigeria. It evident through their corrupt practices, marginalization, ethnicity and inability to provide jobs for the graduates. Since these constitute the major challenges to insecurity in Nigeria, the paper explored that the possible tool for curbing these challenges is for the government to address vital issues such as poverty, marginalisation and the likes. Consequently, a way forward was proffered and conclusions drawn.

Keywords: Insecurity, Panacea, Moral philosophy, Security Challenges.

Introduction

Nigeria is faced with an unprecedented wave of different but overlapping of security crises; from kidnapping to extremist insurgencies. Almost every part of the country has been hit by violence and crime. Nigeria is believed to be one of the countries that have been blessed with resources such as human and material resources. Regardless of the nature's gift to Nigeria, the country is going backward instead of moving forward. The national Anthem lyrics by P.O Aderibigbe, John Ilechukwu, Dr. Sota Omoigui, Eme Tim Akpan and B.A. Ogunaike "where peace and justice shall reign is still a mirage. Likewise, the dream of Nigeria to live in unity and harmony as one indivisible, indissoluble, democratic and sovereign nation founded on the principles of freedom, equality and justice (FGN 2014) remains illusion. Nigeria has remained a victim of sabotage by bad governance irrespective of the efforts made to gain her independence.

Arguably, the implication of the above is the root cause of various challenges that confronts her. These challenges are evident in the cases of fraud, high crime rates in major cities, terrorists, insurgency, poverty, prostitution, inflation, unemployment, corruption in public service and stagnation in entrepreneurial development (NISER, 2000; UNDP 2006). The argument of this paper is to articulate the nature of the key challenge to insecurities in Nigeria, to analyze the causes of insecurity and how philosophy of education could be the tool to salvage these challenges.

The Nature of Key Challenges to Insecurities in Nigeria

Nigeria as a secular state are on daily basis being traumatized by terrorism, kidnapping, ritual killings and bombings. The dramatic menaces of unemployment, elite exploitation of ethnicity, religious differences, corruption, weak security apparatus, porous border, marginalisation, inequality, bad governance in the country has cut through North East, North Central and South East regions, the government that is entrusted with life and property security appears confused and unable to do so (Emmanuel & Emily 2019). Consequently, Baldine (1997) tied the concept of safety of citizens as the ability of a nation-state to curtail internal rebellion and external aggression. The absence of this, triggers the feeling of the presence of economic, political, social, cultural and psychological fear in the country. Thus, to experience a state of complete physical, mental and social well being, security is essential (Meddings, 2001). Without security, there can be no stable society; rather, there will be prevalent fear and danger from violent death (Hobbes in Coupland). Having articulated this, the author views insecurity as the down-playing of a resolvable issue turned to become a threat to man's security.

Causes and Analysis of These Key Challenges to Insecurity in Nigeria.

To a great extent, the measure by which the federal government of Nigeria addresses insecurity has resulted to unfavourable circumstances that reduced the chance of succeeding. This is not surprising because the manner of dishonest or fraudulent conduct by them is the cause of all forms of social problems. The ugly trend of unemployment, poverty and injustice is not unconnected with poor leadership. This has made the environment to become so unpleasant and disastrous to our collective effort as one indissoluble people.

Nonetheless, the state of insecurity in Nigeria is unquestionable and traceable to inequalities and imbalances perceived by the people that are being led and to a great extent, pointing to the mutual suspicion and the agenda of a certain group /section of this country to overrun the rest of the country. Effort to combat insecurity have been ongoing for years and have produce mixed result. Some effort listed here are: War against indiscipline of 1984: a comprehensive programme to strengthen national unity, promote economic self sufficiency and instil cultural, personal and moral discipline so as to control indolence, corruption and criminal practices. General Ibrahim Babangida's mass mobilization for self reliance, social justice and economic recovery in 1985, General Sani Abacha's failed bank tribunal in 1994 and Olusegun Obasanjo's Anti-corruption act in 2000 (Charas 2014).

Nigeria has failed in fighting corruption. This is because the necessities have been neglected. This no doubt has an effect on our effort to develop like other countries. Where there is corruption, development cannot be achieved. In other words, where one is present, the other suffers (Oghi, 2013). If not, how do one explain the situation of Yakubu Yusuf who was convicted of stealing ₦23.3 billions of police pension fund be given a ridiculous option of ₦750,000 fine by the judiciary who were supposed to bring to "book" perpetrators of corrupt practise (The guardian 2013). Snake allegedly swallowing of ₦36 million from JAMB office vault (Vanguard 17/2/2018) and monkey allegedly swallowing of 70 million belonging to Northern Senators (Vanguard 21/2/2018). Large scale government industrial project had been ruined by corruption in the past and a lot more are still being constrained by pandemic (World Bank 1997, Onimode 2003).

In the light of insecurity, unemployment among youth attests to be one of the root cause of insecurity. This is because unemployment exposes people to poverty. In the view of Aliyu (1998), poverty is a situation in which people lived below a defined standard of income so that individuals and nations are classified and identified as poor. The problems combined has provided a fertile ground for activities that constitute a threat to national security. The high rate of crime is the direct consequence of unemployment and poverty. Akande and Okuwa (2009) averred that youth unemployment is a major factor in African conflicts experiences. The unfavourable socio economic entices them to involve in crimes and violence as a means of surviving.

In the wake of thought, Nigeria current government has been strongly charged with ethnic disparity and the marginalization of some sections of the country in the provision of basic infrastructure and these have significantly compounded Nigeria's security (Nwadiakor 2011). Unarguably, majority of political positions have been given to people from the North while the South-East has been left in the cold. The disturbing scenario has caused dissatisfaction and loss of hope for the south-East, thereby resulting to the agitation of the Biafra Republic which recently has gone beyond control. The young people now voice their disillusionment with the state of affairs by any illegal means. Onuoha as reported by Nasiru Zubara (2020) stated that the consequence of this is growing uncertainties.

Philosophy of Education as the Key to Challenge Insecurity in Nigeria.

Notably, education is not just a mere discipline but a philosophical force of its own filled with positive outcome for human development. Obviously, any education without a practical philosophy may not achieve its vision for national development. Its achievement depends on bringing the vision into practice. Arguably, any education that is entirely lacking of some philosophy would be equivalent to the phraseology "beating about the bush" and would deny the society its philosophical benefits. Thus, it is the purpose of this paper in this context to prove how philosophy of education can tackle insecurity in Nigeria.

Nigeria needs a dynamic educational philosophy that will change the mindset of the citizens towards corruption. Nigeria needs to monitor and set standard for creating awareness for self, for dignity and awareness of value system. Okoli in Abiogu (2020) proposed that dynamic philosophy should ultimately make the Nigeria value to be more (qualitative) rather than have more (quantitatively). As an independent and developing nation (confronted with the problems of the nation building), Nigerian leader must struggle to cripple corruption and raise humans with value concomitant of conduct and character. Moral philosophy could be of great help to behaviour modification and character development.

Relatively, moral philosophy provides members of the society with strategies for becoming more aware of their own values, value for others and what it is to be valued. Consequently, morality as a concept deals with right and wrong, good and bad. Ryan in Mbaji (2012), affirmed that morality aims at helping people to acquire those virtues or moral habits that will help them live good lives and at the same time become productive and contributing members of the society. Moral philosophy will inculcate in every member of a given society a nationalistic spirit and eradicate the culture of embezzling the national funds. It will help to eliminate corruption, tribalism, religious extremism and socio-economic problems holding down the

progress of the nation. Indeed, upholding value will help to prevent harm to both the individuals and the society which are essential for the conduct on the preservation of civic and democratic society. Moral philosophy will inculcate in the peoples mind the skill that can help to live a better life rather than be pressurised by the outcome of our given culture. Moral philosophy is believed to have the basic codes and guides necessary for curbing violence, kidnapping, cultism among the angry unemployed youth whose chances of survival depends on committing crime.

Finally chronicles of school abductions by unknown gun men, devastation of farm products and killing of farmers by Fulani herds men, other groups like Boko Haran, Myatti Allah agitation, Middle Belt agitation, Oduduwa Republic agitation and IPOB agitation can be taken care of if proper reasoning is to be applied.

Way Forward

Since insecurity is not only a threat to the existence of the people but today one of the most important factors that precipitate the agitation of various groups for the breakup of Nigeria, there is need for the federal government to sit the leaders of all the groups down, come to terms that will see Nigeria staying together as one indivisible nation. Another way things can be done right is by eliminating ethnic bigotry and nepotism. We must go seriously for meritocracy and education, as well as go back to rules and recognise the equableness of every federating unit. Until we decide to sit down and agree on that, this constitution that we have may completely be useless. Also, the use of law enforcement agencies can be applied, whose duty is to respond to, detect and prevent crimes through the enforcement of laws and regulations. If all these things are not in order, things are not going to work.

Law Enforcement Agencies

Laws are served as a legal frame work for charging offenders and administering justice although, it is not enough to curb these menaces. The government must address vital factors such as poverty, injustice, nepotism and marginalization, if we must get to the root of the issue.

National consciousness

Terrorism and kidnapping are intelligence driven. Fighting kidnapping is a costly endeavor; therefore, if we must tackle them head-on, we must raise our national intelligence as Nigerians. Nigeria must invest in her security infrastructure to make themselves less vulnerable, the use of round-clock surveillance system should not be looked down on. Continuous sensitisation of the youth on moral philosophy will awaken their consciousness. Educating them through seminars and conferences could help to restore dignity to the Nigeria state both now in the years to come.

Conclusion

There are unrest and hues in different states of Nigeria. This paper identified the nature of the key challenge to insecurity, the causes of insecurity and its possible remedies. This paper comes to a conclusion that the way forward to address this anomaly is to embrace moral philosophy as it will help to curb the socio-economic decay.

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