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# STUDIES IN EDUCATION

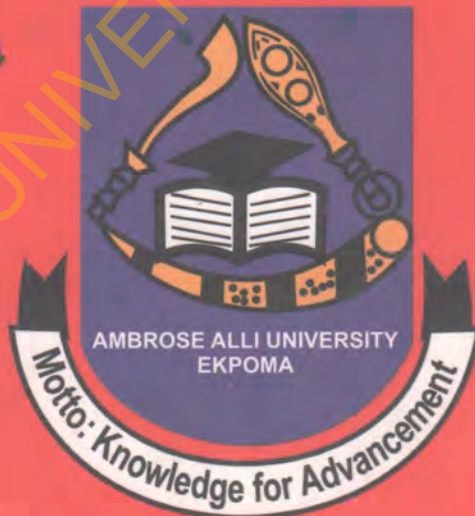
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## FACILITATING SECURITY IN NIGERIA SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN A PERIOD OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC RECESSION

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### Abstract

*The problem of insecurity in Nigeria has assumed a high dimension in the years after 2009. Insecurity has brought in its wake a new national trend where everybody feels insecure. In the Post-civil war years in Nigeria, the vogue was armed robbery but in recent years due to perceived bad governance, leadership ineptitude, corruption and greed, issues as ethnic militias, militancy and their allies have filled out the landscape. To this effect, the educational sector is not spared. Several schools have been attacked by militants in recent years and times. Other vices very common in Nigerian schools now include kidnapping for ransom, abductions and outright assassinations after collecting ransom. This paper examined the concept of insecurity as well as its origin and spread in Nigeria tracing the types of insecurity experienced in other lands with the hope of proffering solutions to our threatened existence and the erosion of our core values. The study further looked at the challenges confronting the attempt to solve the problem of insecurity and finally provided a pathway that will facilitate the eradication of insecurity in Nigeria.*

**Key Words:** Insecurity, National Recession, Facilitating Security

### Introduction

One of the provisions on fundamental human rights of citizens in any given state is the right to security which is also the reason for its provision in the national constitutions of most sovereign states. Nigeria is not be left out in this foray as section 14 (2) (b) schedule 2 of the 1999 Nigerian constitution (FRN, 1999) states clearly that "...the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government ...". The problem of insecurity is not new to Nigeria as its been there for quite some time. The current problem of insecurity commenced when Goodluck Jonathan was inaugurated as the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in May 2011. Hardly any day passes since then without reports of one security challenge or the other.

Examining the term security could show so many things for a better understanding and conception. Ewetan (2013), explained that insecurity derives from security while security in itself is the presence of confidence in humans at any point in time. Insecurity comes in various forms and in different parts of any country and the world at large. In Southwest of Nigeria for example, armed banditry, ritualistic attacks



and cultism have gradually taken the people hostage, while in the Northern part of Nigeria; cross-border banditry, cattle rustling, insurgency, and so etc are the vogue. In the South-south of Nigeria; kidnapping for ransom, militancy, and assassinations etc. reign supreme among other vices. The aged, titled men, clerics, government officials, academics, professionals, women and children are not spared.

Security can also be seen as a basic value in Western societies (Niemelä, 2000), where more and more systems are developed to guarantee security. Security is a highly valued goal, which may be difficult to reach because of different threats and risks in personal lives especially in near and global environments. To corroborate the forgoing, insecurity can also be seen in several other areas, (Agboola, 2009 p. 42) states that;

*... in the last years of civil rule, nearly one thousand companies have closed their doors and education, which should be the bedrock of whatever vision the leadership has for its people, has collapsed with teachers incessantly taking strike action over poor funding and welfare. With my view that Nigerians are not only insecure, but they are distrustful of promises, as the dividend of democracy such as jobs avenues for self-empowerment and improved living standards are not manifest which could have brought about security in our educational institution inducting that there is also insecurity in employment, food etc... (Agboola, 2009 p. 42)*

Taking a look at the global perspective on security, scholarly articles argued that during the cold-war era, focus was on the traditional approach to security which was state-centric. In this regard, insecurity was then conceived as threats to the state which often accounted for the race for arms and nuclear weapons build-up to defend respective states (Ajodo-Adebanjoko&Ugwuoke2014). In the post-cold war era, human security or a people centred view of security assumed centre-stage. This was based on the fact that threats to human life emanated not only from situations of violent conflicts but other non-conflict sources (Saliu, 2007). Insecurity can be referred to as a situation of fear or anything that causes fear, harm or has the capability to cause fear or harm to an individual resulting in the inability of people to live a happy peaceful lifestyle. Such issues could be politico-strategic, socio-economic, or ecological in nature; for instance, political instability, poverty, environmental degradation, lack of access to education, discrimination on the basis of gender, diseases and unemployment. The usual government response whenever there is a major case of insecurity or security lapses is to call for investigations that never lead to any substantive improvement on the security situation. Whether we agree or not, Nigeria is steadily sliding into a state of unbridled conflict.

The aforementioned challenges are not alien to Nigeria as claims from Nigeria's Eastern region cry marginalization, South-south has stated time without number that they need fiscal federalism as the basis for association in Nigeria and further more need control of resources known as resource control. The North of Nigeria feel neglected and hence there is agitations, insurgency and insecurity.



## **Insecurity**

Based on the fact that insecurity is the opposite of security and describes the lack or absence of security, insecurity could be seen from the context, of how the military that governed Nigeria for almost 30 years in its 56 years of existence conceived it. The first duty of a government is to keep its citizens safe because only the state has the wherewithal to guarantee security and save society from anarchy (and since government represents the state), the state through its government should provide adequate security (Gaskin, 1996).

In the perception of Omede (2012), security is a dynamic condition which involves the relative ability of a state to counter threats to its core values and interests. McGrew (1988) held that the security of a nation hangs on two important pillars; maintenance and protection of socioeconomic order in the face of internal and external threats and the promotion of a preferred international order in the face of threat to core values and interests.

Nwolise (2006), in a study explained that security is an all-encompassing condition that suggests a territory to be secured by a network of armed forces. The sovereignty of the state must be guaranteed by a democratic and patriotic government which in turn must be protected by the military, police and the people themselves; 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

In the viewpoint of Nwagboso (2012&Omede2012), security is about people and without reference to the security of the individual, security makes no sense at all (Mc Sweeney, 1999). Dike (2010) and Omede (2012) emphasized that Nigeria's security should be based on a holistic view that sees the citizens as primary beneficiaries of every security and developmental deliverable which the state can offer hence Nigeria's security should involve efforts to strengthen the capacity of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to contain internal and external aggression, control crime, eliminate corruption, enhance genuine development, progress and growth, improve the welfare and quality of the life of citizens. Beland (2005) sees insecurity as a state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection. From the viewpoint of this paper, insecurity refers to lack of or inadequate freedom from danger. This therefore infers the presence of absence of physical security which is the most visible form of insecurity that gives rise to other forms of insecurity as; economic, food, employment, educational/school, community, national and social.

## **Types of Security**

There are many types of securities in the literature. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 1994, there are seven dimensions of security; economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security explained as follows; what do they mean?



**Economic Security:** Requires a stable basic income from productive and remunerative work (UNDP, 1994)

**Food Security:** Refers to the fact that all people at all times have sufficient economic and physical access to basic food. This means that people have an "entitlement" to food to either buy it, grow it or take advantage of a public food distribution system (UNDP, 1994)

**Health Security:** This is a major threat to people all over the world especially in developing countries; millions die every year of infectious and parasitic diseases, health security is about providing tools to fight these diseases and ultimately decrease the number of deaths. (UNDP, 1994)

**Environmental Security:** This infers human beings relying much on a healthy physical environment - sometimes environmental disasters can threaten this environment. These disasters are often a result of a degradation of local ecosystems and that of the global system. Environmental security is about minimizing the strains put on the earth and thus minimizing the risk of natural disasters with severe humanitarian consequences (UNDP, 1994)

**Personal Security:** This should be understood as security from physical violence is possibly the most vital of all seven points. Threats to personal security can take many forms; Threats from the state (Physical torture), threats from other states (war), threats from other groups of people (ethnic tension), threats from individuals or gangs against other individuals or gangs (crime, street violence), Threats directed against women (rape, domestic violence), threats directed at children based on their vulnerability and dependence (child abuse) and threats to self (suicide, drug use) (UNDP, 1994)

**Community Security:** People could gain security from their membership of social groups such as; a family, community, organization, racial or ethnic group. Being a part of any of these groups provides the individual with an identity and a re-assuring set of values. Some of the fore mentioned groups could also provide physical and material support for its weaker members. Threats to community security could include discrimination on specific issues thereby limiting their access to resources and opportunities that engender the enjoyment of a commonwealth or social service from the state etc (UNDP, 1994)

**Political Security:** This is about people's basic human rights and the right to live in a society without state repression. According to the UNDP (1994) report, the priority a government gives to its military is a good indicator for political freedom. The states sometimes use its armies to repress their own people. The ratio between the two can be seen in how much a government spends on the military in proportion to its social

spending. Such difference in expenditures gives a good picture of the state priority for political security.

Table 1: Types of Insecurity

Type of Security	Examples of Main Threats
Economic security	Persistent poverty, unemployment
Food security	Hunger, famine
Health security	Deadly infectious diseases, unsafe food, malnutrition, lack of access to basic health care
Environmental security	Environmental degradation, resource depletion, natural disasters, pollution
Personal security	Physical violence, crime, terrorism, domestic violence, child labor
Community security	Inter-ethnic, religious and other identity based tensions
Political security	Political repression, human rights abuses

Source: (UNDP Report 1994)

### History of Insecurity in Nigeria

Insecurity especially as it relates to personal security became obvious in Nigeria in 1970 just after the Nigeria civil. When Nigeria got her Independence in 1960, the British imposed a federal structure of political authority on its former colony (Nigeria). This structure was effective until 1966 when the military began the imposition and implementation of a Unitary system of government that completely obliterated that given by the political masters and introduced the new one run by decrees. The demand for true federalism (fiscal and political) and the hue and cry for restructuring by different ethnic nationalities increased the need for a new political structure for Nigeria. Such agitations over time appear to have contributed to endangering lives and properties.

According to (Adamu, 2005) and (Ali, 2013), federalism that undermines the independence and autonomy of its federating units will only bring about conflicts, threat to national cohesion and peace and ultimate disintegration. In 2014, Human Development Index Report (HDI) of United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP, 2014) ranked Nigeria as number 152 out of 187 on insecurity while Nigeria was placed 9<sup>th</sup> least among 42 nations in the cost of low Human Development countries. Such indices portend that over time, Nigeria has not taken the issue of security serious.

Nigerian insecurity has assumed a wide dimension in that the day seem to agree that the various ethnic nationalities have their own ethnic militias with no actual person to hold. For instance, in the South-south of Nigeria, the following militias operate;



**Niger Delta Militants:** These include Movement of the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), Niger Delta Avengers, the Egbesu cult and a host of others requesting for a new national fiscal structure (derivation) in which the nationalities must have a share of the resources (resource control). To drive home their point, they have resorted to kidnappings, bombing oil pipelines installations and abductions for ransom. The militants have gradually extended their sphere of influence and hostility from the Niger Delta to the Southwest cities like Lagos and Ogun states in recent times.

**Odua Peoples' Congress (OPC):** This appear to be the mildest of the groups whose operations is to safe guard life and property in the southwest which occasionally leads to confrontations with some other groups in an attempt to stamp the interest of the southwest in national issues especially when it has to do with civil issues but could apply some level of force when the region is threatened e.g market clashes, land clashes, safe guarding oil pipelines located in Southwest, Nigeria. Issues of kidnapping, abduction or ransom taking has never been traced to the OPC.

**Boko Haram and the Fulani Herdsmen:** These have been the deadliest of the militias. The Boko haram cannot actually be classified as its demands are not too real to life while the Fulani herdsmen are not known till date what they want. What are the demands of Boko haram? To create a caliphate out of an existing nation, forbidding western education in its area of operation and insisting that everybody must convert to Islamic religion. The organization cannot be said to be sponsored by the States in the North as those states have consistently denied any relationship with Boko haram in the mass media but Boko haram insist they are fighting a religious war and to that effect has continued to bomb all parts of Northern Nigeria including Abuja, and specifically zeroing on Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States. Their activities have led to the creation of Internally Displaced People's (IDP) camps with its problems.

The National insecurity in Nigeria has brought untold hardships on Nigerians. In the first instance, several companies have had to relocate from Nigeria due to insecurity to life and property and unwanton attacks leading to poor profits at the end of the year. Again, destruction of oil pipelines has led to poor electricity generation resulting into poor infrastructure and an unfriendly economic operating environment. With the consistent vandalization of oil facilities in the South-south, Nigeria has not been able to meet its oil production quota leading to a fall in oil production output and consequent economic recession in the national economy.

In citing some scholars (Ali,2013;Okorie, 2011; Jega,2002; Salawu, 2010; Onyishi, 2011; Ezeoba 2011; Lewis,2002) identified other causes of insecurity to include; corruption in Nigeria that is inimical to socio-economic development. Nweze (2004) in a study identified factors facilitating insecurity in Nigeria to include: poor leadership, ethno-religious crises, socio-economic inequalities, small arms and ammunition trafficking, rural-urban migration and external influence among others

### **Insecurity and Education in Nigeria**

The rising tide of insecurity has greatly affected education in Nigeria. Nigeria's national policy on education (FRN, 2004) categorizes secondary education as that education after primary and before tertiary education hence schools in this category include grammar, comprehensive, technical and commercial schools. Schools in the category are controlled by the state, Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) or private sector. In many of the schools in these aforementioned categories, we have day and boarding schools. At the end of the school day, day students go home to meet their parents or guardian while boarding schools keep their students. All students are kept adequately occupied in boarding schools through well balanced daily routine of activities in academics, sports and co-curricular activities. Secondary schools used to be sources of pride to the nation and parents as parents who live in distant places could send children to far way places even in the different regions but this has ceased to be so.

Secondary schools and other tertiary schools have become prone to attacks by kidnapers based on security lapses. Several attacks have come on schools in recent times (See Table 2). In a study conducted recently on security facilities in Ibadan municipal secondary schools, Isah (2013), observed that school security personnel were not well trained. Many of the schools surveyed indicated that up to 70% of urban schools that had fences, had porous fences and in some cases, there were no school gates. The same study revealed that students and teachers showed a high degree of ignorance on security issues especially on ordinary civil defence issues. The facts in Table 2 show that in the very recent time, the rate of school attacks tremendously increased indicting security lapses which government must rise up to urgently.

**Table 2:** Insecurity on Southwest and other Nigerian Cities (Schools and Others) Since 2012

S/N	Attack	Date	Type	School	Organization Responsible	Outcome	Source
1.	Horrific School, Borno State, Nigeria	2013	Insurgency	Secondary school	Boko-Haram	Dozens of boys and girls killed in cold blood	Mass media
2.	Chibok Sec. School, Chibok, Borno State, Nigeria	April 14, 2014	Insurgency	Secondary School	Boko Haram	Over 200 girls charted away and only 22 rescued to date	Mass Media
3.	Babington Macaulay Junior Secondary	March 16,	Kidnapping	Secondary School	Suspected Niger Delta Militants	3 Female students preparing for exams	Mass Media



S/N	Attack	Date	Type	School	Organization Responsible	Outcome	Source
	School, Ikorodu, Lagos, Nigeria	2016					
4.	Lagos State Model Secondary School, Igbonla	October 6, 2016	Kidnapping and Abduction	Secondary School	Suspected Niger Delta Militants	Vice principal and 4 students abducted	Mass Media
5.	Nigerian Turkish Secondary School, Isheri (Lagos/Ogun)	January 2017	Kidnapping and Abduction	Secondary School	Suspected Militant groups who did not disclose names	Teachers and students abducted	Well publicized in the Nigerian and other mass media
6.	Professor and Mrs. Martins Fabunmi	March, 2016	Kidnapping, abduction and ransom taking	University staff but highway robbery and kidnap	Suspected Fulani herds men along Akoko/Ondo/Edo highway	Lecturers (2) were robbed, abducted and ransom taken	Media reports

Source: Collated from Nigerian Newspapers

This study wishes to express the fact that this is just a tip of the ice berg of incidences of insecurity but such as were given publicity by the mass media and those that related to the schools for example, a paramount chief in Delta state was kidnapped and assassinated in 2015, the Obi of Ubulukwu. Reasons for his kidnapping and abduction are not known till date. Severally, the media had published the abduction and kidnapping of several University Professors, some of whom have not been seen till today with the fear that many of such professors are now dead.

### Insecurity in Nigeria: Issues and Experiences

Table 2 aptly shows the rising concern for insecurity in Nigeria. It is worthy of note that Nigeria ranked the poorest in the world in all socio economic indicators as; life expectancy, death rate, access to water, poverty rate, mortality and crime rates in the world after fifty three years of nationhood (Ewetan and Ese, 2014). In a summit in Lagos in 2016 the Regional Vice President, Africa and American Society for Industrial Security, Mr. Dennis Amachree, disclosed that of the top 10 countries with high kidnapping records in 2007, Nigeria occupied the 6th position. But Nigeria has since 2007 moved up to the third position, only behind Mexico and Columbia (Ghana.news.org) retrieved 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2012

The failure of leadership in Nigeria to deliver good governance and secure the welfare of persons on the principles of freedom, equality and justice has been ambushed



as causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Ali (2013), stated that the ruling elites in Nigeria are dependent parasites that are very corrupt in nature and full of mal-administration.

It cannot be rightly denied that a major catalyst to insecurity of lives and property in Nigeria especially the Southwestern part of Nigeria formally regarded as peaceful and most progressive region in Nigeria has been its level of peace but since 2015 when the traces of economic recession began to echo that has been confirmed by the FGN through its organs and the media, kidnappings of landlords, assassinations of landowners and school children has become very rampant. Other level of violence common to Nigeria today include ritual killings which have taken a major part on Nigerian mass media on a daily basis creating fear and tension in the land.

The 1999 Nigeria constitution, (FRN, 1999) provided for the rights of citizens to include; right to life, good social security, work, livelihood, just and favorable remuneration, good standard of living, adequate health including food, clothing, housing and right to education. In a special write up by Adedokun (2016) on misplaced priorities of the Buhari Administration retrieved from [www.punchonline.com](http://www.punchonline.com) expressed the opinion that the current political administration has lost the skills in fighting insecurity. Adedokun (2016) further insisted that modern technology and intelligence form the bedrock of security in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to which Nigerian security personnel lacks equipment, training and capacity to effects. Adedokun (2016) painted stories of how families run to pay ransom to kidnappers while the (public) left with no other option suggest for prayers for families of the kidnapped. It is not out of place in Nigeria today to see families of kidnapped persons in the social media pleading and begging of financial assistance to enable them pay ransom for their kidnapped relatives Adedokun (2016).

Reports in the [www.punch.com](http://www.punch.com) retrieved Thursday November 17, 2016 Ali (2013) and Bako, (1998) emphasized the fact that Nigeria is blessed with abundant human and natural resources enough to guarantee the attainment of human and peoples' rights as well as enable the provision of good governance by the ruling class. Thus, the inability of top officials of Nigeria's security to address the country's insecurity during this crucial period raises yet another critical question on the preparedness of Nigeria to attain desired political, social and economic heights in the year 2020. There seems to be serious threats to the unity and corporate existence of Nigeria as a sovereign state. In this wise, addressing insecurity in Nigeria ultimately requires not only the causes of threats but also a critical evaluation of the performance of security agencies in handling the situation in Nigeria. Security agencies in Nigeria that are paid with public funds include; National Security Agency (NSA), National Intelligence Agency (NIA), State Security Services (SSS), Nigerian Police Force (NPF), Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), and Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps(NSCDC). The contemporary security challenges in Nigeria raises critical questions bordering on formulation and implementation of Nigeria's internal security policies which also require effectiveness the discharge of statutory responsibilities.



### **Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria Secondary Schools**

From the point of view of this paper, it is very necessary to highlight some perceived causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Prominent among the causes as understood by the authors and from extant literature include the following;

**Unemployment:** The high rate of unemployment in many countries including Nigeria has pushed citizens to make money through unconventional means. Most unemployed youth have turned to crime in order to make money. The idea of kidnapping for ransom in the opinion of the authors of this paper emanate from highly educated and intelligent personnel who are unwilling to take life but require a means of survival that still boils to the level of training Nigerians are exposed to through free education and thereafter no jobs even to as high education as Ph.D. The main mission of the kidnappers is to kidnap affluent persons and demand for a ransom most times beating the law enforcement agencies as the law keepers may not be as intelligent as the criminals educationally. Most youths especially those from the Niger Delta who opine that government has not only taken their lands (means of livelihood) but abdicated their responsibilities to them have resorted to radicalism and criminality to extract money from the society that impoverished them (Isah and Babayemi, 2009). Again, (Adegbami, 2013) posited that, idle minds are the devil's workshops hence if the rate of unemployed graduates increases drastically crimes such as kidnapping for ransom will also increase. Odunmakin (2012) has suggested that higher institutions should find ways of helping government to fathom a way of creating employment.

**Poverty:** Poverty is another propelling force that pushes people towards crime and can also be regarded as one of the causes of insecurity where people find themselves doing what ordinarily should not be done as kidnapping, abduction and ransom taking. In a statement made by United Nations to Nigeria (UN, 1994), it was deduced that widespread and severe poverty is a reality in Nigeria. This reality depicts the essential needs of life which include food, shelter, clothing, education, etc. Less privileged people lack the most essential needs of life to the extent that one wonders how they survive. In most media reports, such citizens involve themselves in armed robbery, cultism, terrorism, Boko Haram recruits etc. (Adebayo, 2014:19) cited by (Ford, 2007) explained that poverty has been linked to high crime rate, especially in the Niger Delta region where there is a sharp contrast between the rich and the poor. Poverty could be adduced to be responsible for the erosion of moral and social values in Nigeria which is also a major contribution to insecurity.

**Corruption:** Another cause of insecurity in Nigeria is corruption where the embezzlement of funds specifically put aside for development is used for personal purpose by those whom they are entrusted to. Celebrated cases of embezzlement in Nigeria include the Pension Scam, Arms deal scam that have led the accused live high profile lifestyles outside the means of their livelihood and cornered the common wealth



of Nigeria for their own personal use to the glaring consternation of the poor. Corruption is bad not because money and benefits change hands, but because of the motives of perpetrators who privatizes valuable aspects of public life, bypassing processes of representation, debate and choice. Corruption has been described as an epidemic militating against the development of the Nigeria (Nwanegbo & Odigbo, 2013). Also (Iyare, 2008) posited that Corruption has hampered economic growth in Nigeria.

**Poor Leadership:** Another cause of insecurity in Nigeria is the poor leadership system in our country. Some thugs sponsored by politicians arrange for the kidnapping of their opponents. Mostly, such atrocities are perpetrated with the view that their opponents will make concession or change their votes on issues. True leaders must abide by the rules in which he/she is governed or hopes to govern and hence lay down exemplary standards for his followers. Linda (2011), posited that philosophers, political scientists and psychologist have produced extensive literature on leaders and leadership. There are still some controversies on how people emerge and become good leaders while others remain followers. It is in this realm that Plato and Machiavelli believed that only the few selected with superior wisdom should be leaders and those who have the ability to organize power and knowledge in defense of the state should be followed respectively.

Poor leadership breeds hindrances to instability and could be seen as a cause of insecurity in Nigeria. Nigeria appear to have missed the mark in leadership since political independence. Charas, Mbaya and Liberty (2014) in their treatise explained that most Nigeria aspiring leaders come in with a series of culture of violence such as thuggery, indiscipline, corruption, kidnapping, bombing, etc. Such developments according to Anthony (2005;25) breed primitive accumulation of wealth and exploitative tendencies along with demographic and multifarious challenges. In another write up, Adebayo (2004) citing Alli (2012) explained that the role of the Nigerian regional security policy is that no country confronted with a long period of political instability, stagnation regression, reputed to be one of the most corrupt societies in the world has a moral basis to leads other. Therefore, the incessant robberies, kidnappings and cultism rampant among some states in the southwest, Nigeria could be traced to poor leadership.

### **Schools Location**

In most of the schools attacked by insecurity in Nigeria, schools location was a common denominator in all the issues take for example, the Chibok school haul by Boko haram terrorists. Findings indicate that the school was located in the extreme part of Bornu state that leads to the dreaded Sambisa forest. While it could easily be argued that, that was the place where government secured land, the place is lonely and isolated and such posed threat to the lives of the children put there. Again, all the schools (Babington Macaulay, Igbonla etc) were either located near thick forests or very close to the water front with poor school walls (fence) as shown by the media. Such factors



made access to the schools quite easy. Again the school authorities lacked requisite facilities to monitor their environment.

### **Challenges of Insecurity in Nigerian Secondary Schools**

Some issues that touches the hearts of these authors is that the kidnappings carried out in Nigeria are never always detected by security agencies unlike other countries. The shooters in American schools are usually detected after few minutes of operations. Bombers are not left out as in a question of minutes the security agencies of those countries come up with details of the suspects but such things are far from Nigeria why? The reasons why perpetrators of such crimes are not often apprehended is also due to the impunity and laxity in the Nigerian macro society. Where perpetrators are not apprehended and punished publicly, the tide increases with greater ferocity. However, the following points create challenges to insecurity in Nigerian schools.

#### **1. Absence of Electronics Monitors**

Where security is taken as a major issue of life, several electronics devices should be placed in areas where they could effectively monitor happenings around the environment. Some of such devices include the closed circuit television (CCTV), security cameras, etc. Where such devices are located in schools, terrorists will be apprehended as the cameras would have taken their pictures. With the absence of modern gadgets, our security personnel have become incapacitated. It is unfortunate that Nigerian leaders see no reason for investment in educational facilities. The problem has shifted and is affecting all.

#### **2. Poor Communication system**

The method of communication portends grave dangers especially as much ignorance lies on the part of many secondary schools. This ignorance is accentuated due to absence of newspaper media report to keep parents, teachers and students aware of new devices by robbers, kidnappers and terrorists making school children highly vulnerable to the whims and caprices of kidnappers, terrorists and robbers. Most times, its either the electronic networks are not functioning properly or the law enforcement agents are incapacitated by law to act. For example, the police require a court permit to be able to find out the call logs of criminals. Such things hamper investigation to criminal activities and serves as barriers to crime prevention.

#### **3. Absence of Security Training for Teachers and Students**

Training in security mostly in areas of personal, social or environment security has not been seen as serious by national leaders until now as no cogent step is being taken to work on them. Nearly all secondary and primary schools in Nigeria have security personnel that hardly have any training on security matters. Lack of technical and vocational education on security matters has posed

challenges to both students and teachers. Mostly in schools, students as well as teachers are ignorant of simple security maneuvers.

4. **Poor funding of Schools and Absence of School Facilities and Infrastructure**  
Some school runs out of funds to purchase necessary items for security purposes with government being unable to provide such funds to cater for the challenges identified. Schools (public) who lack such basic essentials as; good toilets, classrooms and electricity will definitely not be in a position to buy electronic monitors. In such schools, simple crimes as stealing, cheating etc will be rampant and where these are unchecked, such students become hardened from school and graduate into harder crimes in society. It is unfortunate that in a country like Nigeria, large school or university hostels are left to human security monitors with their several inadequacies.

In a study by Adeyemi and Uko-Aviomoh (2004) cited in Isah (2012), it was explained that the quantity and quality of manpower and infrastructural requirements in some tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria were inadequate. The study which took place in 2004 observed that in another ten years from then which translated to 2014, if government did not take urgent steps, then there would be decay in the education sector. Today, aside the problem of infrastructure, the malaise has brought insecurity where it is observed that security infrastructure as; school fence, school gate, security personnel and documentations are not taken seriously especially in rural schools that are so porous(entry and exist). The collapsed infrastructures which include fence windows, doors, etc that are supposed to be taken care of by government post threats to lives and properties. Many schools are without a fence which paves ways for the perpetrators of crime to have unfettered access to the school environment thereby creating chaos to the schools.

### **Pathway to Facilitating School Security in Nigeria**

All schools, boarding or day schools, whether single sex or co-educational schools must have some security measures put in place. However, it would be wrong to see security as nothing more than choosing the right control measures. What are the types of security that should be in schools?

- i. This study opines that the Nigerian government and politicians should stop destroying education and the school system by campaigning with free education. It is well known that education cannot be free. If the recipient gets it free, someone is paying for it somewhere. In the years preceding the adoption of the Nigerian National policy on education, it was well rehearsed and discussed that government alone cannot provide education hence the inclusion of the private sector in the provision of education. Where it not the adoption of the TET-Fund project, Nigerian universities would have been a caricature of themselves by now. How can we say



- 'free education' Government must find ways of sourcing funds to run schools either from the beneficiaries or from philanthropists who will assist in funding schools.
- ii. In any country where there is insecurity, adequate electronic monitoring gadgets are put in place in the 21<sup>st</sup> century or effective policing of school boundaries. In a situation where government cannot dictate to as many as want to establish and locate schools, government must be ready to regulate and government itself must show example. This paper opines that first, school facilities and infrastructure must be put in place. All schools must be secured with adequate fence, gates, trained security personnel, lockable doors and windows with CCTV and electronic camera monitors.
  - iii. There should of necessity be adequate civil training of teachers and students on civil defence. It is unfortunate that in Nigeria, the only thing most educational policy formulators know is where a problem exist, rather than formulate policy to address that problem, they confuse the educational system for example, in an attempt to fight corruption or become ICT compliant, policy makers made those trades subjects compulsory in the WASSCE and NECO examinations reducing the chances of students enrolling for subjects that could be useful to them. In this case, this paper is advocating school extra-curricular activities (Man 'O' war), Tekwando, Karate etc where training on physical disarmament of criminals will be advocated. Civil training. Under such conditions, criminals will think twice before embarking on a venture.
  - iv. This paper further suggests good governance policies by national leaders. The law enforcement agencies should be equipped to fight crimes. Government should evolve good Macroeconomic policies to curb the unemployment and idleness. Bribery and corruption should be done away with in the view of coming up with a rebranded Nigeria. Impunity should disappear from the lexicon of the Nigerian governance project. Tribalism, nepotism and favoritism should be discouraged

## **Conclusion**

This paper examined the rising tide of insecurity in Nigerian secondary schools. It explained the concept of security and insecurity before looking at the Nigerian educational system and provided an insight into the origin of insecurity, causes, challenges and types of insecurity. The paper finally provided a pathway to curbing insecurity in Nigeria.

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