

SCIENCE EDUCATION, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND CHALLENGES OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

Gabriel Olodu

*Department of Integrated Science Education
Federal College of Education (Technical)
Asaba, Delta State.*

Abstract

For any nation to develop scientifically, economically and socially, national security is very vital. The quest for science education cannot be well studied without a secured environment. The focus of this paper therefore, includes science education and National security, problems and challenges of insecurity, National security and good governance and using science education to enhance good governance and National security. The paper concluded by saying that deficit in National security brings about stagnation and underdevelopment. The paper recommends that science education policies should be implemented to enhance National security amongst others.

Keyword: Science, Security, Development, Economy

Science is a body of knowledge that deals with the study of nature whereby certain method are applied and the knowledge acquired are presented in forms of concepts, theories and law (Ayo,2003) . It is also regarded as an attempt by humans to organize their experience about nature into meaningful system of explanations.

In the same vein, Auwalu (2014) opined that science involves research and dissemination of new knowledge. It deals with mental processes in reasoning, problem solving remembering and evaluation. It includes ability to perceive values issues and feelings and skills acquisition. Science plays significant role in our world to the point that modern men see science as an integral component of new age. The knowledge of science has fosters in learners a wide range of skills and abilities that are important in tackling societal challenges. This is of course, an indication that the economic, social political growth of a nation is predicated on scientific and technological advancement.

Science education is important for the development of any society. According to Udu (2019) science education is a discipline that involves the transmission of scientific concepts, methods of teaching and addressing scientific misconception held by learners. Science education is important for National security and development of any society. Science education is a tool for social transformation, sustainable development and National security. Uyanga (2016) States that Science education breeds the best brains, build the best work force, develop the best social beings and ensures formidable teams of leaders and followers in any nation.

Science education involves the application of scientific literacy that equip the individual to utilize the physical resources they have to improve on their quality of living. Therefore effective application of the knowledge of science education helps to tackle daily challenges being faced by the people. Its impact is seen in various aspect

of our life, for example in health sector, food, employment, recreation, security etc. From the foregoing, science education could be an effective instrument for the promotion of National security (Udu, 2019)

Science education and National security

Science education promotes development in the society. It means that without science education there cannot be adequate security. Security is a state of feeling safe and protected as well as taking advantage of facilities that are natural or provided (Udu, 2019). The study of science has been recognized as a prerequisite for scientific development, which enables learners to acquire relevant knowledge and skills needed for advancement in science and technology. According to Orukotan (2007), science education has introduced a lot of changes in the world that has gone a long way to reduce illiteracy and poverty, which are impediment to National security and development. Therefore, the growth and security of any nation depends largely on the measure of its level of science education.

In the same vein, science education is concerned with finding answers to problems in a bid to understanding and interpreting natural phenomena (Eze and Akubue, 2007). Also, science education has led to the production of manpower needed for the nation's development which essentially promotes National security. According to Ugwu and Ozioko (2010) opined that science education is education given to individual to enable him/her fit into the operational system of science as a body of knowledge or as an inquiry process. This has contributed immensely towards improving the quality of human life by providing information on drug abuse, prevention and of diseases and sickness. All these are targeted at promoting National security.

According to Onyishi (2007) science education produces economic benefits and contributes to country's future growth and national security by increasing productive capacity of the people. Invariably speaking, science education can be utilized effectively in promoting National security. This is based on the fact that science education holds the key to economic and technological development which lead to improved security of lives and property.

Problems and challenges of insecurity

Insecurity, in a general term, refers to a state of being subjected to fear, threat, danger, molestation, intimidation, harassment etc in all aspect. Insecurity of lives and property has become a serious problem in the nation. Eme (2011) describe insecurity as a breach of peace and security whether historical, religious, ethno regional, civil, social, economic and political that have contributed to recurring conflict. Otite (2012) submits that the state of insecurity in the nation could be attributed to security lapses on the part of security agents. Abubakar (2005) outline failure of government to provide or manage the basic human needs of their citizens, ethnic disagreements, and national resource contentions as some of the factors responsible for insecurity in Nigeria. Udoh (2015) is of the view that insecurity is caused by porous borders, illegal arms importation, proliferation of illegal arms, ethnicity, emergence of ethnic militia groups, corruption, marginalization, poor leadership, religious fanaticism/extremism, and unemployment. In the same vein, Olawale (2016) pinpoints unemployment, imbalanced development, corruption, weak judicial system, and porous coastal

borders as causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Nadabo (2013) sees bad leadership, corruption, and illiteracy among other factors breeding insecurity in Nigeria. Odidi (2014) points to politics of bitterness in which ascendance to political power is seen as a do-or-die business. This invariably leads to political thuggery and insecurity. Akintokunbo (2011) links insecurity in Nigeria to massive and unchecked corruption, greed, selfishness, unpatriotic, lack of political will and conscience, and of course, lack of vision and purpose. There is no doubt that the above mentioned factors have correlation with state of education in the country. According to Albert (2004) security problems include the following: Communal violence, Political assassination, Electoral violence, Youth militancy, Oil theft etc .He went further to state the following as the insecurity challenges to include Urbanization process, Poverty, Electoral frauds, Bad road, Armed robbery, Kidnapping, Youth unemployment, Climate change. The state of insecurity undermined internal cohesion, cooperate existence.

National security and good governance

National security covers all activities and arrangements put together to ensure free movement, integration and interaction among citizens without any real or imaginary danger and obstacles such as gender, racial, tribal or religious discrimination. According to Okeke (2011), National security is the totality of measures instituted by government to protect the territorial integrity and cherished values, and interest of the people as well as guarantee the freedom of the citizenry from anxiety, threats of life and property and their safety from natural or man-made disaster . Iredia (2011) view National security as the ability of a state to overcome all forms of challenges facing her, no matter what the challenges may be.

Also, Afegbua (2012) stated that national security is the struggle to secure the most basic necessities of life such as food, fuel, medicine and shelter. He maintained that this broader view of security from the perspective of human physiological needs is important for the attainment of physical and national security and overall peace and development as social unrest arising from the absence of such basic –human necessities can indeed lead to security challenges and conflict. Also, Onele (2010) stated that National security is the requirement to maintain the survival of the state through the use of economic power, diplomacy, power projection and political power. In order to achieve National security, a nation needs to have stable economic security, energy security, food security, social security. The implication of this is that National security is enhanced by other forms of national development.

The concept of good governance is key ability of government to maintain control over a state. Good governance should, and it must result in decision making that is fruitful and profiting for the people and through which they feel secure and participative as if they would have made those decision. According to Adabayo and Tayo (2019) , security is the major responsibility of the state. It is certainly that security is not a single concept and especially it cannot be separate from governance. Governance encompasses the states institutional and structure arrangement, decision making process and implementation capacity and the relationship between the governing structure and the governed (Geoge-Genyi. 2013).

Good governance is the panacea for the insecurity challenge in Nigeria. The war against insecurity would be won only by raising governance standards that is, cultivating the culture of good governance where the government is responsible and

accountable to the people. Security engagement cannot be separated from good governance. Many others have also linked security to the governance system. The general view is that peace and security are determined by good governance. However, good governance is a function of effective, visionary, transparent, trustworthy, and credible political leadership whose driving force is an improvement in the collective wellbeing of the citizens through well-conceived, effectively implemented economic policies and human development programs. The underlying principle of good governance is the focus on people as the ultimate objective of governance.

Good governance is seen as a system of government based on good leadership, respect for rule of law and due process (Odock, 2006). Therefore, good governance is vital since good governance enhances justices, equity and equality, thereby helps in preventing conflict and therefore ensure peace and co-existence and prosperity.

Using science education to enhance good governance and National security

Science has great influence on humans to a point that it is seen as an agent of development. Science has impacted so much that it has resulted to development in all aspect of human life. The developmental results of science have improved knowledge and help in better understanding of nature and proper application of it has better on our society. Science is a developmental product of education with a aimed at individual and society. Science education is the application of scientific methodology in education. This is a clear manifestation that the socio- political and economic growth of a nation depends on its scientific and technological development. Adabayo and Tayo (2019), science has equipped human beings in improving his environment and supplying his basic needs such as food, health care, shelter, clothing etc.

For a nation to develop scientifically, it is important that the citizenry are educated to understand and appreciate science and its knowledge and technical know-how effectively

Conclusion

National security involves the strategies deployed to protect the nation and its citizenry from threat in all ramifications. It is apparent that there is deficit in the governance that has ushered in insecurity. These deficits can be handled through science education, because the impact of science to humanity has resulted in development in all aspect of life. Any nation that relegates the usefulness of science education is bound to be faced with stagnation and retrogression.

Good governance promotes security of a nation and for a nation to develop scientifically; there is need for adequate security of lives and properties. Therefore the knowledge and the application of science are paramount.

Recommendations

Based on the revelations and the implication of this discussions, the following recommendation is presented:

1. Science education policies should be implemented by the relevant stakeholders with a view to enhance National security.

2. Educational institution should be equipped with adequate teaching and learning facilities to enhance transfer of adequate knowledge on National security.
3. Government should provide conducive atmosphere to encourage investors in establishment of factories and industries to create employment opportunities to curb unemployment.
4. The security agencies should be trained and be more commitment in the discharge of their duties in providing security.

References

- Abubakar,A.(2005).The challenges of security in Nigeria. Retrieved from <http://www.dawodu.com/abubakar1.htm>
- Adebayo B.Z & Tayo A.A (2019) The role of science education in good governance, peace education and National Security in Nigeria. *International Journal of Scientific Research in Educational Studies & Social Development* 3(1) 41-51
- Albert,I. O. (2004): Explaining the security challenges in contemporary Nigeria. [http://www.fellow%zo.investiture{1}pdf.retrieved 12/7/2021](http://www.fellow%zo.investiture{1}pdf.retrieved%2012/7/2021)
- Afegbua, P.K. (2012). State of the Nation. Saturday Sun Newspaper, January 7 2012, pg7.
- Akintokunbo, A. A. (2011). The problems and challenges of insecurity in Nigeria. Retrieved from http://transparencynigeria.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6006:the-problems-and-challenges-of-insecurity-in-nigeria&catid=45:akintokunbo-adejumo&Itemid=37
- Auwalu,S (2014) The quest for science education and the challenges of insecurity in Nigeria *Multidisciplinary Journal of Research Development*,22 (2) 1-6
- Ayo, F. (2003). Basic principles of biology , Ilorin: Decency Printer
- Eme, O. I. (2009). Ethno-religious identities in Nigeria; implications for good governance in Nigeria.A paper submitted to the editor in chief of a book project on Islam and governance in Nigeria.
- Eze, C.U. & Akubue, P.A. (2007). Laboratory management skills employed by chemistry teachers in Enugu State Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of functional education*. 5 (1), 38-45
- George-Genyi, M.E. (2013). Good governance: antidote for peace and security in Nigeria, *European Journal of Business and Social Science*, 2 (2).
- Iredia, T . (2011). What is national security? Nigeria Today, December 18

Academic Scholarship

- Nadabo, S. (2013). Insecurity in Nigeria: Causes and resolutions. Retrieved from <http://www.nigeriavillagesquare.com/articles/insecurity-in-nigeria-causes-and-resolutions.html>
- Odidi, G. (2014). Opinion: The problems, challenges and solutions to insecurity in Nigeria. Retrieved from <http://thewillnigeria.com/news/opinion-the-problems-challenges-and-solutions-to-insecurity-in-nigeria/>
- Odock, C.N. (2006). Democracy and good governance, Lagos: NOUN. Lagos.
- Olawale (2016). Top 5 causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Retrieved from <http://nigerianfinder.com/top-5-causes-of-insecurity-in-nigeria/>
- Onele, A. (2010). Education for democracy, security and national development: Implication for quality management of primary school teachers in Nigeria. *ESUT Journal of Education*, 5(1), 308 – 314.
- Onyishi, S. O. (2007). Applying functional scientific knowledge to improve students' interest and achievement in science education in Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Functional Education*. 5 (1), 67-73
- Otite, E. (2012). State of insecurity in Nigeria: A challenge to the government. Retrieved from http://nnn.com.ng/?page_id=4449
- Okeke, A. A. (2011). National security, good governance and integration in Nigeria since 1999: A Discourse. *Asian Social Sciences*, 7(10), 166-176.
- Orukotan, A. F. (2007). Curriculum enrichment of STM education as a basis for sustainable development. STAN 50th Anniversary Conference Proceedings, 32-35.
- Udoh, E. W. (2015). Insecurity in Nigeria: Political, religious and cultural implications. *Journal of Philosophy, Culture and Religion*, 5, 1 – 7.
- Ugwu, D.U. & Ozioko, S.U. (2010). Science education and global economic meltdown: The Nigerian situation. *Nigerian Journal of Functional Education*, 6(1), 124-133.
- Udu, D.A (2019) Utilization of science education for promoting National security in Nigeria: A Study of Ebonyi State. *International Journal of Integrated Research in Education* 1(1) 244-253.
- Uyanga, R. E. (2016). Managing education in a depressed economy: Implications for national development. Keynote address at the 1st Annual Conference of Department of Educational Management, ESUT, Enugu, Nigeria, 13th– 16th June.