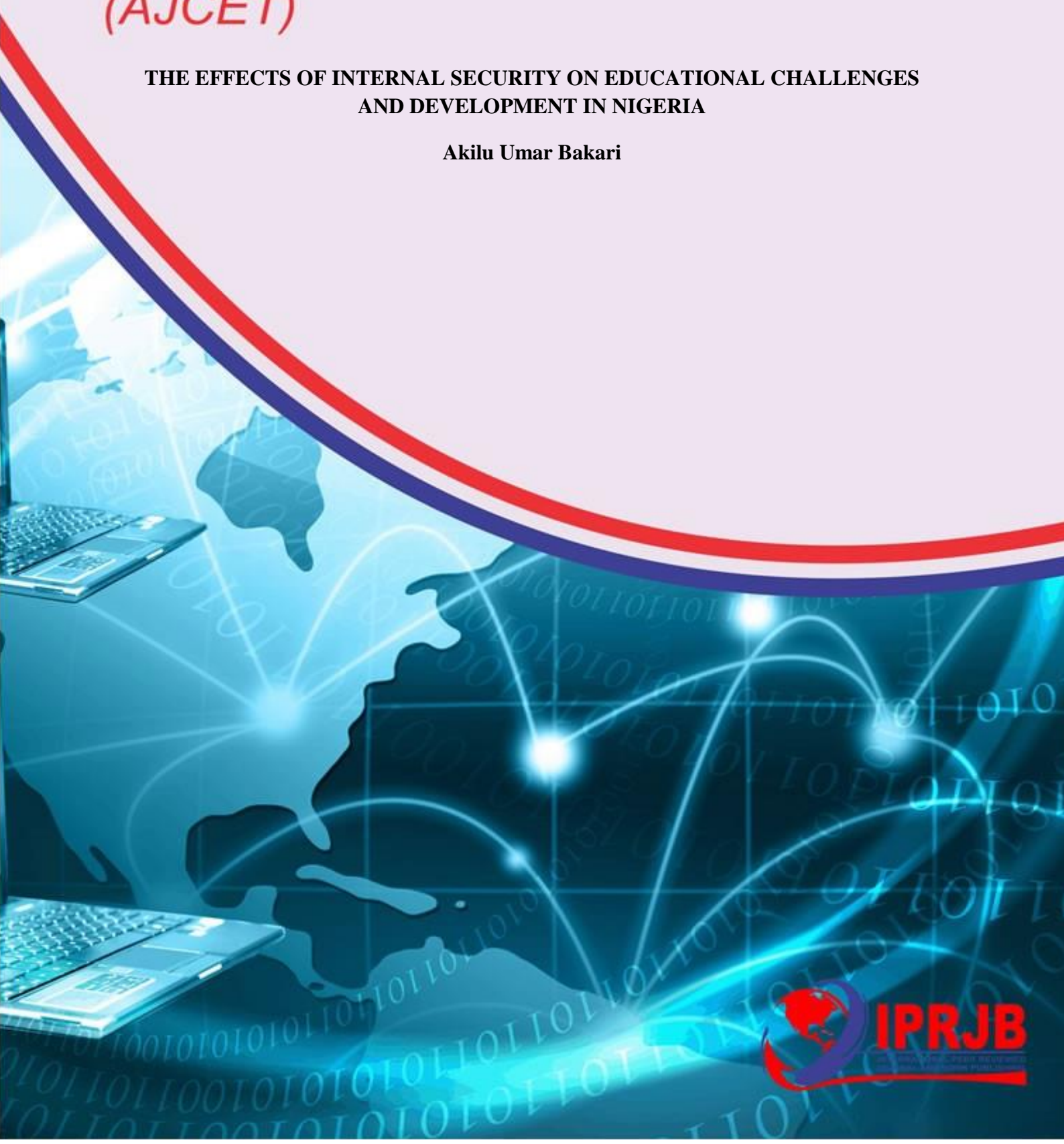


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**THE EFFECTS OF INTERNAL SECURITY ON EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES
AND DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA**

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The Effects of Internal Security on Educational Challenges and Development in Nigeria



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Abstract

Purpose: The security trials threatening the Nigerian state in this 21st century have disregarded any definite justification both from the government and private viewpoints. Unexpectedly these challenges are internally generated. Expressions like militant, insurgent and terrorist became a nearby impression in line with the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria where attacks on people, property and government infrastructures are Spartan. The challenge is that some of these groups' aggressions have rare the peaceful co-existence of the society and the core value of the Nigerian state.

Methodology: This paper explores documentary analysis on the severity of attacks on the Nigerian state from the fourth republic with a key interest on the possibility of these attacks to lead to the balkanization of the country into different nations as suggested by viewers.

Findings: Terrorism is a global phenomenon. It is the use of violence and intimidation to coerce for various reasons. In recent times, the spate of terrorist attacks by various groups seeking political and religious reforms in Nigeria is alarming and has become worrisome as they pose a serious threat to Nigeria's security. Furthermore, they are gradually destroying public confidence in the nation's security system. Conditions which support the development and growth of terrorism in Nigeria range from socio-economic factors such as poverty to religion.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy: The paper argues that terrorism has adverse implications for Nigeria's security. Socio-economic transformation, security and sensitization and collaboration among security agents among others are advocated as possible solutions to the menace.

Keywords: *Effects, Internal Security, Educational Challenges, Development, Nigeria*

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INTRODUCTION

Education is designed purposely to assist individuals to develop their skills and abilities so as to fulfil their potential and to lead productive satisfying lives. The importance of education has been adequately discussed in many fora and in different literature (Studies *et al.*, 2017). It is in realization of the importance of education of the child that the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in its 1999 constitution made a declaration of the right of every Nigerian child to education, irrespective of gender, tribe, religion or race. In the preliterate societies, education focused on hunting, cooking, following stars, and obeying the gods. The power to teach then rested with parents, elders or priests. Illiterate adults had learnt from folklore, ballads, and sermons. Education at that time focuses on the transmission of essential skills and the orally preserved traditions of the tribe or community. Teaching was not a specialist function until the early civilizations in which teaching was accompanied with more complex and regulated social organization (Joshua *et al.*, 2016).

Insecurity is the antonym of security. It represents or describes both a state of mind and a physical situation. People, and even animals and in recent time, inanimate things such as historical monuments and sites face insecurity arising from the activities of human beings. The idea of human beings need be noted, for natural disasters may not be regarded as sources or harbingers of insecurity since they are natural anyway, are not regular, except in the case of earthquakes, be predicted and avoided. 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. It need not be physical threat to harm or even existential threat of a corporate variety (Ubong, 2016)

One of the fundamental human rights of the people in any given state is the right to security and this is why it is always provided for in the constitution of most sovereign states. Nigeria is not an exception, thus Section 14 (2) (b) of the Nigerian 1999 constitution states clearly that “the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of the government”, government on this constitutional responsibility has failed to provide a secured and safe environment for lives, properties and the conduct of business and economic activities. The alarming level of insecurity in Nigeria has increased the crime rate and terrorists attacks in different parts of the country, leaving unpalatable consequences for the nation’s economy and business growth (Ifeoma, 2015) .

Although the problems of insecurity is not new in Nigeria, however since from the military regime to her return to democracy Nigeria as a nation are undergoing security challenges. Now, hardly a day goes by without a report of one security challenge or the other. Unfortunately, ordinary citizens as well as the nation’s economic resources are at the receiving end of this destruction. The series of bombings and killings in the north; kidnapping and armed robbery attack in the south; political and economic related assassinations as well as the politically- influenced communal wars has become a multi-hydra headed monster which security agents in Nigeria appear incapable of handling (Adegbami, 2013). Security, as a concept and as a phenomenon is a relative term. It means different things to different people, hence differences in approach in pursuit of it.

However these differences, there seems to be some elements of agreement among security experts and scholars as what the term means. Security as freedom from risk or danger and fear. It is safety, confidence and the ability of a nation to protect and defend itself, promote its cherished values and legitimate interests and enhance the well-being of its people (Okorie *et al.*, 2018). Nigeria in recent times has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity. This has made national security threat to be a major issue for the government and has prompted huge allocation of the national budget to security, With the lingering security challenges and the inability of the security apparatus of the government to guarantee safety and security in the country, the question that borders everyone in Nigeria today is that “can there be security?” Is security of lives and properties achievable?

Apparently, the security situation in Nigeria appears or at least have remained insurmountable and many people have argued that government at all levels has not done enough by not confronting the situation head on and dealing with it decisively, others have argued that the situation has a political undertone or inclination calculated to serve the interest of certain political gods, who have been dissatisfied and disgruntled about the political manifestations in the country (Achumba & Ighomereho, 2013). One need to wonder the wanton killing of human beings by the enemies of the state and interpretations on how to categories the action of people who destroy properties and killing people as militant, insurgent and terrorist, or freedom fighters.

No matter the interpretations the word militant came from a Latin word “militare” which mean someone calls to serve as a soldier. In the past the militants were small group, but now they have constituted themselves to a large group that applies military tactics to achieve their goal in order to pursue their mission. Militants are associated with terrorism by their tactics. A person with charisma move the group and demand respect from his members. While insurgent is a group that is interested in controlling a particular area. Insurgent activities include guerrilla warfare, terrorism, and political mobilization to weaken government control of the state and also challenge their legitimacy (Abang, 2015). This description structured the concept of security into four dimensions. However, these dimension can be weaved together to give a composite definition of security as the protection against all forms of harm whether physical, economic or psychological. It is generally argued however that security is not the absence of threats or security issues, but the ability to rise to the challenges posed by these threats with expediency and expertise.

Insecurity on the other hand, is the antithesis of security. However, because of the very many ways in which insecurity affects human life and existence, the concept of insecurity has usually been ascribed different interpretations in association with the various ways which it affects individuals. Some of the common descriptors of insecurity include: want of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty; want of confidence; doubtful; inadequately guarded or protected; lacking stability; troubled; lack of protection; and unsafe, to mention a few. All of these have been used by different people to define the concept of insecurity. These different descriptors, however, run into a common reference to a state of vulnerability to harm and loss of life, property or livelihood. For instance (Ighomereho, 2013) defined insecurity as “the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection.” It refers to lack or inadequate freedom from danger. This definition reflects physical insecurity which is the most visible form of insecurity, and it feeds into many

other forms of insecurity such as economic security and social security (Achumba & Ighomereho, 2013).

History of Nigerian Democracy

The overwhelming role of colonialism in shaping the character of the Nigerian state and the nature of its politics evidently affected the actions of the political leadership and by extension the quality of democratic governance during the first republic. The politicization of ethnicity and religion, prevalence of political corruption and kleptocracy, coupled with the alienated, unaccountable and violent tendencies of the Nigerian state can be understood within this context. The first republic politicians preoccupied with ‘ethno-regionist politics’ consciously mobilized ethnicity as the means to acquire and consolidate political leadership and economic control, The trend has subsequently assumed frightening dimensions since then, with alarming security implications for the country. (M Aliu, 2013).

Democracy, either as a concept or a system of rule, has become excessively ambiguous in contemporary political analysis. Indeed, there is probably no concept that has been so subjected to varying definitions, antagonistic interpretations and contradictory practices as the concept of democracy. This is not surprising given the fact that democracy has become more and more widely praised and embraced thereby making it more and more difficult to pin down. Politicians from the extreme left to the extreme right always insist that the form of politics or rule they support is the one that is democratic in character.

Even military regimes, which, according to (Ajayi & Ojo, 2014) cannot ‘deliver’ democracy, always invoke the concept of democracy in support of arguments although such invocations are often punctured by ubiquitous violations of the fundamental rights of the people. This is what Peter Ekeh refers to as democratic, which, according to him, refers to the brand of rule that makes use of ‘false principles of the institutions of democracy’ while at the same time creating anti-democratic conditions. Thus, being the least objectionable form of rule, most regimes stake out some sort of claim to the practice of democracy while those that do not often insist that their particular instance of non-democratic rule is a necessary stage along the road to ultimate democracy. Indeed, Bernard Crick has described democracy as the most promiscuous word in the world of public affairs. This is ostensibly because democracy is what is virtuous for a state to be – even in Africa, where liberal democracy has suffered several severe setbacks; since the 90s, it has gained a momentum comparable to that of science in the world of technology since the Industrial Revolution.

One major consequence of the universal research attention democracy has received is what can be described as its contestation. Gallia may therefore not be wrong in including democracy in the catalogue of what he referred to as ‘essentially contested concepts’ since a term that means anything means nothing. This appears to be the case with democracy which nowadays is not so much a term of precision or restricted and specific meaning but a vague endorsement of a popular idea (Ajayi & Ojo, 2014).

Democracy got some footholds in Nigeria from 1999 when the military handed over to Chief Olusegun Obasanjo after a democratically contested election. Otherwise emanate again held influence in Nigeria before this date were series of military periods.

Nigeria, no doubt gained political independence from Britain, her former colonial master in 1960. This was however, brief as the military struck in 1966 suspending the country's constitution and introduced a number of military decrees which they executed with agreements. This was accompanied with denial of human rights, mismanagement of the newly acquired oil money at the time, corruption and widespread poverty. According to (Ph, 2015); if any democracy is not structured so as to prohibit the government from excluding the people from the legislative process or any branch of government from altering the separation of powers in its own favor, then a branch of the system can accumulate too much power and destroy the democracy. The military subtly took power as self-styled liberators of the common man from the oppression of the ruling class but few years after abandoned that role and became despotic and completely immersed in corruption which they had earlier claimed to salvage. Nigerians heaved a sigh of relief when General Abdusalam Abubakar handed over power to a democratically elected government in 1999 to Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, a former military head of state. For fifteen years now the country has witnessed uninterrupted democratic governance which critics say is also bedeviled with the negative tendencies which crippled the earlier 'democracies'. At this stage it might be necessary to examine some of the endemic problems plaguing the democratic process in Nigeria (Ph, 2015)

The utility of corruption both as a concept and as a phenomenon is in contest. That is, it is a contested concept that takes varied forms. What is universal is that at least two (2) elements will be involved and the intent is to satisfy pecuniary or selfish interests either directly or indirectly. Corruption is a global phenomenon, and has been with all kinds of societies; be it Advanced, Primitive, Modern or Traditional, as a global scourge. It is a universal phenomenon which presents itself in different colorations and dimensions and, wide spread in terms of coverage. The concept attracts different meanings from different people particularly the social scientists. Then, its implications for different geo-political zones of the international community constitute a moot point. Corruption like most concepts in social sciences is classified into the group of concept described by (Moyosore, 2015). corruption as involving, the behavior on the part of officials in the public and private sectors, in which they improperly and unlawfully enrich themselves and some closely related to them, or induce others to do so, by misusing the position in which they are placed (Okolo & Raymond, 2016).

Causes of Corruption

The general framework for analyzing the causes of corruption can be discerned from three (3) levels; International, National and Individual levels (Khan, a). International Level-the competitiveness of the International markets, according to Khan (b), gives multinational companies an incentive to offer bribes to gain an advantage over other competitors in the system. The Siemens scandal, the National Identity Card saga and Halliburton case are some of the corruption cases involving international companies in Nigeria.

National Level- the development strategy of the government may increase opportunities and incentives for corruption. Three types of relationships exist at this level; that is, the relationship between the government (elected and appointed officials) and the civil service; between government and the judiciary and, between government and the civil society/private organization or individuals. What comes to mind here is, connivance and Privileges. This could be when awarding contracts or giving concessions for economic reasons or granting of rights (such as privatization of government owned businesses).

Individual Level - this deals with business regulation, management of foreign aids, outright diversion of public resources, collection of mobilization fees without execution of the project or abandonment of projects when the amount for the project has been paid or poor execution of the project, a culture of affluent and get rich syndrome, unbridled competition between and among different classes of individual and the tendency to acquire more so as to gain advantage and retain one's position or aspire for a higher position. This explains why politicians spend a lot of money during elections period.

Insecurity

Nigeria society is getting more and more insecure, more people are getting into various forms of crimes and terrorism and they are getting more desperate, ruthless, and sophisticated. Since the independence, the act of terrorist activity have ranged from the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) group, Ododua People Congress (OPC) group, Movement for Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) group, Maitatsine group amongst others. In Nigeria today, new forms of violent crimes have been common. These include, kidnapping for ransom, pipeline vandalization, ritual killings, armed robbery and ethnic clashes (Bidemi *et al.*, 2018). According to Bidemi *et al.*, 2018, one of the hottest insecurity in Nigeria is Boko Haram, a terrorist sect whose overt and covert activities has threatened the foundation of the country. Similar to this is the activities of herdsmen's, which threatened the unity of Nigeria. Thus, the activities of both Boko Haram and herdsmen presently make Nigerians live their lives in fear without knowing when Boko Haram suicide bombers and the secret killings of herdsmen will come their way.

Boko Haram first emerged in the early 2000s. It attacked government buildings and churches, making demands that the country reject any notion of Western culture. The Nigerian government fought back, killing hundreds of the sect's members and, eventually, the head of the group.

That was thought to be the end of the Boko Haram threat. But its recent activities have shown that the group was only dormant, and rebuilding its capabilities so that it could return. Its bombings are now expected occurrences. Literally the concern in the north is when the next explosion is going to go off. The United Nations says Boko Haram's links to al Qaeda are a concern.

Boko Haram's reemergence comes amid great civil dissatisfaction with the current government of President Goodluck Jonathan and as the country's fragile democracy struggles to develop. After the government canceled subsidies on oil in January, gas prices skyrocketed, causing workers across the country to strike in protest. Workers refused to work until the subsidies were reinstated.

The strike ended on January 16, after Jonathan agreed to cut fuel prices by one third. Four days later, Boko Haram bombed several government buildings. In the attacks, 185 people died, according to reports from African media agencies (Tony, 2014).

How Insecurity Affects Educational System

The emergence of Boko Haram in 2000s has led to the closure of schools in northeastern part of Nigeria. The Nigeria educational system is deep into crises on multiple fronts, including arrears of access and quality of education. However, the recent spate of mass kidnapping of schoolchildren arguable represents the gravest existential threat and crisis to the education system. In less than three months between December 2020 and March 2021, more than 600 children have been kidnapped while in school, in three separate incidents. More worrisome is the fact that the heightened insecurity is predominant in northern Nigeria, which is already the most educationally disadvantaged region. Of the estimated 10.5 million out-of-school children in the country, 69 percent come from the north, where cultural practices and economic deprivation limit children's active participation in school, particularly females. The Boko Haram crisis, with its debilitating effects on economic and education systems, is also heavily concentrated in the region. Now, with the spate of recent school kidnappings, community and parental trust in the education system could shrink significantly, and the problem of access quality and equitable education could become severely bigger. Furthermore, with the Nigeria educational system still recovering from the devastating effects of the prolonged school closure from COVID-19 adding insecurity concern to the basket of challenged could lead to its irrecoverable collapse (brookings.edu 2020).

Kidnaping/Banditry

The series of abductions of students in some states in Northern Nigeria is threatening the future of millions of children in the region. Boko Haram fighters, bandits and other miscreants have found schools in some states in the region as soft targets and have abducted hundreds of students in recent times. States that recently witnessed the abduction of students and in some instances teachers include Katsina, Niger, Sokoto, Zamfara and Kaduna. All the incidents were attributed to bandits. The most recent abduction was at the UBE Primary School in Rama, a village in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State. It happened 24 hours after security agents frustrated an attempted abduction of 307 students of Government Science Secondary School in Ikara Local Government Area of the state and another attack at the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) quarters in Igabi LGA of the state.

On Thursday night, bandits had invaded the Federal College of Forestry Mechanisation, Afaka, in Igabi LGA and abducted 39 students comprising 23 females and 16 males. Security agents had earlier rescued 180 of the students but the gunmen who made away with 39 students demanded N500 million as ransom. The abduction of over 300 boys from the Secondary School in Kankara, Katsina State, on December 11, 2020; the February 17 abduction of 42 people including students, teachers and their families from Government Science Technical School Kagara, Niger State, and that of Government Girls Secondary School Jangebe, Zamfara State, on February 26, 2021, where 279 female students aged between 10 and 17 were taken away by bandits, are still fresh in the

memories of many. Governments at the federal and state levels keep insisting that no ransom was paid before those regained their freedom returned and that those still in the custody of the kidnappers would also be freed (Daily trust, 2021).

The zamfara state government on September 1, 2021 shut down school across the state following Wednesday's abduction of 73 students from a public school in the state. The state government also imposed a 6 pm to 6 a.m. curfew on 13 local government areas and 8 pm to 6 am in Gusau, the state capital. The police commissioner in the state, Ayuba Elkana, made the disclosure while briefing journalists after a security meeting chaired by Governor Bello Matawalle. The security meeting was convened after student of Government Day Secondary School kaya in Maradun were kidnapped Wednesday afternoon. A source in Maradun confirmed that the Vice principal of the school, Zayyanu Tsaba, was among those kidnapped (Mohammed Babangida 2021).

The educational system is not left out of the race in changes experienced as it is seen as one of the major tools used for the development of individuals and the transformation of a nation's political and socio-economic growth. The impetus of changes in the educational system of Nigeria arise on its commitment to the implementation of such international protocols as the Education for All (EFA), the United nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as her own home-grown medium term development plan; the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), The world is growing exponentially and is rapidly changing due to global technological advancement. The global changes have forced individuals, societies, organizations and nations to adjust in order to meet up with the expectations of the 21st century (Anenge et al., 2018).

Ethno-Religious Conflict

Nigeria, since the reestablishment of civil or democratic rule in 1999, ethnic and ethno- religious contestations and conflicts have increased significantly. This attached to the sets of freedom and rights that come along with democratic rule known as core characteristics of democracy such as freedom of speech, movement, association and organization among many other features of democracy .The dramatic escalation of ethno-religious conflict in Nigeria since independence in 1960 and especially in the Fourth Republic makes the subject matter worth researching. The discussion of ethno-religious conflicts in whatever context became a necessity given the fact that there is a phenomenal resurgence of ethno-religious conflicts across the country, thereby increasing the level of insecurity in the affected locations and entrench bias, favouritism and corruption in the administrative bureaucracy (Ousmane & Ozden, 2020).

With over four hundred (400) ethnic groups, belonging to several religious sects, Nigeria since independence has remained a multi-ethnic nation state, which has been struggling and trying to cope with the problem of ethnicity on the one hand, and the problem of ethno-religious conflicts on the other. This is because over the years the phenomena of ethnicity and religious intolerance have led to nonstop recurrence of ethno-religious conflicts, which have given birth to many ethnic militias like the O' dua People Congress (OPC); the Bakassi Boys; the Egbesu Boys; the Ijaw Youth. Congress (IYC); and the Igbo People Congress (IPC). Others include the Arewa Peoples

Congress (APC) the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB); and the Ohanaeze N'digbo. With the emergence of these ethnic militias and the deep divides between the various ethnic groups, religious intolerance has become more violent and bloody with more devastating results using the ethnic militias as the executors of ethno-religious agenda (Salawu, 2010).

Ethno religious crisis is one of the internal factor that affect educational development in Nigeria. UniJos on Tuesday October 02 2018, confirms one Student Killed in Jos Violence, the management of University of Jos says that one of its students was killed in the violence that engulfed parts of Jos, Plateau State capital on Sunday. A statement issued by the institution's Principal Assistant Registrar (Information and Publications), dailytrust also dispelled speculations on social media that seven students of the university had been killed in the crisis but stressed that one student had been killed while two others were injured and another missing. The statement assured that the school management would continue to work round the clock in close collaboration with security agencies and the Plateau State Government to ensure that the lives and properties of members of the university community especially students are adequately protected. Daily Trust reports that security was tight at the university hostels as the military and Police have been assisting in the evacuation of students. However, Governor Simon Bako Lalong on Monday night met with the heads of state security agencies in the state to review the prevailing security situation within Jos city (Dailytrust 2018).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

The study confirmed that the impact of crises affects the educational policy in various ways. It reveals that the major challenges of the crises in secondary schools in Northern are forced closure of school, dropout rate increased, poor teaching quality, inadequate instructional materials, destruction of school buildings, killings of personnel, schools turned to refugee camps, posting to schools base on religion, teacher turnover, transfers in and out of schools, and engagement of unqualified teachers to teach in schools. The implications of these findings are that the achievement of UBE objectives in crises areas would be a failure. When schools are closed for some time, it means that teaching and learning activities are suspended. And when schools are reopened and no classrooms and instructional materials to use, yet it becomes problematic and meaningful learning can hardly take place. Quality teaching can only take place when good physical facilities and instructional materials are available for use with relative peace in the society. Excellent school facilities and dedicated teachers are basic ingredients of good educational Programme.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were proposed based on the discoveries of the study;

Government, community members and Parents Teachers Association (PTA) should organize massive mobilization and sensitization campaign on effect of pupils drop-out from school especially in crises affected areas.

Government should re-strategize measures on how to curb with crisis effect on the educational sector. To develop and design formal education in an informal settings for school going age children in IDPs camps. Government should provide adequate facilities for school effectiveness, and community involvement in school support should be tackled with strength to ensure compliance and participation.

Furthermore, every family has a role to play in ensuring that family members are not involved in acts of terrorism. Teachings on patriotism, the fear of God and love and respect for people of other faiths would go a long way to achieve this. Schools that were forced to close due to crises should be reactivated. This can be facilitated when relative peace is maintained in the areas.

Also, religious leaders should socialize their members on the need for love and tolerance of and respect for other faiths while unwise utterances about other religions which could cause tensions and eventual recourse to terror should be avoided.

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