



***Social Studies as a Tool for Promoting Security
Education towards Sustainable Development in Nigeria***

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Abstract

The position of this paper is that security is highly instrumental to development in human society. That notable development can only be attained in a situation of adequate security. The paper further discusses the concept of national security, security education, sustainable development and social studies education. The content areas of security education intrinsic in social studies education are highlighted, while some security problems of individuals and of the nation are stated in question form. The paper does not only presents some strategies for global sustainable security, but it also explains how security could be taught through social studies. Finally the paper concludes that security is indispensable to sustainable development. It is therefore, recommended that security should be given adequate attention because of its “leakage-effects” and to complement this, individuals should be made to eschew all manifestations of insecurity in order to maintain and sustain already achieved development and to crave for more. Avoiding insecurity is the greatest form of security.

Keywords: *Social Studies Education, National Security, Security Education and Sustainable Development.*

Introduction

The task of improving quality and efficiency in the delivery of services by entities in the library sector is a highly variable and complex process. The sheer size and scope of library activities contribute to the challenge. Efforts to improve processes can be impacted by the expectations and demands of the patrons. As such, the academic Librarians face a constant

Security is said to be the bed-rock of national development and indeed one of the indices of development. This is because adequate security in a nation provides conducive and enabling environment for development plans to thrive. This means that no notable development can take place in a situation of insecurity, rancour, tension or crises. Security, world over takes different forms, it could be in form of a human safety, national safety, economic safety and so on. The development of security culture in human society as indispensable to sustainable development (Iwgbu 2012). This is why Oyesikun (2015) observes that the desire for adequate security is one of the burning issues in Nigeria in recent time. Gleditch in Philip-Ogoh (2008) further buttresses that security is of great concern to all human societies as it concerns survival of man and resources. Security is so essential that individuals and states cannot make meaningful progress and development without it.

The present state of insecurity in most parts of Nigeria has become detrimental to the quest for sustainable national development. Looking at the degree of the insecurity, proactive measures must urgently be taken to impart the essentials of security through the curricular instrument of social studies education. This is in line with the submission of Obama in Wali-Essien (2015) that we need the insight and critical thinking skills in social studies to fight insecurity and other ills to make our nations fairer and freer. This, therefore, inform the reason for this paper, which is to explain the capacity of Social Studies as a potent instrument for enhancing security for and by extension, achieving sustainable development in Nigeria.

The Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council cited in Okam (2006) states that Social Studies education is a core curriculum instrument for classroom instruction of a number of issues bothering on human and national

development, such as security. As such, the subject is referred to as problems-solving field of study.

Concept Clarification

Social Studies Education

According to Danladi (2005) Social Studies education is field that studies man along with his activities in relation to his social, economic, political, cultural and physical environments for the purpose of acquiring skills, attitudes and values which are necessary for human (individual) and national (societal) development. Oyesikun (2018) sees Social Studies as a curriculum instrument which embodies knowledge, positive attitudes, sound values and useful skills required and meant to be adequately acquired to help individual learners, live adapt, adjust, relate, interact, survive and to ensure the survival of others in order to contribute effectively to the growth, development and sustainability of the total environment for advancement of mankind.

National Security

Mohammed (2007) describes national security as a condition whereby a country is free from any form of fear or threat to its peace, stability and progress. However, in the event of any threat or actual attack, the ability of the nation to restore public Confidence in the state and its institutions. On his part, Hubert in Philip-Ogoh (2008) states that security implies safety for people from both violent and non-violent threat; it is a condition or state that is characterized by freedom, safety for their lives and even their properties.

It entails taking preventive measures to reduce vulnerability, minimize risk and taking remedial actions where prevention fails. This is not to say that security of the state is not important but, rather, security of the state should be geared towards the security of human persons not of the regime in place. Hence, Security is a sine qua non for survival of any persons, home, organization and nation.

Security Education

Iwegbu (2012) defined security education as a programme designed to instill in an individual the knowledge, skills, abilities, attitudes and competencies required for the development of personal, family, community and national

security for sustainable development. Menkiti & Chidobi (2010) also see security education as a process of education that guarantees safety, freedom from danger, anxiety and doubt and it generate confidence of a better tomorrow.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is a notion, a movement and approach which has developed into global wave of concerns, studies, political and organization, pivoted on a fulcrum of socio-economic Development, attributed to the report of the World Commission on Environment and development. It connotes development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own (WCED, 1987).

Content Areas of Security Education in Social Studies

According to Oyebola (2013) the following are the content areas of security education as spelt out by the NERDC:

- i. Meaning of Security education;
- ii. Importance of security education;
- iii. Need for alertness and security consciousness by all individuals in our communities at all times;
- iv. Observing and identifying unusual circumstances strange developments and suspicious action/movement of people which have security implications for the community;
- v. Need for prompt passing of security information across to appropriate quarters;
- vi. Reasons why all individuals should participate in community security activities;
- vii. What to do in case of danger;
- viii. How to help and assist victims;
- ix. Living in solidarity, love and peace with our neighbours, irrespective of religious and ethnic differences.

These content areas would help to develop in individuals security consciousness needed to promote development in all its form.

Security Problems of Individuals and Society

Oyeshola (2005) observed that problem of security for individuals and the society are best appreciated when one attempt to answer some fundamental questions:

- What is the prevailing health situation of the populace?
- How is the quality of education and general level of illiteracy?
- What is the state of national economy?
- What is the level of political stability and quality of governance in the nation?
- What is the extent of sustainability of the environment?
- How is the quality of life and calories intake of the populace?
- To what extent is the level of social integration amongst contending ethnic, religious, gender and other sectional dichotomies evidenced in the country?

It can be inferred from the above that national security is highly needed to create an enabling environment for sustainable national development. This could be done through ensuring socio-political stability, crime control, elimination of injustice and improvement of welfare, well being and quality of life of every citizen.

Strategies for sustainable security

There are essentially global security initiatives that focus on total eradication of illiteracy, ignorance, and poverty which in the long-run enhance sustainable security. These global initiatives are the Millennium Development Goals (now known as Sustainable Development Goals) and education for all. The two have strong impact on a nation in relation towards ensuring sustainable security. These goals as cited by Akinola (2012) are :

- i. Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger;
- ii. Achievement of universal primary education;
- iii. Promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women;
- iv. Reduction of child mortality;
- v. Implementation of maternal health;
- vi. Ensuring environment sustainability;
- vii. Combating HIV/AIDS, maternal and other diseases;
- viii. Development of a global partnership for development.

On the other hand, the goals of education for all (EFA) as cited by Akinola (2012) are:

- Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education for the most vulnerable and disadvantage children.
- Ensuring that by 2015, all children, particularly, girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities have access to free and compulsory primary education of good quality.
- Ensuring that the learning need for all young people and adults are met through adequate access to appropriate learning and life skill programmes.
- Achieving a 50 percent improvement in all levels of adult literacy by 2015 especially for women and continuing education for all adult.
- Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education.
- Improving all aspect of quality of education and ensuring excellence of all so that recognize and measurable learning outcome.

Teaching Security through Social Studies Education

Adesina and Adeyemi (2005) asserts that social studies can bring about peaceful environment for possible progress and general development if properly implemented at the senior secondary school level social studies in our schools. To buttress the above, Okan in land (2010) argues that social studies incorporates all aspects of reforms and innovations needed to be acquired for the progress of the society.

As earlier observed, social studies as a curriculum instrument has the capacity to inculcate security consciousness, culture and its imperatives. Hence, it should be vigorously taught in school from primary to junior secondary school to prepare young mind for effective citizenship so that they will be security compliant. Social studies teaches the importance of security to development in all its dimension in human society.

The pursuit of adequate national security requires a collaboration of the state and relevant stakeholders in detecting, preventing controlling and eliminating appurtenance of insecurity.

Social studies further engineer security by inculcating the need for reflective thinking on issues of personal and national importance to discourage an attitude that may breed insecurity, disintegration and disunity.

Positive attitudes and values such as honest, respect, patriotism, loyalty, and peaceful co-existence which are necessary ingredients for national security are better dispensed and inculcated in a social studies class. In addition, the subject fosters new and integrated pedagogical practices aimed at resolving insecurity in a bid to achieve sustainable development.

Conclusion and Recommendation

This paper alludes to the importance of security education. It concludes that security is the bed rock of development in all its dimensions and so it should be rigorously pursued by government at all levels, stakeholders and curricular provision of Social studies means that security is the business of all. Beside planning strategically for physical development through various laudable development plans, Nigerians should be encouraged to eschew all forms of insecurity that could be detrimental to sustainable national development.

Security should be given adequate attention because it has an automatic leakage effects on other spheres of national life.

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