



**PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION AND ITS ROLE IN COMBATING
INSECURITY AND ECONOMIC CRISES IN NIGERIA**

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Abstract: This paper appraised the teacher as the millennium nation builder and reveals that his role is invaluable and immeasurable. Security as pointed out by this paper is the condition of safety, freedom from danger and defense from physical harm. The paper logically stated that human beings blossom in security and is spontaneously determined by the need to maximize available resources to guarantee their physical, physiological and psychological welfare. This implies that security is not only restricted to protection from physical harm. Security also involves existence of environmental factors that instill peace of mind in an individual in order to empower him to function in the society effectively. It also thrashed out that only the state has the capability to assure security and save society from lawlessness. In the paper as well, insecurity is conceived as a situation where human and national security of a state is compromised by internal forces aggravated by ignorance, unemployment, poverty, poor economic conditions, corruption, treacherous politicians, inadequate security personnel, etc. The paper furthermore elucidate how those invaluable and immeasurable teacher's roles will facilitate in combating incessant kidnapping, banditry, cattle rustling, herders/farmers clashes and any other security and economic challenges. Finally, recommendations were made on to address the issues.

Keywords: Teacher, Security, Insecurity, Economic challenges

Introduction

It is unarguably to pronounce that Nigeria is going through an era of bizarre and uncanny security challenges. Before, our communities were unfamiliar with the kinds of security threats to life, wealth and property we now experiencing. People in their farms, villages, towns or even cities are being attacked, kidnapped, raped, and at times killed. Their properties and wealth are being seized and destroyed on daily basis. Bandits went to the extent of taxing farmers before harvesting their farm products and appointing ward heads, village heads and district heads in vast areas of North-west, North-Central, etc. Therefore, people are living at the mercy of kidnapers and bandits in these areas. The upshot of these attacks has further aggravated the economic hardship which is

adversative to sustainable, growth and national development. As claimed by government, numerous measures have been taken in addressing this menace but there are still incessant and frequent attacks being experienced in the areas. If these persistent attacks are not proactively dealt with, it will portend a longer term peril to peace, tranquility and serene environment for food production and processing in particular and sustainable growth and development generally. So how can teacher, a custodian of knowledge helps in combating these issues of insecurity like kidnapping, banditry, herders/farmers clashes, cattle rustling, arm robbery, etc?

The Roles of Teachers

The New Webster's Dictionary of English language defines the teacher as a person who gives instructions to, or gives to knowledge or skills which he has for a living. The English word pedagogue, a synonym for teacher is etymologically derived from Greek word which translated to mean 'slave.' This informed some scholars' submission on their research on "The Teacher: Molding the Millennium nation builder," that the study of historical development of ancient kingdoms such as Egypt, Greek, Roman, Persia, etc reveals the invaluable and immeasurable contributions of Ancient teachers in their pioneering systematic development of various arts, culture and sciences that have formed the basis for the present day scientific innovations including modern warfare (Ajibade, 2005). According to the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, teacher is an individual trained in teaching. He is also conceived to be a specialist not only in the theory but also in putting what he learns into practice. Education is built around the goal of improving the social life and other institutions that make up the society. Education should have the effect of making it possible for a country a steady supply of highly creative citizens who help to improve the living conditions of its citizens in generality. It should also help to solve the existential problems that the society might have been thrown from time to time. It should also serve the interests of the supplementary sectors of the economy and as such an instrument and powerful tool for addressing social problems such as our present state of insecurity. This is because education in all its implications aims at creating awareness in the minds of the recipients and also furnishes them with ideas and skills for solving lifetime tribulations. It is in this regards that Adegbesan (2011) affirmed that people are what they are because of the nature and types of education they have been exposed to. The development of any nation depends to a large extent on the quality and level of education it achieved. It is unquestionable fact that in any education system, peace and tranquility is a cure for a successful teaching and learning. The teacher's role is described beyond teaching. They are more than educators and are counselors, mentors, role models, external parents, and so on to a student. Teachers play an essential role in the life of their students during school days and even after school in the practical world. These roles include sharing knowledge and teaching about life is the primary responsibility of a teacher. All other roles of a teacher are derived from this primary role of a teacher. This role gives birth to other roles. Teachers must fulfill this basic duty. Otherwise, they won't be able to fulfill other duties. Drawing real life connections, they teach the students to understand real life examples easily and quickly. Teachers while teaching connect various subjects to real-life situations and try to make topics understandable to them. Teachers understand what their students need as they are the closest companions. Demonstrating even the difficult topics with the help of real life examples make it easier for teachers and students as well. They encourage their students. With encouragement, a teacher can make students cross any barrier. Students need certain things apart from teaching from their teachers. So, teachers should always be ready to encourage, motivate, and guide their learners. They help their students in changing the scenario of life. The future development of a nation truly lies in the hands of

good teachers. As they are the provider of education and prepare students to be a future of a nation, the role of a teacher is very crucial as they have responsibility to impart knowledge and needed information to learners to analyze the situation and condition of the nation. Teachers can teach you to analyze what is important and what you should do in life to make it better tomorrow. The role of a teacher surpassed the conventional thinking that a teacher only educates students. In modern scenarios, the teacher's role is not limited they keep educating students, mentoring, guiding and making them informed both with theoretical and practical knowledge. Teachers are the custodian of knowledge and at times are being regarded as reservoirs and encyclopedia of knowledge. Knowledge is a key to success, without education and the power of knowledge, it is not possible to succeed in life or even keep up with the fast-paced life. It is not just enough to have knowledge on a particular subject to succeed but it is also important to have knowledge about how to use it effectively to succeed. The entire problems we faced on daily basis can be solved with the power of knowledge. Knowledge sharpens our skills like reasoning and problem-solving. People become smarter with the power of knowledge and solve problems more easily, so issue of insecurity cannot be different. Therefore, this quantum of knowledge should trigger and inform teachers to guide and direct their students and the entire society to combat insecurity that is bedeviling our nation. That is why Nigeria's philosophy of education as pointed out in NPE (2013) implies that, education should be used as an instrument for national development, and the interaction of persons and ideas are all aspects of education. It also stated that education should foster the worth development of the individual, for each individual's sake, and general development of the society. This impliedly means that our education should help us to be able to defend ourselves for continued existence.

Concept of Security

To define insecurity fittingly, it is imperative to have a concise discourse on what security is. Security as a concept is being used recently by researchers, scholars, journalists and politicians. Security is a basic human need that contributes to efficient learning (Akintunde and Musa, 2016). Psychologists hypothesized that security is essential for human continued existence. Following the supposition of hierarchy of Needs by Abraham Maslow, the lower needs of man like food, shelter and security must be met before other higher needs like education or intellectual/cognitive needs (Akintunde, 2015). Typically, security is seen as the condition of safety, freedom from danger and defense from physical harm. Logically, human beings blossom in security and are spontaneously determined by the need to maximize available resources to guarantee their physical, physiological and psychological welfare. This implies that security is not only restricted to protection from physical harm. Security also involves existence of environmental factors that instill peace of mind in an individual in order to empower him to function in the society effectively. As Hobbes observed, only the state has the capability to assure security and save society from lawlessness, the state through its government should afford sufficient security to rationalize its *raison d'être* (Gaskin, 1996). Omede (2012) perceived security as a dynamic circumstance which involves the relative ability of a state to counteract intimidation and coercion to its most significant values and interests. McGrew (1988) holds that the security of a nation sling on two important pillars which are firstly the maintenance and fortification of the socioeconomic order in the facade of internal and external menace and the promotion of a favored international order, which diminishes the menace to core values and interests, as well as to the domestic order. As perceive by Nwolise (2006), security is an all encircling condition which proposes that a territory must be secured by a network of armed forces; that the sovereignty of the state must be guaranteed by a democratic

and patriotic government, which in turn must be protected by the military, police, any other security personnel and the people themselves; that the people must not only be secured from external attacks but also from devastating consequences of internal upheavals such as unemployment, hunger, starvation, diseases, ignorance, homelessness, environmental degradation and pollution cum socio-economic injustices. So, all the aforementioned aspects are threats to populace of a given state which they must to be secured from by any responsible government. This affirmation proved that there is dialectical correlation between unemployment, hunger, diseases, ignorance, homelessness, etc and insecurity. From the a variety of explanations of security aforementioned, it can be rationally inferred that insecurity implies a state of vulnerability to attacks, danger or threats to a people, their properties, cherished values and the inability of the nation to protect its citizenry.

Concept of Insecurity

On the contrary, insecurity is the direct opposite of security and has attracted such common descriptors as danger, hazard, and uncertainty, want of confidence, state of doubt, inadequately guarded or protected, unsteadiness, instability, and being unsafe, etc (Achumba, et tel 2013). They also argue further that these common descriptors point to a circumstance where there exists a vulnerability to harm, loss of life, property or livelihood. Therefore, they consider insecurity to be a state of not knowing, a lack of control, and the inability to take defensive action against forces that portend harm or danger to an individual or group, or that make them vulnerable. For Beland (2005), insecurity is “the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection.” It refers to lack or inadequate freedom from threats. This description reflects physical insecurity which is the most perceptible form of insecurity, and it feeds into numerous other forms of insecurity such as economic security and social security. In this paper, insecurity is conceived as a situation where human and national security of a state is compromised by internal forces aggravated by illiteracy, unemployment, poor economic conditions, inadequate and poor modern security facilities, inadequate security personnel, etc. Alemika (n. d.) postulated that insecurity can be classified into several magnitudes. The most significant magnitudes are:

- Physical insecurity- violent personal and property crimes,
- Public security- violent conflicts, insurgency and terrorism,
- Economic insecurity- poverty, unemployment,
- Social insecurity- illiteracy, ignorance, diseases or illness, malnutrition; water borne disease, discrimination and exclusion,
- Human right violations- denial of fundamental rights by state and non-state actors in different states,
- Political insecurity- denial of good and social democratic governance.

The scopes of security as highlighted above are interlaced and cannot be treated in strict isolation as explicated by Anan, (1998) that: Nowadays it is known that “security” means far more than absence of conflict. Lasting peace requires an extensive image of surrounding areas such as education, health, democracy and human rights, etc. Society cannot be secure amidst starvation, that we cannot build peace without alleviating poverty, and that we cannot build freedom on the foundations of injustice. Condoleezza Rice posited that quality education of a nation is a direct function of a country’s national security (Ejirika, 2014). This relationship springs from the role education plays in providing the knowledge base for technological training. In the main, education is as important as national security. Every day in Nigeria, the news seems to get from bad to worse, as the security situation deteriorates further and further. It is in relation to this trend that Falana (2013) blamed the government for allowing

things to get out of control before declaring the state of emergency. He asked the government to “stop shedding crocodile tears over insecurity.” He therefore suggested that; the Federal Government should equip the security personnel before getting them deployed to fight against insecurity in the country rather than shedding crocodile tears for the victims of insecurity. He further observed that the conditions of less-equipped policemen and soldiers, who were being deployed to fight terrorists that were armed with more sophisticated weapons is more worrisome. In any education system, peace and tranquility is an antidote for a successful teaching and learning. Insecurity destroyed so many promising youths who would have been future leaders of this nation, who would have contributed meaningfully to the growth of education in Nigeria and the world at large.

Economic Challenges in Nigeria

The economic challenges in Nigeria have always been a subject of debate in schools, social platforms, and even the state and national assemblies. It has been postulated that the citizens and leaders have many times failed to make things right initially in policy formulations and implementations, rules of governance and law. It seems that if our country continues this way, then economic growth will continue to be dwindling. The economic problem, sometimes called challenges or hardship refer to circumstances whereby there is scarcity, or that the limited resources available are inadequate to satisfy all human wants and needs. Economic challenge/hardship is defined as the incapability or struggle to meet reasonable essential living expenses such as food and shelter. The astonishing fact is that in recent years, vast majority of families had at least one or more serious economic hardship, which could include worries about having food, clothes, school fees, inadequate healthcare or medication, and many more (Cunningham, 2019). Economic hardship is experienced by other sectors of the population as well, particularly in recent years. These factors signal that several sectors of the population who may have been economically stable in some years back are now at risk of economic hardship as well. There are diverse causes of economic hardship, including large number of dependants or family, unemployment, employment instability, illiteracy, illnesses, physical disabilities, or caring for members of your family who are sick. As well, the cause of economic hardship may be poor financial management skills, inflation, war, scarcity, poor government policy, poor and inadequate infrastructures and poor power supply, insecurity, poor leadership and corruption, etc. Some causes are systemic in nature which arising from poor monetary policies, poor policy implementation by governments through targeted economic policies. Economic hardship has a reflective impact on family dynamics and can result in the breakdown of marriages and relationships, suicide, crimes, school dropout, etc. This in turn can lead to trauma for both parents and children, which then puts them at a greater risk of developing behavior problems, mental disorders or physical health issues. As elucidated by Cunningham (2019) growing up in an economically disadvantaged family circle places children at a high risk of adjustment disorders. This indicates, then, that economic hardships effects on a family can be recurring and intergenerational in nature, being felt by many future generations. What are the effects of economic hardship? Taken as a whole, economic hardship has been found by researchers to effectually affect the well-being family members, and individuals with economic difficulties suffer from lower levels of well-being, depending on their life experiences and support networks. Therefore, it is imperative for governments and any stakeholders to put policies in to appropriate place to lessen economic hardship in this country. These include good policies that will create more jobs, mechanized and modern farming system, skills acquisition centers, entrepreneurships, free interest loans, lower the costs of living, and forgive debts with accumulated interests. These policies should be implemented

along with equality of educational opportunities whereby families who have been affected by intergenerational economic hardship can find out how to break the sequence of poverty and new initiatives. Business activities cannot be conducted in an environment where the security of life and properties are at stake. Therefore, security is critical for the nation's growth and development (Achumba, et al., 2013). Indeed, the productive aspect of most manufacturing business depends largely on the availability and regular supply of raw materials for production. Insecurity often times cut off supply of such raw materials and hence, jeopardizing production activities. Insecurity affects marketing of finished product as there is a continuous migration from the affected areas. It is not a surprise when many business owners and manufacturing companies relocate from the North-East and North-West recently to other peaceful parts of the country (Nwagboso, 2012). Thus, the resources which could have been used in strengthening the infrastructural amenities are increasingly being diverted to fund the security system, thereby constituting a drain on the nation resources (Nwagboso, 2012). Constant kidnapping of expatriate staff that are working with oil companies, electricity plants, construction companies, mining, etc necessitated some of them to migrate to other countries. Thus, the decline in foreign investment in Nigeria as a result of insecurity when combined with the effects of global economic showdown caused the closing down of some factories in Nigeria.

The Roles of Teachers in Combating Insecurity and Economic Challenges

As a result of prevailing hostilities between herdsmen and farmers, teachers should engage in teaching conflict resolution to their students. It is part of the responsibilities of teachers to teach and promote peace among the students and enlighten the entire community which include youth and parents in an attempt to curtail the rate of social vices such as banditry, kidnapping, cattle rustling, insurgency, etc. Teacher, due to his exposure, anticipated quantum of knowledge and ability of grasping the issues of life has so much influence on his learners and individuals that he comes in contact with. Teachers are great assets in nation building, growth and development in all ramifications most especially at this trying period. Teachers are the one who shape the young child with much craft according to the child's way. Consequently, teacher ought to be very special person, with a very broad outlook on life and an understanding of the processes that are happening in the world over (ARI Institute, 2014). Through a familiarity with the world and with nature, he should have a clear vision of the state he would like to bring the child to at the end of the educational process. So, he can help and facilitate in process of ensuring secured community. Teachers at all levels of our educational system should be consistent in promoting morality and ethical values while imparting the knowledge to learners. Morality and ethical values would not only help in bringing up the students to contribute effectively to the development of the society, it would also promote tolerance among the learners and youth in general. In fact, profligacy in ethical values and morality in our society contributes immensely to incessant violence and crimes such as farmers/herders clashes, kidnapping, and banditry in the country. Teachers at all levels of education should also serve as good exemplary leaders to the students by demonstrating ethical values of kindness, tolerance, perseverance, forgiveness, and consideration for others in any situation. Some crimes are being fueled by ignorance, poverty, injustice, corruption, tribalism, politics, unemployment, etc. So, teachers are in good position to squarely address the menace of insecurity by instilling spirit of tolerance, kindness, perseverance, forgiveness, justice, patriotism, etc to the students. Teacher become important in this bearing most especially through his familiarity with the nature and the different situations he experienced at the end of the educational process. Alongside teaching, the teacher also is in the best position to

practically demonstrate through his way of life the virtue of forgiveness, tolerance, etc. As a result, the intensity of crimes that led to current insecurity will be reduced to the barest minimum in our society. In addition, teachers also have a role to play by advising government on all impediments that may hinder practical implementation of the moral values taught in the school. Impediments like unemployment, ignorance, poverty, economic hardship, injustice, etc. It is the role of the teachers to recommend realistic ways through which these deplorable human conditions will be reduced. This is because unarguably, if high level of unemployment, ignorance, poverty, economic hardship, injustice among the teeming youths are curtailed and dealt with, related crimes that led to insecurity such as kidnapping, banditry, cattle rustling, farmers/headers clashes among youths will be drastically impeded. Also, teachers should recommend to all stakeholders most especially government at all levels to adequately provide social amenities and infrastructures like stable electricity, functional schools, hospitals with good healthcare facilities, good roads, etc to rural and remote areas. It has been perceived as earlier affirmed that genesis of this insecurity is not too far from poverty and unemployment. Unemployment has deepened into the fabric of Nigeria's economy. Consequently, the menace has resulted to amplify the rate of crimes in our society. As well, teachers have a role to play by advising government to review school curriculum to add more entrepreneurial courses to the extent that majority of graduating students will be self-employed after graduation in order to squarely address the issue of poverty and unemployment. Also, majority of school programs should be vocational and technical where courses such as poultry, fishery, carpentry, welding, etc will be taught. By doing so, teachers will be able to equip the students and government will be able to help them to be self-employed. There is need for proper positive re-orientation of the people most especially youths so that religious intolerance, misperception, misinterpretation, prejudices which ignorance, indoctrination and narrow-mindedness caused can be simply eradicated. Also, availability and usage of illicit and harmful drugs and others related substances contributed significantly to the issue of insecurity. Teachers are in good position to sensitize the students in particular and youths in general on the harmfulness of drug abuse and addiction. There is also need for teachers to inform and re-sensitize students on the harmfulness and danger of deliberate and mutual use of weapons and arms in resolving conflicts and disputes among themselves and others in the society. With all of these, teachers will be of great help in combating the menace of insecurity in our society.

Conclusion

Conclusively, teacher's roles are far beyond teaching. They are more than an educator and are counselor, mentor, role model, external parent, to a student. Teachers while teaching connect various subjects to real life situations and try to make topics understandable to them. They demonstrate even the difficult topics with the help of real life examples and make it easier for students and society as well. They encourage their students. With encouragement, a teacher can make students cross any barrier. They help their students in changing the scenario of life. It is understood that the future development of a nation truly lies in the hands of good teachers. As they are the provider of education and prepare students to be a future of a nation, the role of a teacher is very crucial as they have responsibility to impart knowledge and needed information to learners to analyze the situation and condition of the nation such as what we are witnessing now. Being the custodians and reservoirs of knowledge, teacher should be able teach how this knowledge should be combated to provide secure environment for our continued existence. It is not just enough to have knowledge on a particular subject to succeed but it is also important to have knowledge about how to use it effectively to succeed. The entire problems we faced on daily

basis can be solved with the power of knowledge. People become smarter with the power of knowledge and solve problems more easily, so issue of insecurity cannot be different. Therefore, this quantum of knowledge should trigger and inform teachers to guide and direct their students and the entire society to combat insecurity that is bedeviling our nation.

Recommendations

- Teachers should recommend realistic ways through which these deplorable human conditions like poverty, ignorance, injustice, etc, will be reduced.
- Social amenities and infrastructures like stable electricity, functional schools, hospitals with good healthcare facilities, good roads, should be adequately provided to rural and remote areas.
- Teachers should advise government to review school curriculum to add more entrepreneurial courses to the extent that majority of graduating students will be selfemployed after graduation.
- Majority of school programs should be vocational and technical based where courses such as poultry, fishery, carpentry, welding, etc will be taught so the graduating students will be self-employed.
- There is need for proper positive re-orientation of the people most especially youths so that religious intolerance, misperception, misinterpretation, prejudices which ignorance, indoctrination and narrow-mindedness caused can be simply eradicated.
- Teachers should re-sensitize the students and youths on the usage of illicit and harmful drugs and others related substances which contributed significantly to the issue of insecurity.
- There is also need for teachers to inform and re-sensitize students on the harmfulness and danger of deliberate and mutual use of weapons and arms in resolving conflicts and disputes among themselves and others in the society.

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