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## **Education and National Security Problems; Implication for Quality and Standard in Nigerian Schools**

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### **Abstract**

This paper seeks to examine the relevance of national security efforts and its implication for quality and standard education in Nigerian schools. Nigeria as a democratic government in Africa especially under the fourth republic has been engulfed with series of insecurity problems which in one way or the other affect academic activities designed to be achieved in public schools nationwide. Academic programs in most affected states and local governments are directly affected and some schools were closed due to insecurity problems, For instance farmer/herder conflicts, religious crisis and communal crisis that contributed to the failure in educational achievement in most pre-tertiary institutions nationwide. Other factors responsible for under achievement in Nigerian education include, arm bandits, arm robbers, kidnappers and boko haram insurgency among others. These activities engaged by members of banditry and kidnappers have systematically force some state governors to locked down both public and private schools for a duration of time to safe both learners and teachers lives in schools. This paper identified among other as some insecurity problems comprises ethno-religion crisis, weak security principles and leadership. This paper suggested among other the way forward that would help in tackling insecurity problems is by improving good governance, creating employment for the unemployed graduates and training and re-training of all security personnel these serve as steps towards reducing insecurity problems and as well as to pave way for quality education in all tiers of education.

### **Introduction**

Education is a process by which an individual is assisted formally and informally through proper direction and guidance to develop higher potentials for the development of self and the entire society. Educational policies and programs if well implemented determine the standards

of lives that are effectively help in the advancement of the society goals through knowledge and skills being applied to dissolve people problems. Quality education if adequately sponsor will help people to understand and appreciate one another better towards promoting peace and stability among themselves. It is not wrong to say quality education in a secure and conducive environment class stands the gap to solving every type of security challenges of our age.

Nigeria as the giant of Africa nations has been struggling to compete in the global race of educational achievements like other developed nations of the world since her political independence. Most federal government effort and investment made on education has been chained, due to the nature and bad political climate of the nation. For instance, all programs and activities initiated pointed at quality and standard education delivery in schools failed woefully. Educational activities under the present regime suffered severely in the hands of terrorists.

Speaking in specific sense, what is currently going on in present Nigerian democratic system of governance calls for thorough assessment of educational programs and activities in most states where many schools facilities were burnt, some schools turn to be permanently internal displace camps and in some states both public and private schools were closed indefinitely. Failure of the federal government with her fourth republic agenda to check and control insecurity problems at initial point of view, now turn to face educational institutions directly.

Nigeria as a the giant pf African with years of democratic system of governance are unaware of the role of education as the bedrock of development, forgetting quality education is influence by nation political climate which in turn determine the quality of people lives even in their remotest location. Quality education also determines quality of nation technology advancement. In addition, quality education aims at shaping her politics, culture, family, economy technology, vocational skills to mention but few<sup>1</sup>.

Beside, Nigeria government with her fourth republic principles of administration and with education inclusive, created more worry than happiness due to some activities of kidnappers and arm bandits that remain unchecked by the federal security agencies. With all these insecurity happening for many years now, educational experts express their grave concerns about the incoherency of the present stage of educational policy and programs, primary and secondary education as these two tiers of education suffered especially in most northern states.

In addition, with these continuous insecurity challenges nationwide, most governors express their bitterness on national security principles which their services could no longer help in tackling insecurity matters across the states. This ugly activity of state and federal security boards affects the education of our incoming generation.

According to Ezekwesili, presented state of the Nigerian education system advocated for reform, in fact the former minister of education warned that if the present situations in Nigerian states government, if the roots of crisis was not aggressively addressed, that both the present and future will be at mercy of danger by creating 'Nigerian girls going to Italy for prostitution because of employment. Yahoo boys or involved internal fraud, miscreant and harder criminals, and that in the near future the nation would have created highly and motivated criminals as result of poor security principles to safe people lives and property<sup>2</sup>

The key variables highlighted above pointed at nothing but quality education as it is being denied as result of federal government inability to control insecurity matters nationwide. With

all these insecurity issues that engulfed some Nigerian states also denied us to enjoy one of the most fundamental human right to lives and property and as well as the right to quality and education spelt out in the Nigerian constitutional blueprint.

Condoleezza Rice, former secretary of states in the United States of America, posited that quality education of a nation is a direct function of a country's national security<sup>3</sup> the relationship springs from the role that education plays in providing the knowledge base for technological training. Therefore, in the main situation, education of a nation is important as national security.

However, premised to Nigerian situation, internal securities as from 2015 to date prove to be elusive. In more sense, some of the challenges that directly affect educational matters nationwide are, farmer/herder conflicts, arm bandits everywhere, kidnappers, boko haram that have over stayed for years among other terrorisms have taken a different dimension in various regions in country.

### **The concept of national security**

Education and national security problems are the most important discussed in Nigerian societies. Because people in both urban and rural areas live in fear and continues to worry about their lives and the lives of their children in schools of being kidnapped or killed due to insecurity problems that have engulfed the entire nation. It will be recalled that quality management and control of security agencies of any nation help to promote educational policies and programs towards achieving the desire ends. But with the current system of governance experience today under the fourth republic committed many errors by promising her citizen good protection of lives and property, quality and standards education and good governance. Therefore, with all promises made by Nigerian government towards improving national defense, yet it is unfortunate that despite huge expenditure on military, police and other security agencies has rubbished by the spate of insecurity that remain unchecked.

The concept of national security has been constructed differently, each of which emphasizes vital factors underlying ideal lives and property of citizens. Brennan cited that national security is the protection of national survival<sup>2</sup>. Ray says that national security is to be understood in terms of the desire and capacity for self defense<sup>4</sup>. All the above analysis sees national security as dynamic, in the context it is being in most nations. National security touches all spheres of human existence including their education. National security of every nation forms part of fundamental right which citizen of democratic nations needs to benefit from her system of governance without further delay. In a situation where human freedom to lives and property were tempered in form of insecurity challenges exposes people lives to leave in danger which in turn affects education of her incoming generation.

Aside, the above analysis implies that national security assurance tied strongly on both federal, state, traditional rulers and other stakeholder to apply their wisdom wisely in order to overcome insecurity problems no matter how these problems may appear. This is because the ability of overcoming all sort of insecurity problems is determine by the responsibility of government. In a situation where the government fails to resolve her security challenges, national security agencies no matter their strength are of no use to the general public. For instance, the Nigerian states and local government are direct victims of weak implementations policies to resolve all insecurity challenges render most policies and programs un-useful.

The concept of national security according to the former United States of American President cited, conceptualizing it as activities that present world view of what constitutes security as a strong, innovative of all growing economy in an open international economic system that promotes opportunity and prosperity<sup>5</sup>. He further indentified that the ingredient of national security comprises ‘the struggles to secure the most basic necessities of life such as food, fuel, medicine, education, basic technology and good governance<sup>6</sup>. This broader the view of national security from the perspective of human psychological needs confirms with Abraham Maslow’s theory that put tissue needs at the peak of the needs of every man in both urban and rural dwellers. Therefore, in most third world nations, their concern is on security challenges that have engulfed most of their strategic policies and programmes with all kind of crisis that include, political conflicts, religious conflicts, and the recent insecurity problems in third nations are arm bandits, kidnappers, cultism and so forth.

In description of national security in relation to Nigerian system of governance, Nigerian states and local government areas are plagued with series of social disorder, insecurity, poverty, illiteracy, religious conflicts, corruption, crime and political unrest. The implication of all multiple crises constituted threats to good quality of educational policies and programs to unbearable condition leading to the increase in higher number of out of school children. Recent social disorder that affects good quality of education policy and programs in Nigerian especially in the present fourth republic are rooted in the failure of government efforts to provide or control and manage the basic psychological needs of her citizens to bring stability in the country is below expectation. This is because in both urban and rural societies people continue to worry over continuous growing of insecurity activities in the country such as Boko Haram, kidnappers, armed bandits, farmer/herdsmen conflicts are big blow to Nigerian boards. For instance, the cool business of kidnappers and arm bandits forces some states government to close schools entirely. Arm bandits and kidnappers now the king as they unleashed terror on innocent citizen at available opportunity, no one is spared and on one is safe, Nigerian societies are in trouble as nobody is safe even in the military barracks.

### **Quality education**

Quality education is a reflect of any nation dominant characteristics of people that help to provide it for the survival of her citizen. Through quality and functional educational facilities help in the accomplishment of the desire expectation of the nations who care much to invest in sponsoring education policies and programs of her state. For instance, nations that care much about education of her incoming generation implemented all programs and activities in such a way that helps in inculcating good spiritual lives of the races and its social heritage of the past experience and suggested way forwards.

Okafor refers to this as ‘all cultural heritage, whether be it religious, social, aesthetic or political values are all evaluated and imparted within the educational framework<sup>7</sup>. Therefore, with the above, implies that educational institutions need imparted relevant skills and knowledge to learners in a good and conducive environment. What this portends is that quality and standard education help to determine the nature and direction for forward roles relevant to the solution of entire society’s challenges.

Besides, there is no gainsaying that no meaningful national development will take place if the country is disintegrated and ravaged by the problems of ethnic crisis, religious, banditry activities among other terrorists are found mostly in third nations. Nigeria being a multicultural

society presently is not free from these insecurity problems which systematically affect her educational system. Good quality of education programmes and activities in most states and local governments especially in northern states continue to beset by insecurity problems which forces most states to compulsory holiday till forwarder notice.

Nyerere pointed out that only when we are clear about the type of society we want to build, we can designed at the same time implement our educational policies and programmes in order to achieve our desire goals. This shows that education is a viable tool that can be use to settle national issues. It was at this view that Nyerere further insisted that right system of education must be one that can be shown to produce the highest possible perfection and excellence of the soul following platonic viewed on education<sup>8</sup>.

Therefore, with our further analysis of quality education, quality education is in the hand of government with the fact that if national security is designed to one of the cardinal aims and objectives through governance to safeguard people lives. With the principles of governance in the fourth republic, all attention is on how the existing government machineries would help to safe our educational institutions be affected by insurgency. It is regrettable that even with higher expenditure on national security in an era of science and technology, insecurity problems has render most of our schools and therefore, has less contribution to society's problems. Therefore, with principles of governance in the fourth republic despite her good intention,, failed to curtailed insecurity challenges put nation education at risk.

According to UNICEF report on Nigerian education revealed that most schools especially in the northern region were attacked by boko haram, armed bandits and kidnappers. On the report released that 4700 learners of both primary and secondary schools, 28 learners were killed and more than 1.5 million Nigerian children are out of school this year due to continuous activities of various terrorist witnesses in the present regime. Most schools facilities and infrastructure were bombed and some schools turn to permanently internally displace camps which psychologically affects the lives of our incoming generation. The situation found have dominated the present regime defied the high hopes raised by the Ashby commission report of 1960 which gave birth to 1969 curriculum conference, even though there are minor problems of poor implementation of programmes and activities in schools. Aside the above, educational institutions presently engulfed with serious problem of insecurity all round.

### **Challenges of quality and standard education in the fourth republic**

Many Nigerian citizens complained that the current educational policy and programs of universal basic education is far from addressing the relevant issues of our national lives. The nation education ever before need to be reposition in order to compete in global race of educational achievement. Nigerian education have been struggling to settle some of her challenges of the past but with present insecurity problems tempered with good quality plan on education. Some of these challenges comprise;

1. Under/miss-funding of educational policies and programs for good quality education that is capable of bringing about sustainable development we wishes ourselves. So, with the current expenditure on education cannot be determined in relation to the UNESCO suggestion of twenty six percent of national budget to education.
2. Politicization of education. Politics of nations are the roots and direction to which educational policies and programs are being implemented. But with the system of

governance in Nigeria, bad politics affects good quality of education in most states and local governments entirely.

3. The universal basic education program as a result of the failure of the universal primary education which is narrower in scope. UBE program and activities is another landmark that gave hope to the nation's education. The universal basic education is to provide formidable plans for youths and adults to acquire relevant knowledge and skills with which earn a better life. To what extent have UBE schools have been fruitful couple with terrorist activities witnessing in Nigeria today. Most basic schools were burnt, destroyed and teachers and conditions are psychologically affected and most schools' children are seen on the streets of major cities loitering and hawking. The out of school children are likely to be involve in political violence and some other crime that are counterproductive to the society's goals
4. Leadership/ power tussle. This factor has reveals in putting the square peg in a round hole. This has despaired Nigerian the benefits of being administered by good leaders as most of the political leaders are in office for their own selfish gain. Often, sadly these crops of political leaders with reference to fourth republic, especially in most northern states oppresses her citizens with looted incomes and in one way or the other trained thugs who later turn to arm robbers, kidnappers, drugs pusher and other crime that affects people lives and property
5. Ethno-religious conflicts also affect good quality of education in most states
6. Weak security system, this resulted to inadequate equipment for the security arms in government both in weaponry and training. This is in addition to poor attitudinal and behavioral disposition to security personnel. In many cases security personnel assigned to deal with a given security situation lack the expertise and institutional infrastructure on how to start. Igbozor observed the state of insecurity in Nigeria is greatly a function of government failure<sup>9</sup>. This is manifested in the services and to provide for basic needs of the masses.
7. The recent growing insecurity in Nigeria overshadows other challenges to quality education delivery in most states of federation. Nigerian government as from 2016 to date witness uncontrolled insecurity problems. This is because insecurity before fourth republic has been regionalized, militia group in the south, insurgency in the north, kidnappers in the east and south, rituals killing among other. Boko haram as birthed as a radical fundamentalist of Islamic sect among other terrorist has succeeded in reducing educational activities to lowest background. These terrorists group continues eating their cake without much interference to some extent they announced themselves as kings in some areas.

### **Implication of insecurity on quality and standard education in Nigerian basic schools**

Nigerian basic and post schools are in fixed in the hands of terrorists, Nigerian schools are in junction or have entered one chance due to current insecurity crisis that have crabbed academic process especially in affected states and local governments. Insecurity problems are so littered that the fourth republic despite her efforts does not know where to turn for immediate solution.

Indeed, because of these security challenges or constraints, the nation education system is at the cross roads of education problems. The standard of primary and secondary education is in its lowest achievement which in turn affects other tiers of education due to;

1. Most primary and secondary schools turn to be internally displaced camps which all academic activities are directly affected
2. Teachers and learners' conditions of educational services were psychologically affected, for instance, some teachers and learners were killed and some were also kidnapped
3. People residential houses, farmland and school facilities were bombed down entirely
4. With the activities of terrorists in most states, corruption has crabbed implementation of educational activities. Most political office holder miss-funded education matters, they are in one way or the other hide in umbrella of insecurity problems.
5. Poor political climate affects administration of education in Nigeria.
6. Poor spiritual and moral values among other
7. Quality and standards result expected from our schools have been relegated to lowest background

With some of the above effects on Nigerian schools, the centre of present security agencies cannot holds, things fall apart, our educational system has also fallen apart, and our moral principles are completely gone. Our prestige as giant of Africa is down, therefore Nigerian education needs salvation but who can salvage our education in the hands of terrorists for quality assurance. How realistic of our incoming vision. Because vision 2020 has passed without bearing much fruits.

### **Conclusion**

In our foregoing assessment of the present situation suggested that the hope and promises made by the fourth republic administration of good quality education in all tiers of education seem blinking especially in some northern states. There is insecurity everywhere, various levels of government, corporate organization and well-meaning individuals need to wake up to this responsibility and redouble efforts in order to achieve the target goals of the nation's education in all tiers of education.

### **The way forward**

1. Training and re-training of security officers should be carried out regularly in order to update their knowledge with current security skills that would help them tackles insecurity problems to some extent. These security men and women needs functional weapons new interrogation techniques and exposures to new technology with security officers that are not bias inform ethnicity or religion faiths.
2. Good governance is the panacea for the insecurity challenge in Nigeria. The present war against insecurity would be won only by raising a good governance quality and standards which is cultivating the culture of good governance where the government is responsible and accountable to people. in vie this, security engagement cannot stay apart from system of governance in Nigeria. Therefore, any nation that has developed higher in both human and material resources linked security to governance system. Nigeria as a nation and at the same time the giant of African nations has severally tried to link her security principles to system of governance failed due to corruption and other crimes that have engulfed our nature of democracy entirely. Nigerian government failed to understand that good governance is a function of effective visionary, transparent, trustworthy and credible political leadership whose driving force is an improvement on the collective wellbeing of



her citizen through well conceived, effectively ideal policy and programs implemented to protect lives and property.

3. Creating employment for the unemployed graduates would help to reduce insecurity challenges nationwide. This is because social effects of unemployment include personal hardship, depression, decay of acquired but unused knowledge and skills are being deceived into different crimes which serve as infringement to political stability
4. The federal government should re-visit the bill signed into action by creating community policing. Community policing if carefully understood, it is a new security agency to help in tackling insecurity problems in Nigeria through partnership with federal government police who are fewer in number. It is expected that the federal government will set up community policing outpost in every community for easy access to security personnel's within to their immediate needs. This is to reduce complains made by on nature of existing police who operates only highways and cities.

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