

PRIME JOURNALS

PRIME RESEARCH ON EDUCATION

VOLUME 3

ISSUE 6

PAGES 560—578

AUGUST 2013

Review

Social studies education for national security

Dania P.O. and Eboh R.N.

Social Science Department, Institute of Education, Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria.

Accepted 27th July, 2013

Meaningful social, economic and political development can only be achieved in an atmosphere of peace and security where all agents of development co-exist in harmony. Nigeria as a nation is beclouded with multifarious problems such as kidnapping, robbery, ritual killing, rape, drug addiction, bribery, corruption and so on. This problem brought about backwardness in all ramifications to sustainable national development. As a result of this existing situation this write up try to examine how knowledge acquired in social studies could be used as veritable instrument in solving problem of national insecurity in Nigeria. The purpose of this paper therefore is to examine the roles social studies education could plays in producing good citizens who could assist in no small measure in tackling this complex problem of national insecurity in Nigeria. This paper also examining the roles of citizens in promoting national security, the consequences of insecurity and also the remedy to the problems of national insecurity in the country.

Keywords: Social studies; education; national security.

INTRODUCTION

Meaningful social, economic and political development can only be achieved in an atmosphere of peace and security, where all agents of development co-exist in harmony national security involves effective policing and careful watch against elements that could breach peace or anything that can jeopardize the social economic and political development in Nigeria. National security therefore means the process and act of effective protection of lives and property in a country.

Nigeria as a nation has been beclouded with problems of insecurity mostly in this recent time such as cultism, armed robbery, kidnapping, prostitution, money laundering, embezzlement of public fund, advance free fraud (419), assassination/murders, thuggery/touting, election rigging, and so on. The consequence of instructing is that the country does not experience meaningful development. There is always political instability and survival of the fittest.

Section 14 (1) of chapter 2, of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria captures the importance of security when it states that security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government. Security is a social contract between the state and its

citizens, in which the former is expected to protect, defend and provide for the later in the public area (Arist, 2011).

In Nigeria, the peace and security situation has deteriorated in the last two decade, most specifically after the last general election in 2011. In the Niger Delta region, Shell Producing Development Company (SPDC) in 2011 for example pointed out that the area in relation to their operations, was characterized by heavily armed and well organized gangs, called "Freedom Fighters". They have genuine agitation against the criminal neglect of the oil producing areas by the oil development companies, the states and the federal government. Okiro (2008) Etim (2009) Adesima and Ujomu (2011) and Odeh have all observed the unpalatable state of security of the Nigeria Nation which is highly lamentable. There are also the destructive demonstrations of militancy in the Niger Delta region of the country. Insut and Onifude (2009) noted that violence has been observed in the Niger Delta region, where upward of one hundred barrels of oil per day is stolen, costing the country about one hundred billion dollars lost at revenue. The foreign oil workers are being kidnapped on daily basis, setting fire to offshore oil.

The above picture points out clearly that the country is faced with a lot of security challenges. The questions that may be asked at this juncture are:

- What are factors responsible for insecurity in Nigeria?
- What are the consequences of insecurity?
- How can social studies be used to secure sustainable peace and security?
- What should be the solution in maintaining national security?

Social studies – Meaning

The term social has no one accepted meaning. Thus people have defined it differently. Adaralegbe (1975) defined social studies as the study of man in his environment. He added that it is the study of how man influence and is influenced by his physical, social, economic, political, psychological, cultural scientific and technological environment. It is the study of interrelationships between man and his environment. Kissoock (1981) reported that social studies is a programme of study which a society uses to instill in the students the knowledge, skills, attitudes and actions it considers importance of the relationships human beings have with each other, their world and them. Osakwe (2009) noted that social studies is a contemporary and environmentally focused field of study and therefore provides the learner with requisite knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and competencies to contribute meaningfully to Nigeria's national development.

Meaning of security

Security, as a concept, is derived from the Latin word *Securus*, meaning to be safe, freedom from anxiety or fear to be emotionally secure, affording grounds to be confident. It has been defined as:

- The conduction or feeling of safety from harm or danger,
- The defense, protection and observation of core values and
- The absence of threats to acquired values David (2006).

Dimensions of security

There are seven dimensions of security, call it human security, from the macro perspective.

They are: Economic security; Food security; Health security; Environmental security; Personal security; Community security/national security; and Political security (UNDP 1994).

Human security is not concerned with weapons – it is concerned with human life and dignity (UNDP 1995): Human security is defined as:

An encompassing condition in which people and communities live in freedom, peace and safety, enjoy the protection of vital freedoms. It means protecting people from critical and pervasive threats and situations, building on their strengths and aspirations. It also means creating

systems that give people the building blocks, dignity and live-hood, have access to resources and basic necessities of life and inhabit on environment which is not detrimental to their health and well being. It means protecting different freedom from fear and freedom to take action on one's own behalf.

National security, therefore, means the process and act of effective protection of lives and property in a country. National security involves effective policing and careful watch against elements that could breach peace or anything that can jeopardize the social economic and political development in the country. Odedele (2010)

Factors responsible for insecurity in Nigeria

There are numerous factors posing as a threat to security challenges in Nigeria.

They are summarized as follows:

- Crime – Crime against the individual and against the state
- Selfishness
- Chronic Poverty
- Inefficiency
- Disobedience
- Favouritism
- Bad Leadership
- Massive Youth Unemployment
- Violation of Human Rights
- Marginalization
- Unequal Development
- Activities of Political Parties.

Consequences of poor security

- People are always in perpetual fear and heart-break
- No meaningful development can be achieve
- Life is short and brutish
- It causes political instability
- It causes increase in crime and criminal activities
- It leads to the disrespect of rule of law

Factors fostering security

1. Good governance transparency, accountability holding government accountable for its actions
2. Maintenance of justice and fair play
3. Development of sense of patriotism
4. Formation of police/community relations committees/ community policing
5. Quality education/educating against clashes of culture.
6. Empowerment and development personal analytical skills and critical thinking, understanding one's environment and working against ignorance and into learner.
7. Existence of efficient police system
8. Adequate political awareness
9. Establishment of public complement bureau
10. Independent judicial system
11. Mass mobilization for social justice and economic recovery.

12. Providing tools for preventing/or resolving conflict
13. Equitable distribution of resources

The role of social studies education

In ensuring national security in Nigeria frequent kidnapping in the east, south – south and some states in the north and Boko Haram menace in the north are major peace and security challenges in Nigeria. Social studies education as a problem solving subject can play a vital role in bringing about sustainable peace and security in Nigeria as a whole. UNESCO in its preamble to her 2009 publication stated that "Since war begins in the minds of men, it is the minds of men that defense of peace must be constructed. Social studies as a contemporary and environmentally focused field of study that provides the learners with requisite knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and competencies to contribute meaningfully to Nigeria's national development can play a vital role in changing the mind of the individual from evil to good, from conflict to resolution of conflict, from war to peacemaker.

Social studies education from its inception in the Nigerian schools has one of its objectives to develop skills and spirit of co-operation as bases for national unity and development. Considering this cardinal objectives of social studies, which social studies has strived to achieve, if it is achieved, Nigeria will be a better and a peaceful place to live. This objective can effectively be achieved through classroom instruction process of social studies education. Skill, knowledge, abilities, attitude, positive behaviour, competencies can be inculcated into Nigerian citizen that will help to enhance national security in Nigeria.

There are attitudes and values which are considered desirable and a good action should possess. These include co-operation, comradeship and togetherness, honesty, integrity, hard-work and fairness. These attitudes and values as stated in the national aims of education could be achieved through the teaching of social studies. If these desirable attitudes and values are effectively taught in social studies, the country will have better citizens who will contribute effectively for the growth and development of the country. The teaching of this desirable attitude religious tolerance, patriotism at all levels of education will also help to produce good citizen who will see the country as their own and work for peace and harmony for the betterment of the country.

Social studies is a discipline that if properly and effectively taught will help to solve social problems facing developing countries like Nigeria. While the old norms are eroding without replacement. No nation is self sufficient or can produce all her needs. It therefore becomes important for them to understand themselves and fight for a common goal. Various topics concerning safety and national security are designed and taught through social studies to produce citizens that will promote national and international security.

Social studies being considered to be responsive to the challenges of future life and should be strengthened as a major pedagogical paradigm shift for use to actualize the quest of national development. That is why Enoch (2009) was quite specific in his presentation on education for national development and pointed out that we need to be precise on the aspect of development we are interested and the type of education to make contribution for development. Just like the Biblical injunction of prophet Isaiah who said here I am send me", so is social studies when it was introduced as a transformative discipline to heal the wounds of Nigerian Civil War and to provide an enabling environment for national development. Social studies education should be reinvigorated and adopted as a millennium pedagogical initiative of addressing issues national security and development.

Through the teaching of social studies, the citizen will develop the spirit of national consciousness. The citizens will identify themselves with the nation by holding the ideas and values of the society. It involves placing the national interest first before the personal ones. If the citizen should place the national interest first before personal ones and have the nation in mind, the country will be secured. The teaching of positive attitudes and appropriate values of honesty, integrity, hard-work, fairness, justice and togetherness which are necessary for national development, should start from then early education. Emphasis on the above concepts by social studies will enable citizens to develop positive attitude towards the country which will help in promoting national security.

Roles of citizen in maintaining national security

National security is national issue and should be treated as such. It is the collected responsibilities of citizens to contribute their quota.

The roles of citizens in maintaining national security are as follows:

1. Developing the sense of patriotism that is, to put the country above any selfish interest capable of destroying peace and harmony in the country.
2. Keeping to the rules and regulations of our country.
3. Reporting cases of planned unrest or mutiny to the security agents
4. Avoidance of negative values that can negate the peaceful co-existence in our fatherland.
5. Respect for the constituted authority
6. Citizens should pay their taxes regularly to enable the government to generate the needed revenue to finance national security

CONCLUSION

Social studies education is a veritable instrument for integrating national development. Peace and security are fundamental prerequisites to the success and sustainable development of any nation including Nigeria. Social studies educations can make immense contributions

towards achieving national security in Nigeria through its teaching. The teaching of positive attitudes, appropriate values of honesty, integrity, hard-work, fairness, justice and togetherness which are necessary for national development should start from their early education. We must all identify ourselves with the nation by upholding the ideas and values of the society and also place nation's interest first before personal ones in order to ensure national security in our country Nigeria.

REFERENCE

- Ansi RO (2011). *Social Studies Education as panacea for National Security in Nigeria*. International multi – Discipline Journal, Ethiopia 5(2): 19. JSSN 1994 – 9057 Print
- Etim TM (2009). *Nigeria Post – Amnesty, daily champion*, 29 October, Retrieved 1st 2009 from all <http://www.wallafra.com>
- Okiro MM (2008). *Security and safety management*. A keynote address presented at two day seminar organized by life consulting Lagos on Wednesday 15th October 2008.
- Adesina ADO, Adeyemin BA (2009). *Teaching to achieve Social Studies values*. A case of re-education of teachers Retrieved 11/2/2009 from <http://www.wallafra.com>
- Yusuf and Onifude (2009). *Social Studies curriculum and security component of the Nigeria government seven point Agenda*. A multicultural perspective being a text of the paper presented at the 25th Annual National Conference of the Social Studies Association of Nigeria (SOSAN) held from 1720 No 0 at Micheric Otadulu College at Primary Education Lagos.
- Adaralegbe A (1975). *Preparing the primary School Social Studies Teachers West African Journal of Education*. 75(1)
- Kissock C (1981). *Curriculum Planning for Social Studies Teaching*. New York Wiley.
- Osakwe EO (2009). *Navigating through today's shame to tomorrow's fame: Social Studies as priot 17th in the series inaugurate lectures of the Delta State University Abraka: Delta State University Press*.
- UNDP (1994). *Human development report*. New York Oxford University.
- Odedele MOA, Egotancoa MC (2010). *Basic facts in General Social Studies for Senior Secondary Schools* Eutes Publishers, Onitsha.
- Odedele MOA, Egotancoa MC (2010). *Basic facts in General Social Studies for Senior Secondary Schools* Eutes Publishers, Onitsha
- Enoh, AO (2009). *Education for National Development: Revisiting the Curriculum: A keynote address presented on the occasion of the 3rd Biennial Conference of Curriculum organization in niger (CON) Calabar Chapter held on the 12th February, 2009 at Chinua Achebe Art Threatre, University of Calabar – Nigeria*.