

**TOWARDS ADDRESSING EMERGING CHALLENGES OF INSECURITY AND  
TERRORISM THROUGH SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION: IMPLICATION FOR  
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

The issue of insecurity and terrorism has been an emerging issue in Nigeria which has caused untold hardship, loss of lives and properties in Nigeria. At present, no part of the country is fully secure as different part of the country is faced with one form of insecurity or the other. The North is faced with Boko Haram, killing of innocent citizens and destruction of properties by Fulani Herdsmen has become a recurrent experience in many states in Nigeria, kidnapping is on the increase in the Southern part of the country as well as militancy in Niger-Delta region. These ugly experiences has become a major challenge and source of concern to the government. The state find it difficult to effectively tackle the menace decisively. Some of the major causes of insecurity include corruption, social and political injustice, unemployment, corrupt and ineffective government as well as porous border. Insecurity and terrorism leads to loss of lives and properties, social dislocation, among others. In as much as the government is using different strategies to address this menace, investment in education and effective teaching of the affective components of Social Studies is potent to create attitudinal change among the learners thereby curbing the challenges of insecurity and terrorism in Nigeria. The paper therefore recommends that as the government is striving to create more jobs, empower the youths, it behoves and beckons on us that investment in education remain sacrosanct in effectively addressing the challenges of insecurity and terrorism in Nigeria.

**Keyword:** Challenges, insecurity, terrorism, Social Studies education, National development

## **INTRODUCTION**

Nigeria as a country has been experiencing series of crisis and conflict which has caused untold hardship to citizens since independence. Some of these conflict were religious, ethno – religious, political thuggery among others which has affected the development of the country adversely. Consequently, the government and the citizens exerted much effort in rebuilding the country through constitution of panel of inquiry, peace building meetings, rehabilitation, reconstruction, etc. However, none of the conflict experienced in Nigeria can be compared to the present security challenges which is like a “cankerworm” to the Nation’s developmental efforts. The issue of insecurity and terrorism has become a major challenge in Nigeria for the past few years thereby causing serious havoc and monumental loss of lives, destruction of properties and economic backwardness to the country which has become a major issue of concern to the government and the governed.

In fact, no part of Nigeria is currently secured as the issue of Boko Haram is a major issue in the North, the activities of kidnappers, militants in the South-South, Fulani insurgents in North Central Nigeria and other states as well as other vices which are responsible for insecurity of lives and properties in Nigeria. In the words of Ewetan and Urhie in Obi (2015):

These challenges ranges from kidnapping, suicide attacks, bombings, ritual killings, assassinations, armed robbery, and this had led to the destruction of lives and properties, hindered business activities, discouraged local and foreign investors, increases government expenditure on security, all of these stifles and retards Nigerians socio-economic development. (p. 12).

In the face of this insecurity of lives and properties occasioned by terrorism and militancy as well as the inability of the government to effectively bring the situation under control, there is need to critically consider these emerging insecurity challenges and terrorism in Nigeria in order to recommend possible solutions to the challenge.

## **CONCEPT OF INSECURITY**

The issue of insecurity and terrorism has become a major challenge and matter of concern in Nigeria as it has made many parts of Nigeria inhabitable, makes life miserable and has also caused untold hardship for millions of Nigeria. Insecurity is seen as a chronic threat to human life, territories, states, religious beliefs, properties and institution among others (Obi, 2015). When people are exposed to risk or anxiety or are in constant fear of danger, it is a clear indication that the country is not secure.

There are two major sources of insecurity as identified by Achumba, Ighomeroho and Akpor-Robaro (2013), these are remote factors and immediate factors. The remote factors as identified by Achumba et al includes:

- Lack of institutional capacity resulting in government failure;
- Pervasive material inequalities and unfairness;
- Ethno-religious conflicts;
- Conflict of Perceptions between the public and government;

- Weak security system;
- Loss of socio-cultural and communal value.

While immediate and proximate factors include:

- Porous borders;
- Rural/urban drift;
- Social irresponsibility of companies
- Unemployment/Poverty; terrorism.

From the remote and immediate factors of insecurity identified above, it is obvious that Nigerian's insecurity can be traceable to some of the factors identified above especially since the birth of the present democratic dispensation. To Obi (2015), the pattern of insecurity in Nigeria has been regionalized: "militia groups in the south, insurgency in the North, Kidnapping in the East and South, ritual killings in the East and West, Political and non-political calculated assassinations across the nation". This shows that there is no part of the country that is absolutely safe and secure for the citizens as well as the people that dwells therein.

### **CONCEPT OF TERRORISM**

Terrorism simply refers to the use of violent action in order to achieve political aims or to force government to act (Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary). Similarly, Elu and Price (2015) see terrorism as the systematic use of violence and terror against the state, government and those in power". From these definitions and most definitions of terrorism, it can be deduced that people don't just engage in terrorist act for the fun of it but have a specific purpose for carrying out their attacks. Individuals or groups may use terrorism because they don't like the current organization of society and they want to change it. They may believe that violence or the threat of violence will coerce society into making a change (History of terrorism – fact-sheet).

Several factors have been identified by analysts and scholars as being responsible for terrorism in Nigeria. These factors include corruption, poverty, unemployment, religious extremism, illiteracy among others. Citing from "Terrorism knowledge Base", Elu and Price (2015) indicates that the top ten terrorist groups in the world are located in Africa and South Asia. This portrays the fact that Africa and Nigeria in particular is currently faced with serious security challenge and terrorism.

Some of the possible causes of terrorist activity as identified in history of terrorism fact sheet include:

- Social and political injustice
- Religious beliefs
- Ideological beliefs
- Socio-economic factors.

Of all these causes, it is believed from researches that poverty, lack of proper education, lack of political freedom can drive people to terrorism; people in this category may be more susceptible to recruitment by organizations using terrorist tactics (History of terrorism – fact sheet).

However, the newswriter (n.d) is of the opinion that "contemporary terrorism in Nigeria is a product of "bad governance" and the character of the state in Nigeria which encourages a culture of

impunity”. Even though economic marginalization, ethnic and religious fanaticism influence terrorism, to them, official corruption, state neglect and impunity, poverty and unemployment constitute the main causes for terrorism in Nigeria. To emphasize how bad governance is considered as the major cause of terrorism in Nigeria, the newswriter (n.d.) declared that “ we make bold to say that terrorism, among other challenges, is the price we pay for producing a “reserved army” of depraved, deprived, frustrated and unemployed youths as consequence of official corruption and a dysfunctional federal system of government”.

From the above, it is obvious that there is a strong correlation between corruption, illiteracy, unemployment, poverty and terrorism because when the youths of a country are poor due to unemployment occasioned by corruption, they become vulnerable to terrorism and fertile soil for recruitment as foot soldiers by terrorist organizations.

### **INSECURITY AND TERRORISM IN NIGERIA**

Nigeria as a country has witnessed series of terrorist attacks and insecurity in recent times in different parts of the country, which ranges from insurgency in the North, Herdsmen insurgency in the North Central Nigeria and of recent Enugu State, kidnapping and other acts of insecurity as pointed out earlier.

In our opinion, Islamic insurgents (Boko Haram), Fulani Herdsmen insurgents, militants and kidnappers are the major issues of security concern in Nigeria at present.

Ikenga and Efebeh in Obi (2015) observed that “Boko Haram emerged as a radical fundamental Islamic sect, formed, by Ustaz Mohammed Yusuf, in 2002 in Maiduguri, Borno State. In 2004, it moved to Kanamma, Yobe State, where it set up a base called Afghanistan”. Their terrorist activities in form of attacks started in 2009 in Yobe, Borno, Bauchi and Kano which led to the death of over 800 persons.

The summary of Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria is tabulated below

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Year of attack</b>	<b>States Attacked</b>	<b>Casualties</b>
1.	2009	Yobe, Borno, Bauchi, and Kano	Killed over 800 persons
2.	2010	Borno, Abuja and Plateau	Killed over 330 persons and freed 700 prison inmates
3.	2011	Borno, Kaduna, Yobe, Niger, Bauchi, Abuja, Kastina and Plateau.	Killed over 425 persons, and over 300 persons injured. Bombed UN building in Abuja.
4.	2012	Adamawa, Kano, Kaduna, Kogi, Bauchi, Plateau, Yobe, Abuja, Abuja, Sokoto and Kastina	Killed over 1047 and many persons injured

5.	2013	Borno, Adamawa, Kano, Plateau, Gombe, Yobe, Bauchi	Killed over 732 persons and several persons injured
6.	2014	Borno, Adamawa, Yobe	Kidnapped of over 270 girls from Chibok Village in Borno State, Kidnap of some women in Adamawa State. Killed over persons and several injured.

**Source:** Adopted from Obi, 2015.

It is worthy of note that beside these numbers recorded in the table between 2009 – 2014, many people have been massacred across different states of the North on the account of Boko Haram unabated in spite of huge security personnel in those states. Despite the fact that the Federal Government of Nigeria claimed that Boko Haram has been “technically defeated”, calculated attacks, suicide bombings are frequent occurrences in Nigeria. That is way Buhari (2016) opined that “terrorist attacks in Africa bear similar trademarks of intense planning, strong alliances and proper financial sponsorship, which must be thoroughly investigated”.

Beside Boko Haram activities in Northern Nigeria, the activities of Fulani herdsmen is another major concern in North Central Nigeria. Their activities has not only led to the massacre of innocent lives in those states but has also affected the source of livelihood of Nigerians as well as the economy of those states and Nigeria as a country. Some of the location of attack as identified by Vanguard Newspaper in Obi (2015) include Chakaruma village in Jos in June 2012, Maseh, Tse and Shong villages in Plateau State in July 2012, Ojankale and Ijegwe communities in Benue state in August 2012, among others. Some of these attacks leaves hundreds of people dead, properties destroyed and thousands of people rendered homeless and displaced.

### **Consequences of insecurity and terrorism on National development of Nigeria.**

Generally, insecurity and terrorism are twin evil which adversary affects national development. Incidence of terrorism globally results in wanton destruction of lives and properties as well as causing untold hardship on the citizens.

Some of the consequences of insecurity and terrorism on national development as identified by Eme and Anthony in Dantala (2014); Elu and Price (2015) and Obi (2015) include the following:

- Social dislocation and population displacement
- Heightens citizenship question and encourages hostility between “indigenes” and “settlers”
- Dislocation and disruption of family and communal life
- General atmosphere of mistrust, fear, anxiety and frenzy
- Dehumanization of women, children and men especially in areas where rape, child abuse and neglect are used as instruments of war
- Deepening of hunger and poverty in the politic
- Atmosphere of political insecurity and instability including declining confidence in the political leadership and apprehension about the system

- Governance deficit as a result of security agencies inefficiency and corruption
- Loss of man hours due to shortened working hours by banks and commercial institutions
- Loss of the productivity of those permanently injured and killed, the loss of productive capacity, reduction of physical capital, reduction in GDP and the loss of growth
- It makes the investment environment unfriendly as investors shy away because of compromised safety and weak national security, which affects economic growth.
- Insecurity challenges Nigeria's effort towards national economic development and consequently its vision 20: 20: 20.

Based on the foregoing, it is obvious that no meaningful national development can take place in the atmosphere of insecurity and terrorism as people who are to work to raise GDP are massacred, displaced and injured; in addition, the government will have no option that to invest in security, rehabilitation/reconstruction and providing for the welfare of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) instead of channelling those resources towards developmental programmes in the face of dwindling national income occasioned by fallen price of crude oil.

## **THE PLACE OF SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION IN FOSTERING SECURITY AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Since education is a viable instrument for national development and no nation rises above the level of its education, there is need for Nigeria to refocus her attention on using education as a long term solution to the problem of insecurity and terrorism in Nigeria as an educationist observed that education is the livewire of its industries and also the foundation of moral regeneration and revival of its people. Nigerians needed reorientation in order to be patriotic citizens. In the word of President Buhari on channel TV of 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2016, we need a whole cultural orientation in order to succeed against terrorism. Going by the statement of President Buhari on the same channel TV that "African governments must make efforts to dissuade the younger generation from joining the ranks of terrorist groups, who explore youthful minds for suicide bombings". This implies that young Nigerians who are the target of social studies education should be the target of vanguards for peaceful co-existence in Nigeria through qualitative acquisition of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes so that they can be patriotic Nigerians and also useful to themselves and the country at large and not "a reserved army" to be recruited by terrorist organization.

Corroborating the place of education as a tool for addressing insecurity in Nigeria, Bruce (2015) stated that "the only sustainable way to fight insecurity in Nigeria is through education not guns and bombs". Supporting his argument, Bruce stated that "although Boko Haram has been trying to make inroads into Kano state, they have never been able to gain a foot hold". His reasons was that contrary to previous decades where sects like maitatsine had used Kano state as a launch pad for their nefarious activities due to low level of education then, investment in education in Kano are now dramatically higher than they were in 1980 thereby making Boko Haram unable to have foothold in Kano.

These suggest that if the youths are reoriented through education, it becomes difficult for them to be used as terrorist or agents of insecurity in Nigeria. It is important to note that if Nigerian

youths are to be redirected and reoriented to become effective citizens that are rational thinkers and intelligent Social actors that will not join the rank and files of Insurgents, kidnappers, militants and those that are involved in one form of social vices or the other, Social Studies should be given her pride of place because the subject deals with man, his problems and environments in a broad framework towards the interrelationships of issues or problems and knowledge with the aim of helping man to think and act systematically, critically and creatively in the world of human affairs (Kazi,2006). These can be achieved because the global goals of Social Studies Education as stated in the same book include:

1. The inculcation of values, attitudes and appreciations in the learner;
2. The development of skills like group, social, intellectual and manipulative;
3. The acquisition of knowledge and understanding;
4. The development of concepts and generalisations peculiar to social Studies as a discipline.

Therefore, since ignorance and lack of education is considered to be one of the factors responsible for the current insecurity challenge in Nigeria, knowledge acquisition will help to address that challenge; the value component of Social Studies will equip the learners with positive values that is in consonance with the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as well as positive attitude towards issues and will also enable them to be rational in their thought and action irrespective of any training and teachings they are presented with and will also be able to withstand peer pressure and 'band wagon' effect. Not even poverty and unemployment will be accepted as a reason to get involved in social vices that could constitute security challenge to Nigeria by any individual that is properly groomed in Social Studies.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The challenge of insecurity and terrorism as it affect the corporate existence of Nigeria can be effectively tackled by investing in education of Nigerian children and youths, as opportunities are created for educational development, Social studies will help to inculcate the desirable values, attitudes and skills which will enable the learners to live responsibly and contribute towards the development of the nation rather than getting involved in activities that could fuel insecurity and terrorism in Nigeria. The paper therefore recommends that:

1. The government and well to do Nigerians should invest more in education so as to give access to every Nigerians thereby making them useful to themselves and also make them unavailable to terrorist.
2. The government should create job opportunities to reduce youth restiveness thereby reducing poverty
3. Youth empowerment should be pursued vigorously in order to reduce over dependence on government for jobs
4. The government and security agents should be proactive in tracing and addressing the remote and immediate cause of insecurity
5. Ranches should be built in all states of the country for Fulani herdsmen in order to reduce frequent clashes between them and local farmers

6. Community policing and effective policing is very essential in curbing the menace of insecurity in Nigeria
7. Inter/Intra ethnic dialogue is also essential in addressing this menace
8. Good governance is not negotiable as far as looking for sustainable solution to the challenge of insecurity and terrorism in Nigeria is concern.

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