

**MANAGING INSECURITY CHALLENGES IN EGBEDA AREA OF OYO
STATE: EDUCATION AS A REMEDY**

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Abstract

This study investigated management of insecurity challenges in Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State. Descriptive Survey research design was adopted for this study. In the study area, ten areas (Asejire, Badeku, Oluwo, Adegbayi, FRSC, Iyana church, Sele, Alakia, Celica and Oganda) were randomly selected. In each area, fifty (50) residents were randomly selected through simple random sampling technique. A total of five (500) hundred respondents were used for the study. The questionnaire was validated by experts in educational management and evaluation. Test-retest method was adopted and a reliability coefficient of 0.82 was obtained. Simple percentage was used to analyse the three research questions. It was revealed that there was inadequate security in the ten areas and that most of the inhabitants are not aware of government efforts on security in the area. It was recommended that there is need for the state government to earmark more fund to security in the area, employment should be provided by the government for the jobless youths to prevent various forms of social ills, while orientations on security education should be given to the residents regularly as measures to prevent insecurity.

Keywords: Managing insecurity, Challenges of insecurity, Peace education option, Security education, Egbeda local government area

Introduction

Insecurity simply means the absence of safety and peace or a problematic condition while security is undoubtedly the foundation

needed for the socio-economic cum political and educational development. Insecurity is a venomous threat to the wellbeing of the citizens of any nation and a cankerworm that destroys the root that holds the existence of any nation. There are several schools of thought on the meaning of security. To some scholars, security supply implies building of strong military to protect the territorial or national integrity of the state from both internal and external violations. However, Gomal and Talukder (2012) opined that security, means protection and preservation of minimum core values of any nation's political, independence and territorial integrity.' In their study, Smith, Jacko and Andrew (2015) submitted that insecurity can emanate from a situation where people suffer deprivation, poverty, lack of access to information, poor provision of essential necessities of life.

The original state of man as posited by Jean Jacques Rousseau an 18th century European philosopher is that man existed as a free gentle savage. In this state of nature, man was naturally good. In further recognition of the importance of education towards national development, Federal Government of Nigeria has adopted education as an "instrument per excellence" for effecting national development (FRN, 2014). Education has been identified as one of the fundamental factors determining sustainable economic development. It increases efficiency and effectiveness of labour. For the whole economy, education increases the human capital and productivity of labour. This leads to high output level in the economy. Education enriches people with necessary skills and competences which are very critical in the production process. Collins (2008) observed that education increases productivity, and mechanism through which education increases productivity is two, namely education adds skills to labour and increases the productivity capacity of labour. According to FRN (2014) aims of education as enumerated in National Policy on Education are:

- To develop the full potentialities of every child, while consideration the needs and welfare of the country
- To develop social and individual efficiency so that the individual can become more effective in the society
- For the preparation and training of young people for the problems, the task and the future as they exist
- For self-fulfilment or self-reliance

The aims of education presented above show that education especially the western education is the bedrock of individual and national developments. When, the white men came to Nigeria for missionary work, they built primary schools to achieve their objectives through which western education was introduced. In all these cases of insecurity, youths are the prominent figure in the crusade of crime. Such youths either lack requisite education that render them jobless, unemployable, poor and disenchanting; or are educated and are still jobless.

This work is based on Ludwig von Bertalanffy's (1910- 1972) System Theory in Ojo (2009) as well as Isuku (2012), Sangoleye (2016) as cited in Awolola (2017) a system is a conglomeration of parts into a whole. In regard to applications in studies of perception, systems theory can model complex intrapersonal, interpersonal, intergroup, and human/nature interactions without reducing perceptual phenomena to the level of individual stimuli. In other words, education and national security are inexorably linked together. Little wonder that contends that strength, security and wellbeing of Nigeria rests squarely on the quality of education. Poor youth finds it difficult to resist temptation to commit crime, provided such will open way to meet their immediate needs. Having seen the correlation between education and national security, it is necessary to state that the work is anchored on system theory.

Brief background of Politics and Oyo State Security

At the inception of the fourth Republic, Chief Adedibu's political rating and popularity was ebbing because of his involvement in the unpopular Abacha regime and the overwhelming preference of the people of the Southwest for the Alliance for Democracy. This party represented a rehash of the AG and the UPN with ideologies of Awolowo as their manifestoes. So, his exit from the All Peoples Party (APP) that had just a handful of followers in the Southwest and without any strong national presence gave him a new lease of life politically. With the active support of the then President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, also a Yoruba man determined to control his region, Amala Gbegiri politics that thrives on the provision of Amala the staple food and Gbegiri was revitalised and the list of clients comprising suffered and

the poor are the seekers of political offices started swelling (Animasahun, 2013).

Subsequently, the PDP won overwhelmingly at the 2003 elections in Oyo State with the substantive contributions of Chief Adedibu. His client and political godson, Senator Rashidi Ladoja, became the governor of the state. No sooner had he assumed office that the relationship between the two of them went sour because he allegedly refused to honour the agreements reached before he was supported to be the governor. This conflict threatened peace, security and participatory democracy in the state particularly in Ibadan despite several failed attempts at brokering peace between the two of them. It dragged the political foot soldiers of both actors into bloody confrontations that claimed several lives, destruction of properties and resulted in the illegal activities committed by many notorious members of the NUTRW (Animasahun, 2013). These illegal activities were also committed during Chief Kolapo Isola, Chief Lam Adesina, Chief Alao Akala and Senator Ajimobi regimes who were governors in their tenures. This has led to insecurity in Oyo State particularly in Ibadan Metropolis, out of which Egbeda LGA is one of them.

Violence is not new in Nigerian politics and it was cited as one of the reasons by the military for seizing power in the second-republic. The youths have always been used as the agency or vectors of violence by unscrupulous politicians owing to the amoral nature of Nigeria's politics. Since the return to party politics in 1999, there has been proliferation of such groups. The members of such groups qualify to be addressed as lumpens because they represent a pool of people whose labour or skills have become obsolete largely because of capitalist transformation, restructuring or retrenchment. Abdullahi (2005) in (Animasahun, 2013) expands the category of lumpens by including the unemployed and the unemployable, mostly male, prone to criminal behaviour, petty theft, drugs peddling, drunkenness and other anti-social tendencies. In the Nigerian context, thuggery is the use of paid people (usually unemployed), to oppress, intimidate or kill political opponents and loot or damage their property (Anifowose, 2006). These two categories yoked together by Chief Lamidi Adedibu constituted an indispensable tool in the execution of political violence and insecurity in Ibadan.

Political insecurity in this context transcends the scope espoused by (Gleditsch, 2001) in (Animasahun, 2013) as the freedom from dictatorship and all forms of arbitrary government, to include the presence of political actors whose activities constitute a threat to political security, peace, participation, democracy and the public space.

The level of education of people determine the level of their security, hence, education can be used as one of major remedy in curbing the insecurity in Oyo State. The security is very germane to every responsible government, however, there are lapses that still persist in Egbeda local government, many cases of criminal, ritual activities kidnapping activities had been reported in recent times in the area. In addition to this, many people (suspects) have been arrested for one case or the other. Most jobless members of the communities are youths and they are always ready to give support or help to people who are ready to offer them money. They regularly involve in stealing properties. These properties include: mobile phone, farm animals, automobile and electronics. Some of them have finished secondary school with poor results and due to lack of money, they could not further their education.

Politicians usually come to them because they can fight and they possess charms which they often use to assist whoever seeks their help. The youth group was not formed because of any specific objective. According to them, they were a group of friends who converged around a particular brothel in the area. The group became more organized for political activities during the 2003 elections when they were contacted to work for money rewards. A good number of conflicts often arise from ignorance and manipulation of ethnic and religious identity. A country that bequeaths the right type of education to her citizens makes it difficult for such citizens to turn against their father land (Okeke, 2013).

It is therefore, not a surprise that Radda (2011) opined that education, if well imparted and utilized, has the potency of promoting national security. This is because it is mostly uneducated, jobless youths that are easily attracted to crimes, thereby, constituting insecurity in a country. While Western education that is not geared towards self-reliance (education that makes youth job seeker) may be dangerous as far as developing countries are concerned, and lack of Western

education or low education is even more dangerous. Low education often translates to absence of competitive skill, adequate income, exclusion from participating in vital political and economic and social organisations and relations; lack of access to adequate food and nutrition, housing, health care and efficient public emergency and safety services-all of which are elements on human security.

In another study of Smith, Jacko and Andrew (2015), they submitted that insecurity can emanate from a situation where people suffer deprivation, poverty, lack access to information, poor provision of essential necessities of life. Youths who are educated have hope of better future than youths who are not educated and failed to learn any craft. Children or youths with low education are easily recruited as thugs, insurgents and terrorists through indoctrination. Suffice to say that lack of education itself is insecurity. Inadequate education also constitutes a problem to national security.

The former Minister of Education, Professor Rukkayatu Rufai (cited in Orikpe (2013) advocated for reform of the education system as a means of curbing security challenges confronting Nigeria. The Minister canvassed for kind of education that focuses on the development of the mind, soul and body, taking into cognizance the need of the country. Akwara, Akwara, Enwuchola, Adekunle and Udaw (2013) in the same vein pointed the high rate of unemployment among youths and attests to the faulty premise of the insecurity in Nigeria in recent times. For instance, it was observed that in 2008, that 15% of the Nigerian workforce was unemployed and the figure rose to 20% and the victims of this phenomenon are the youth who till date, still have the highest percentage of unemployment in the country. It was established that there is a synergy between unemployment and poverty which can lead to insecurity in the society.

It has been argued that the mass of unemployed youths in both rural and urban areas of Nigeria need little motivation or mobilization to take part in riots and reprisal attacks given the inducement or opportunity for looting that often accompanied these. It appears poverty and joblessness especially amongst the youth is important casual and facilitating factors in violent conflict in Nigeria. The aforementioned prepares the ground for insurgency that has been the greatest threat to Nigeria's security. Akwara, Akwara, Enwuchola, Adekunle and Udaw (2013) pointed out that poverty and inequality

trigger violence and that 90% of all violence-related deaths are traceable to world's less prosperous nations and the poorer neighborhoods of cities are often high crime areas. Similarly, the prevailing socio-economic environment entices youths to turn to war, crime and violence as a means of livelihood. As bad as the situation appears, education can be used to curb the ugly trend. This study therefore investigated managing insecurity challenges in Egbeda Area of Oyo State: Education option as a remedy.

Problem of the Study

In recent times, insecurity challenges in Nigeria are an offshoot of several imbalances in the society. Crimes such as armed robbery, human trafficking, smuggling, political unrest, ritual killings, terrorism, money laundry, just to mention but a few are matters of concern. Implications of the insecurity can be linked to high rate of unemployment, injustice, various forms of social ills such as robbery, pick pocketing, low trust in the government by the general public and so on.

It seems people are not protected because the security agencies cannot guarantee their safety. It is even disturbing and demoralizing to note that some of these culprits successfully wriggle their ways into position of power and subsequently determine the outcome of their cases. Thus, need for this study, this study therefore, investigated insecurity challenges in Egbeda Area of Oyo State and how it can be addressed through education.

Methodology

The descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study. In the Egbeda Local Government Area, ten areas (Asejire, Badeku, Oluwo, Adegbayi, FRSC, Iyana church, Celica, Alakia, Jolonbo and Oganda) in the study were randomly selected. In each area, 50 residents were randomly selected through simple random sampling technique. A total of 500 respondents were used for the study. Surface and content validation were done by the experts in educational management and evaluation. Test retest method was adopted and a reliability coefficient of 0.87 was obtained. Simple percentage was adopted to analyse the three research questions.

Findings and Discussion

Table1: Distribution of Respondents by Sex

Sex	Frequency	%
Male	340	68.0
Female	160	32.0
Total	500	100.0

Table 1 indicated the distribution of respondents' sex. Males were 340 (68.0%) while the females were 160 (32.0%). It is shown that males are more in number than their females counterparts.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Age

Age group	Frequency	%
20-30	80	16
31-40	240	48
41-50	110	22
Above 50	70	14
TOTAL	500	100

Table 2 represents the age distribution of the respondents. Between 20-30years they were 80 (16.0%) in number, 31-40years were 240 (48.0%), 41-50years (22%) and those above 50years were 70 respondents representing 14.0%.

Table 3: Educational Background of the Respondents' Parents

Educational Attainment	No of respondents in the range	%
Primary school certificates	210	42
GCE/WAEC Certificate	100	20
NCE/OND	130	26
OND/B.A/B.SC/B.Ed	20	4
M.A/M.Sc/M.Ed	35	7
Ph.D.	5	1
Total	500	100

From table 3, educational background of the respondents is displayed. Majority of the respondents 210(42.0%) were those that obtained Primary school certificates, 20 (4.0%) have

OND/B.A/B.Sc/B.Ed certificates. NCE/OND certificates holders were 130 (26.0%). Those with Master degree were 35 (7.0%) respondents while Ph. D. holders were 5 (1.0%). From the findings it was discovered that 310 (62%) of the respondents had primary school certificates and GCE/WAEC certificates. It is obviously showed that the lowly educated members of the community were in the majority. Thus, there is need for them to be educated on security issues.

Answering of Research Questions

Research Question 1: What are the causes of insecurity in Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State?

Table 4: Causes of Insecurity in Egbeda Local Government Area Oyo State

	Items	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1	Many uneducated and jobless youth inhabit in the area	460 (92)	20 (4)	20 (4)	- (0.00)
2	Inadequate security agents that supposed to secure the area	490 (98)	10 (2)	- (0.00)	- (0.00)
3	Care free or poor attitude of residents on security issues	340 (68)	80 (16)	60 (12)	20 (4)
4	Inadequate awareness on essence of security	200 (40)	250 (50)	- (0.00)	50 (10)
5	Criminals, ritualists and kidnappers focussing the area	400 (80)	90 (18)	10 (2)	- (0.00)

Table 4 displays causes of insecurity in Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State. It was established that 460 (92%) strongly agreed that poor education among majority of residents, 20 (4%) respondents agreed, while 20 (4%) respondents disagreed with the statement. On the statement that there is inadequate security agents, 490 (98%) respondents strongly agreed while 10 (2%) agreed. More so, 340 (68%) strongly agreed that care free attitude of residents is one of the causes of insecurity in the study area, 80(16%) agreed, 60 (12%) disagreed while 20 (4%) strongly disagreed. 200 (40) viewed that no /poor public awareness on essence of security, 250 (50%) agreed while 50 (10%) strongly disagreed. On the statement that criminal/ ritual /kidnapping activities is one the causes of insecurity, 400

respondents which represented (80%) strongly agreed, 90 agreed while 10 (2%) disagreed.

Research Questions 2: What are the effects of insecurity in Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State?

Table 5: Effects of insecurity in Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State

	Items	SA%	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1	Rampant killing of innocent residents and strangers	500 (100)	- (0.00)	- (0.00)	- (0.00)
2	Unpeaceful environment (unfriendly inhabitant)	200 (40)	100 (20)	20 (4)	80 (16)
3	Poor economic activities in the area	450 (90)	10 (2)	30 (6)	- (0.00)
4	People migrating /leaving the area to nearby areas	300 (60)	100 (20)	60 (12)	40 (8)
5	Fear /Distress of being a victim of criminal/ ritual /kidnapping activities in the area	480 (96)	- (0.00)	20 (4)	- (0.00)

Table 5 displays effects of insecurity in Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State. It was established that all respondents 500 (100%) strongly agreed that killing of innocent residents is very common in the area. Also, 200 (40%) respondents strongly agreed with the statement that the area is not peaceful. On the statement that there is poor economic activities in the area, 450 (90%) respondents strongly agreed while 10 (2%) agreed while 30 (6%) disagreed. More so, 300 (60%) strongly agreed that people leaving the area and settle nearby areas) is one of the effects of insecurity in the study area, 80(16%) agreed, 60 (12%) disagreed while 40 (8%) strongly disagreed. On the statement that fear of being a victim of criminal/ ritual /kidnapping activities in the area is one of the effects of insecurity, 480 (96%) strongly agreed while 20 (4%) disagreed.

Research Questions 3: What are the remedies to insecurity in Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State?

Table 6: Remedies to insecurity in Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State

	Items	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1	There is need for residents to be oriented particularly uneducated ones	400 (80)	70 (14)	30 (6%)	- (0.00)
2	Adequate security agents should be deployed to the area	500 (100)	- (0.00)	- (0.00)	- (0.00)
3	Residents should be watchful of their safety	230 (46)	100 (20)	60 (12)	110 (22)
4	All forms of social ills should be reported to the security agencies in the area	380 (78)	20 (4)	50 (10)	50 (10)
5	There is need for regular public awareness on security education through the mass media	500 (100)	- (0.00)	- (0.00)	- (0.00)

Table 6 shows remedies of insecurity in the study area. It was proven that 400 (80%) strongly agreed that there is need for residents to be oriented particularly uneducated ones, 70 (14%) respondents agreed. Also, 30 (6%) respondent disagreed with the statement. On the two statements that adequate security agents should be deployed to the area and there is need for public awareness on essence of security, all 500 (100%) respondents strongly agreed.

More so, 230 (46%) strongly agreed that residents should be watchful of their safety, 100 (20%) agreed, 60 (12%) disagreed while 110 (22%) strongly disagreed. On the statement that all forms of social ills should be reported to the security agencies in the area, 380 (78%) respondents strongly agreed, 20 agreed, 50 (10%) disagreed, while 50 (10%) strongly disagreed.

Discussion of Findings

From table 4, some causes of insecurity in Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State are identified. It was established by the respondents that poor education among the youth of residents, inadequate security

agents, care free attitude of residents, poor public awareness on essence of security, and criminal/ ritual /kidnapping activities were causes of insecurity. This is in line with the opinion of Smith, Jacko and Andrew (2015) who submitted that insecurity can emanate from a situation where people suffer deprivation, poverty, lack of access to information, poor provision of essential necessities of life. In addition, Akwara, Akwara, Enwuchola, Adekunle and Udaw (2013) concluded that high rate of unemployment among youth attested to the faulty premise of the insecurity in Nigeria in recent times. It was established that there is a synergy between unemployment and poverty which can lead to insecurity in the society.

Table 5 displays effects of insecurity in area of study. It was established that killing of innocent residents is very common in the area, the area is not peaceful, there is poor economic activities in the area, people living in the area and settle nearby areas) and fear of being a victim of criminal/ ritual /kidnapping activities in the area criminal/ ritual /kidnapping activities are some of the effects of insecurity. This is in line with the view of Radda (2011) who opined that uneducated and educated jobless youths that are easily attracted to crimes, thereby, constituting insecurity in a country. While Western education that is not geared towards self-reliance (education that makes youth job seeker) may be dangerous as far as developing countries are concerned, lack of Western education or low education is even more dangerous.

Table 6 shows some remedies of insecurity in the study area. It was proven that need for residents to be oriented particularly uneducated ones, adequate security agents should be deployed to the area and there is need for public awareness on essence of security, residents should be watchful of their safety and all forms of social ills should be reported to the security agencies in the area.

From the findings it was discovered that 310 (62%) of the respondent had primary school certificates and GCE /WAEC certificates. It is obviously showed that the low education status of the majority. Thus, there is need for them to be educated on security issues. This is in line with the view of Radda (2011) who opined that education, when well imparted and utilized, has the potency of promoting national security. He added that education often transforms and contribute to

dynamic political, economic and social societies. It provides safety services-all which are constituents on human security.

Conclusion

Education if well imparted and utilized, has the potency of promoting national security. This is because it is mostly uneducated and jobless youths that are easily attracted to crimes, thereby, constituting insecurity in a country. Low education often translates to absence of competitive skills, inadequate income, exclusion from participating in vital political and economic and social organizations. The affiliation between education and security is mutual and interrelated. It is therefore necessary for every society to maintain peaceful coexistence and this would enhance development and prospect of the society.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusion of the study, the following were recommended:

Since security is one of the responsibilities of every responsible government, there is need for the Oyo State government to earmark more fund to security in the area. This would boost progress in the area. Also, there is need for mass enlightenment on security education. This would give the people in the area to be more educated on issues relating to security.

Also, employment should be provided by the government and entrepreneurs for jobless particularly the youth. This would reduce various forms of social ills in the area.

In addition, regular security orientations should be given to people in the area by the concern security agencies. This will be a basis for the people to be security conscious thus, prevent insecurity. More so, adequate security agents should be deployed to the area. This will enable the security agencies to monitor various irregular activities in the area.

Residents should be watchful and vigilant of their safety. All forms of social ills should be reported regularly to the security agencies in the area. This would assist in preventing insecurity in the area.

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