Impact of Insecurity on Secondary School Administration in North-West-Geo-Political Zone, Nigeria

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Abstract: Insecurity is frustrating the development of education in Nigeria. Educational institutions have been turned to field of kidnapping for bandits and insurgents. This paper analyses the impact of insecurity challenges on administration of secondary school education in North-West Nigeria. The paper employed secondary school data which were sourced from print and online medium. The paper concludes that the insecurity challenges in North-West Nigeria have led to death of teachers and students, affected achievement of education objectives, enrolment and retention of students and also led to disruption of school administration and academic calendar of the secondary schools across the zone. Based on this, the paper recommended that the federal and state government should employ every strategies to solve the problems of school attacks in the geo-political zones of Nigeria. This problem can be addressed by addressing the problem of unemployment in the region and increasing the number of security surveillance in the zone.

Keywords: Administration, Insecurity, School, Secondary.

INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian education system comprises of the Basic education and Post-Basic Education and Career Development (PBECD). According to Federal Republic of Nigeria, (2013) Post-Basic Education and Career Development (PBECD) is the education children receive after a successful completion of ten years of Basic Education and passing the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) and Junior Arabic and Islamic Studies Certificate Examination (JAISCE). It includes: (i) senior secondary education, (ii) higher school; and (iii) continuing education given in Vocational Enterprise Institutions (VEIs) to either Basic Education graduates who are not proceeding to Senior Secondary Schools, or Senior Secondary graduates that are not proceeding to the tertiary level, as a means of preparing them for the world of work, wealth creation and entrepreneurship. The objectives of Post-Basic Education and Career Development (PBECD) are to: a. Provide holders of the Basic Education Certificate and Junior Arabic and Islamic Studies Certificate with opportunity for education of a higher level, irrespective of gender, social status, religious or ethnic background; b. offer diversified curriculum to cater for the differences in talents, disposition, opportunities and future roles; c. provide trained manpower in the applied sciences, technology and commerce at sub-professional grades; d. provide entrepreneurial, technical and vocational job-specific skills for self-reliance, and for agricultural, industrial, commercial and economic development; e. develop and promote Nigerian languages, art and culture in the context of world's cultural heritage; f. inspire students with a desire for self-improvement and achievement of excellence; g. foster patriotism, national unity and security education with emphasis on the common ties in spite of our diversity; and h. raise morally upright and well-adjusted individuals who can think independently and rationally, respect the views and feelings of others and appreciate the dignity of labour. The realization of
the objectives of Post-Basic Education and Career Development (PBECED) depends on a peaceful and conducive teaching and learning environment.

The insecurity problems in Nigeria is affecting educational institutions (Ogunode 2020; Ogunode & Atiga 2021). Post-Basic Education and Career Development (PBECED) is one of the forms of education mostly affected. It is imperative to analyze the impact of the insecurity on the Post-Basic Education and Career Development (PBECED) in North-West Political Zone of Nigeria.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

CONCEPT OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

School administration is key to the attainment school objectives. School administration have been defined in different ways by different researchers. For Okereke (2008) school administration involves managing, administering the curriculum, teaching, pastoral care, discipline, assessment, evaluation, and examinations. He added as part of school administration: resource allocation, costing and forward planning, staff appraisal, relationship with the community, use of the practical skills necessary for surviving the policies of organization such as decision-making, negotiation, bargaining, communication, conflict handling, and running meetings. These functions are complex and to efficiently and effectively perform them requires the appropriate tools and resources. Ogunode & Ahaotu (2021) viewed school administration as the internal administration of the school that deals with day-to-day planning, organizing and coordination of the school activities with the aim of achieving its objectives. School administration is the indoor operation of the activities and programme of the school for the purpose of realizing its objectives. Abdulrahman (2018) defined that, school administration is associated with the day to day running of schools having appointed officers. Insecurity is just the opposite of what we have as security. Etuk (2007) outlined the following as functions of school administration: staff personnel administration, student personnel administration, finance and physical resources, and school community relationship management. From the above, school administration is the practical application of school human and materials resources for the execution of school programme with the view of realizing the objectives of the schools. School administration is the application of school resources for the implementation of school programme. School administration is the systematic arrangement of school resources for the attainment of school goals. School administration covers the staff administration, students’ administration, teaching and learning planning and implementation, financial resources allocation, school-community relationship, school development, plant maintenance and management, supervision of teachers, school planning, school security etc.

CONCEPT OF INSECURITY

Ubong, (2016) noted that insecurity occurs whenever people have a feeling of self-doubt, or feel vulnerable and susceptible to injury or harm particularly for a sustained period, insecurity is at work while Sanni, (2015) defined insecurity as the sense of vulnerability, defenselessness, lack of protection and danger present in the study area, influencing females’ participation in education programmes. Adebanjoko & Ugwuoke (2014) also viewed insecurity as the State of being subject in every respect to terror, threat, risk, molestation, bullying, harassment, etc. Insecurity, for example, can be conceived as a threat to the state that often accounted for the arms and nuclear weapons race to protect the state. Insecurity like security is often used in a number of ways. Many people would take it to mean lack of safety or the existence of danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of trust; doubtful; inadequately guarded or protected; lack of stability; disturbed; lack of protection and unsafe (Achumba et al, 2013). Encarta dictionary (2009), defined insecurity as the state of being unsafe or insecure or a state of mind characterized by self-doubt and vulnerability. Beland (2005), insecurity is “the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection.”
CAUSES OF INSECURITY

There are many causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Researchers like Ogungbe & Ahaotu (2021) and Musa (2021) identified high rate unemployment among the youths in the country as a major reason for the security challenges. Sasu (2022) observed that in 2021, the unemployment rate in Nigeria is estimated to reach 32.5 percent. This figure is projected to increase further in 2022. Chronological data show that the unemployment rate Nigeria rose constantly in the past years. In the fourth quarter of 2020, over 33 percent of the labor force was unemployed, according to the Nigerian methodology. The high number of youth that are not employ are been lure into various criminal activities include Banditry and kidnapping. According to Chukwuemeka (2021), observed that a tenth of the country’s young citizens are officially unemployed. Young people are overwhelmed by the high unemployment rate in Nigeria. Every year, universities make many graduates who were unfortunately thrown onto the job market with no prospect of job opportunities. And this has lead a lot into criminal acts. Unfortunately, due to bad government decisions, our factories are still not reactivating. Due to the unemployment among Nigerians, young people are now negatively attracted to violent crime. Bello (2022) Most of our youths today in Nigeria have nothing to do, which makes them join groups that commit despicable acts. In the end, the nation is overwhelmed with criminal activities mainly committed by our youths.

Another factor responsible high rate of insecurity in Nigeria is bad governance (Zubairu, 2020). Chukwuemeka (2021), noted that the increasing incidents of violent attacks are symptoms of weak, marginal or exploitative government systems in Nigeria. The government’s inability to provide public services and meet the basic needs of the masses has created a group of frustrated people who are easily classified as violent by any event. The failure of Nigerian governments to fix the challenges of poverty and the unequal distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities is a major contributor to the country’s insecurity. When you have a poor population, you have a serious insecurity problems. This point is stressed by Bello (2022) who pointed out to incompetent leadership. We have long been electing incompetent leaders who cannot render effective service to the nation. They see themselves more as sectional leaders and pursue only their interests. Zubairu, (2020) cited Charas, Mbaye, and Liberty (2014) who opined that a number of violent cultures such as thuggery, indiscipline, corruption, abduction, bombing, etc. have come in since the arrival of third and fourth republics in 1999 and 2009 respectively, which was just a decade ago after the previous military invasion.

Chukwuemeka, (2021) also identified weak judicial system, He observed that the weakness of the Nigerian judiciary system creates uncertainty in Nigeria. People feel insecure when criminals are released. Many criminals have bought their freedom with money in the country, the legal system has abandoned its people and released all kinds of atrocities.

Zubairu, (2020) submitted that Nigeria’s security system is seen as very poor in both personnel and equipment. Security officers are poorly and poorly trained and poorly remunerated. As a result, the requisite expertise is not available to meet modern security challenges. The contribution of the security personnel to the Nigerian project of ensuring general safety is equally of serious concern. This weak security system can be due to a number of factors including corruption, insufficient police, and other security agencies funding, lack of modern equipment, poor safety personnel health, and inadequate staff. Nigeria is largely under police jurisdiction and this partially explains the Nigerian Police Force's failure to effectively tackle the country's crimes, corruption, and insecurity. Zubairu, (2020) cited Olorisakin who stressed that the police population ratio in Nigeria is 1:450 which falls below the United Nations” standard. This implies that as a country, Nigeria is grossly under-policed and this perhaps explains the police’s inability to effectively tackle crimes and security challenges. Poor Security System was also opined Chukwuemeka, (2021). He further concluded that due to inadequate government security equipment in both weapons and training. It contributes to the poor disposition of the security personnel. In many cases, security officers tasked with certain security situations lack the experience and equipment to handle situations so that they will not arise.

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Chukwuemeka, (2021) observed that corruption is already a part of life in the country and, unfortunately, is now part of Nigeria’s economic problems, and public appropriation. It has gained popularity in our system of government. This creates financial insecurity which has exacerbated poverty, there is corruption in public office at all levels and this has created a lot of instability in our country. Also, Bello (2022) Corruption is yet another reason for insecurity in Nigeria. It’s now rampant and has become our daily meal. Corruption ignites numerous problems for any society including insecurity. When leaders become corrupt, they fail to give security personnel adequate arms and support to fight terrorist groups and other criminals threatening the citizens. Nonetheless, Zubairu, (2020) argued that corruption was largely responsible for government failure and systemic infrastructure collapse, resulting in large-scale insecurity in Nigeria. The state of insecurity in Nigeria is unquestionably a result of government failure, traceable to widespread corruption. Corruption is poor not because money and profits change hands in an unequal way, and not because of participants' motives, but because it privatizes important facets of public life, bypassing representation, discussion and choice processes. Corruption is responsible for Nigeria’s massive unemployment, it's the reason Nigerian youth and businessmen lack electricity to run their businesses, it's the reason many businesses fail. Unemployment and deprivation are the two main causes of Nigeria's insecurity. By creating unemployment and poverty, corruption leads to instability in Nigeria.

Porous borders is another causes of insecurity problem in Nigeria. This submission is confirmed by Zubairu, (2020) who observed that the country's unstable frontiers, where human movements are essentially untracked, have led to Nigeria's level of insecurity. There is an unregulated inflow of Small Arms and Light Weapons into the country as a result of the porous borders which has enabled militancy and crime in Nigeria. Also, Chukwuemeka, (2021) noted that Nigeria shares borders with Niger, Burkina Faso, and Mali. These borders are poorly secured by the Nigerian immigration and customs authorities. The porous nature of these borders has exacerbated the possible spread of terrorist activity in Nigeria. With terrorism in the country there will be no room for adequate development in our country. Zubairu, (2020) cited Edeko who reported that Nigeria hosts over 70% of about 8million illegal weapons that have been used to create a security crisis. Zubairu, (2020) and Adeola and Olayemi, (2012) observed that the porous condition of both the Nigerian borders has contributed the uncontrollable influx of migrants, predominantly young people, from nearby countries such as the Republic of Niger, Chad and the Republic of Benin accountable for some of the insecurity promoting criminal activities in Nigeria.

Table 1: Analysis of insecurity in Nigeria by Geopolitical Zones from June 2011 to June 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geopolitical zone</th>
<th>Number of deaths due to insecurity in Nigeria from June 2011 to June 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South-West</td>
<td>3,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-South</td>
<td>5,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-East</td>
<td>3,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North-Central</td>
<td>10,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North-East</td>
<td>44,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North-West</td>
<td>12,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>79,373</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Adopted from Eons Intelligence (2019)

From the above table 1, it is clear that south-west, south-south, south-east, North-central, North-east and North-west had 3,534, 5,710, 3,020, 10,119, 44,247 and 12,743 incidences of insecurity problems and attacks.
IMPACT OF INSECURITY ON SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION IN NORTH-WEST NIGERIA

TEACHERS

The teaching programme of the teachers in the secondary schools across North-West states in Nigeria have been affected by insecurity problems that have engulfed the states in recent times. The teachers who are the pillars of school administration have been put off of work because of the continuous school closure as a result of insecurity in the zone. The teachers are one of the education stakeholders mostly halted by the insecurity problems in the region. Ogunode (2020) reported that many teachers have been kidnapped while Ogunode & Atiga (2021) submitted that many teachers have been killed. Ogunode & Ahaotu (2021) opined that teaching programme have been suspended because of insecurity in the zone. Innocent, Musa, & Ogunode (2021) noted that the administration of educational institutions depends on the quality of professional teacher available. Insecurity in Nigeria is affecting the administration of educational institutions because many professional teachers have lost their lives due to the problem of insecurity in the country. This act has reduced the number of teachers for the effective administration of schools especially in the northern part of the country. Insecurity in Nigeria, particularly in Northern part of Nigeria is responsible for the death of professional teachers. Also, thecable (2019) citing the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) observes that Boko Haram has killed 2,300 teachers in Nigeria’s north-East since the start of the insurgency in 2009.

STUDENTS

Students are regarded the king of the schools. The schools are established because of them. The students are among the critical element of the educational institutions. The students are called students because they are enrolled in the school to learn. The parents released their wards to the school authority by registering them in the schools to acquire skills and knowledge and at graduation collect certificate to qualify them for other educational pursue in life. The students are affected by the insecurity problems in the country especially in the North-West zone of Nigeria. The learning programme of the students have been affects ( ). The students have had learning lose because of the incessant school closure (Ogunode & Kolo 2021). Ogunode, Ahaotu & Obi (2021) reported that many students have been kidnapped while UNICEF (2021) noted that “So far this year 2021, there have been 20 attacks on schools in Nigeria, with 1,436 children abducted and 16 children dead. More than 200 children are still missing (Vanguard 2021). Akintunde and Musa (2016), pointed out that insecure school environment affect the learning of children. Situations of insecurity triggers traumatic disorder and toxic stress that affect learning negatively.

OBJECTIVE OF EDUCATION

The specific goals of education in Nigeria are to: a. Ensure and sustain unfettered access and equity to education for the total development of the individual; b. ensure the quality of education delivery at all levels; c. promote functional education for skill acquisition, job creation and poverty reduction; d. ensure periodic review, effectiveness and relevance of the curriculum at all levels to meet the needs of society and the world of work; e. collaborate with development partners, the private sector, Non- Governmental Organizations and local communities to support and fund education; and f. promote information technology capability at all levels (FRN,2013). The realization of the above specific objectives is under threat because of the volume of insecurity and school attacks. Ogunode & Kolo (2021) observed that the insecurity problem in the Northern part of Nigeria have led to the poor realization of the objectives because insecurity have reduced the enrolment rate, retention rate and completion rate of school children.

ENROLMENT AND RETENTION

One of the objective of education at all level of education in Nigeria is to achieve hundred percent enrolment, retention and completion. The problem of insecurity in the region have affected the new enrolment, retention and completion of student programme. This problem is
hinder the realization of the education objectives in the region. United Nations Children’s Fund, UNICEF (2021), said at least one million school children in Nigeria are afraid to return to school as schools resume, September. The fears by the children to return to schools, the agency said, was as a result of insecurity in the country, especially abductions that had taken place in schools so far. UNICEF (2021) reported low enrollment of students in schools in the states. The insecurity have given birth to high school dropout children (Sanni, 2015; Abdullahi & Terhemba, 2014). On the issue Innocent, Musa, & Ogunode (2021) observed One of the functions of school administration is to ensure effective student administration and enrollment but insecurity in the country is discouraging parents and children from coming to school because of the fear of being kidnapped or being killed by insurgents. Many parents have decided to keep their children at home instead of being killed and kidnapped at schools where safety is not guaranteed.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

The insecurity in the Northern Nigeria have led to disruption of school administration (Ogunode & Kolo 2021). They also observed that school administration deals with the internal supervision of teaching and learning programme. It implies the coordination of all human and materials resources within the schools for the implementation of the schools programme for the realization of the objectives of the schools. The insecurity in the Northern region have led to suspension of school programme such as school supervision and inspection, teaching and learning, execution programme, examination and sport activities. School administrators were unable to go to school inspection and teachers’ activities were disrupted.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Nigerian Tribune, (2021) submits that the inconsistence nature of school calendar in Nigerian educational system is no longer news. It is a common occurrence that one higher institution, secondary school or primary school is closed down due to internal crisis or attacks from bandits. Authorities in North-West, Nigeria had shut down more over 4,000 public primary schools across the state, and over 4,000 public secondary schools were among the closed down schools and over 300, 000 to 400,000 thousand students and pupils are at home after the incidence of Chibok school students’ kidnap without considering the effects on the internal administration of the school especially the learners. Nnamdi, (2021) submitted that, concerns about the students’ safety have prompted governors of six states in the region – Niger, Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Zamfara and Sokoto as well as Yobe in the North East to shut some or all boarding schools, particularly in the most vulnerable local government areas, until a semblance of security has been restored.

WAY FORWARD

In order to address all these problems identified as causing the insecurity in the country which is affecting the educational institutions, the paper, hereby recommended the following according to Chukwuemeka, (2021):

Solidified border security: The federal government must face the immediate challenge of boundary porosity. The government should make concerted efforts to recruit, train and deploy adequately equipped customs and immigration personnel across borders. The government needs to invest in more effective security technologies, which will benefit border security.

Human and Infrastructure Development: We need to capitalize on demographic dividends by investing in health, education and livelihoods, especially for our young people. There is urgent need to draw a national development plan that require the three levels of government. There should be development projects in important sectors of national life all at the same time.

Elimination of Corruption: It is the cause of inequality and the unequal distribution of the wealth of nations among their citizens. Corruption at all levels must be eliminated in such a way that equal rights apply to all and rights and privileges of people are not agreed upon based
on bribery and tribe but on merit, defined in relation to theirs Character content, their mental efficiency and their efficiency; where there will be no discrimination.

**Economic Development:** The country’s economic productivity and opportunities for its citizens need to be improved. The challenge of insecurity in Nigeria can be solved by accelerating development in our country. Development in this context is about creating an economy with societal relevance, an economic and physical infrastructure for business activity and industrial growth, in order to create gainful employment, high-quality educational facilities and health care for the people.

**Proper Security training and equipment:** More attention needs to be paid to the security department in order to conform to worldwide standard practice and the acquisition of modern technology. There is also a need to modernize security agencies through adequate training, advanced technology, motivation and change of direction.

**Improvement of the criminal justice system:** The judiciary should have developed time scales for cases at this stage in our development. There should have been a time to determine a cause; Time to close this case; and time to pass judgment. Hence, the government must ensure that criminal proceedings are successfully completed. Criminals will serve their full sentences, when convicted. Suspects are brought to justice earlier. Procedural documents must be available to lawyers and the public in digital form. Likewise, the procedure for filing a criminal complaint is to be simplified with greater consideration for the victims. Specifically, in addressing the school administration, Ogunode, Ahaotu & Obi- (2021) put forward the following recommendation:

a) The government should develop the political will to fight all forms of insecurity in the country through the application of best strategies;

b) The Federal Government should deploy security personnel to guide all educational institutions in the country. The government should increase the level of its security through employing dedicated and intelligent security personnel;

c) The Nigerian government should direct Nigerian Police Force to establish a department for school security. The department should be saddled with the responsibility of providing security to all educational institutions in the country;

d) The Nigerian government should direct the Nigerian security and civil defense to establish department of forest security. This department will prevent the kidnappers from using forest for kidnapping activities and hide-out;

e) The government should employ the engagement strategies and negotiation strategies to free the students in the hands of the kidnappers to engage the bandits and other criminal element in the country.

**CONCLUSION**

Education in Northern Nigeria is under attacks. The Post-Basic Education and Career Development (PBECID) is one of the Nigerian educational system mostly affected. This paper analyzed the impact of insecurity challenges on administration of secondary school education in North-West Nigeria. The paper employed secondary school data which were sourced from print and online medium. The paper concludes that the insecurity challenges in North-West Nigeria have led to death of teachers and students, affected achievement of education objectives, enrolment and retention of students and also led to disruption of school administration and academic calendar of the secondary schools across the zone. Based on this, the paper recommended that the federal and state government should employ every strategies to solve the problems of school attacks in the geo-political zones of Nigeria.

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