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Social Studies Education: A Tool For Crime Eradication And Insecurity In Nigeria

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Abstract
Nigeria as a nation is faced with numerous problems such as conflicts, insecurity, crime and other social vices. These problems have caused backwardness to sustainable national development. Consequential socio-economic and political development can only be realized in the absence of insecurity, conflicts and crime. The benefits of the introduction of the interdisciplinary problem solving discipline "Social Studies" in our national curriculum as a tool for the control of conflict, insecurity and crime can never be exaggerated. The introduction of Social Studies discipline into the nation school curriculum, as a problem solving discipline was intentional to serve as a means of developing and inculcating certain values, attitudes and norms among the citizens that will help them live productive and effective in the society as a family. This paper sees Social Studies education as one of the fundamental tool for realizing the national aim of crime eradication and insecurity in Nigeria and enhancing national development. It reveals the concept of Social Studies. The paper went further to discuss the concept of crime, causes, concept of insecurity, causes and dimension of insecurity and how Social Studies education could be used as a tool for crime and insecurity eradication in our nation. Finally conclusion and recommendations were drawn.

Introduction
Meaningful social, economic and political development can only be achieved in an atmosphere of peace and security, where all agents of development to co-exist in harmony. National security involves effective policy and careful watch against elements that could breach peace or anything 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. Crime is an action or omission which constitutes an offense and is punishable by law.

Nigeria as a country has been beclouded with problems of insecurity and crime mostly in this recent time where armed robbery, kidnapping, cultism, prostitution, money laundering, embezzlement of public fund, advanced free fraud (419) assassination/murders, thuggery/touting election and rigging have become the other of the day.

The consequences of crime and insecurity is that the country does not experience meaningful development. There is always political instability and survival of the fittest.

Social Studies as an interdisciplinary subject was introduced into the national curriculum of schools to proffer solution to man's problems in a holistic form. The subject was introduced into Nigeria with the aim of inculcating knowledge, skills as well as values and rights attitudes that will enable Nigerians fit into the system properly and contribute to the progress and wellbeing of all Nigerians. The purpose of Social Studies education in Nigeria is to project, promote and disseminate knowledge, skills, values and norms that are suitable for addressing Nigeria problems and other relevant issues in a fast changing and transforming Nigerian society.

Social Studies as a tool for crime and insecurity control, tries to expose the child to the knowledge of his social and physical environment so as to appreciate and conserve them.

Nevertheless, Social Studies to actually combat crime and insecurity in Nigeria as a nation, there should be a re-orientation towards the yard stick for assessing citizens.

Concept of Social Studies Education
The term Social Studies is a derivation of two Latin words viz "socic" (socialies) which is rooted in the Italian "socic" which means state (human society) and statium which connotes study. from the etymological point of view, Social Studies could be said to mean the study of the state or the study of human society. Based on this etymological perspective of Social Studies, it could be added that as a study of human society or state, Social Studies extends its tentacles into the study pattern of interaction among the subjects in the state or the society. In this light, Social Studies, studies human behaviour as a whole and in relation to the environment that provides a stage for the cultivation of the social behaviour (Edinyang, 2015).

Social studies in other words is the study of man within his environments- physical, social economic, psychological, religious, political, cultural, scientific and technological. It studies how man influenced the physical environment to suit him and how the physical environment influenced man. In this perspective, the physical environment has conditioned man to certain things that he must obey. For instance the type of crop a man will cultivate in an area will be determined by the physical environment. Social Studies is concerned with how man lives in the environment in which he finds himself.

The focus of Social Studies is on man. It does not either study man and the environment exclusively. It is concerned rather with the study of man within the context of his environment. This means that neither man nor his environment can be studies in isolation because both are inseparable.

Social Studies is concerned with man's activities in the environment. The activities he engages in and the purpose. These comprise what he does, why he does them, what he believes in and why he believes in them, his problems and how to proffer solutions to them. Social Studies furnish us with ways of examining the society in order to understand the structure of the society, the problems and how to proffer solutions to the problems.

Concept of Crime

Crime occurs when the rules of a society is broken with impunity that is without any sense of concern or fear. Crime in other words is an offense against the law of the land. For instance, armed robbery, rape, murder, suicide, smuggling drug peddling, money laundering counterfeiting of currency, child abuse human trafficking, ritual killing embezzlement of fund etc. all these offences are punishable by law (Odedele and Egotanwa, 2010). Crime is an offence or a criminal offence, it is an act harmful or not only to some individual but also to the community or state (a public wrongs) such acts are forbidden and punishable by law

Causes of crime in Nigeria

In Nigeria different crimes are being committed on daily basis ranging from armed robbery, kidnapping, rape domestic violence, child abuse, murder, burglary, financial crimes, cyber crimes, fraud, terrorism and host of other.

The following are some of the causes of crime in Nigeria

1. Poverty
2. Family conditions
3. Peer pressure
4. The society
5. Drugs
6. Unemployment
7. Politics
8. Deprivation
9. Regionalism
10. Religion
11. Unfair judicial system

1. Poverty

Poverty and economic deprivation have been seen to be the number one cause of crime in the country; people are often driven to great lengths of desperation by poverty and thus is a major cause of crime. The fact that such frustration is created is in itself a very dangerous thing for society on the whole as global inflation has risen significantly over the last years in a society where the rich get richer and the poor keep battling with survival, crime is sure to persist.

2. Family Condition

Poverty is related to the family condition that leads the societies to commit crime. There are a lot of things that often cause people to get into a life crime. People who are neglected by their families and do not get the love and attention that they desire also get into criminal activities.

3. Peer Pressure

Some youths crime because they see their mates going into it. Crime like cultism are often traced to peer pressure. Youths who lack the strong will to resist what they see from their peers often try their hands in crime so as to measure up.

4. The Society

The society starting from the home, church and the community also contribute to the high rate of crime in the country. In a society where wealth is worshipped without caring where and how such wealth is made inadvertently push youths into crimes. There are families who compare their children to others and see them as failures because they have not measured up.

5. Drugs

Drugs are a bane in the society because a person who is addicted to drugs and is unable to support his addiction more than not, end up in a life crime to fuel their habit.

6. Unemployment

The skyrocketing unemployment in the country is another reason the youths take to crime to support themselves. A situation where one goes through school and end up jobless for many years is a clear invitation into a world of crime.

7. Politics

Politics is often a cause of crime. The quest for political power lead politicians into arming the youths with dangerous weapons to serve as thugs during electioneering campaigns but after they get into power, they forget the youths and they have to use the guns to fend for themselves.

8. Deprivation

This is another serious cause of crime in the country especially where the youths see that they are being deprived of what should rightly belong to them. The unending crisis in the Niger Delta is as a result of deprivation where the youths of the region see that oil gotten from their communities bring only hardship and sorrows to them and their people. To make their voices heard, they take to crime and in the end the destruction is untold.

9. Regionalism

Closely related to deprivation is regionalism and this is a major cause of crime and unrest among people. People that harbor such regionalist feelings often go to great length to commit crimes against other communities.

10. Religion

In Nigeria, where religion is like an opinion, most crimes are committed along religious lines. Some religious group see anyone who is not of the same religion with them as enemies. The unrest often experienced in some parts of the country, especially in the north can be traced to religion.

11. Unfair Judicial System

Victims of unfair judicial systems often turn to crime as last resort and a rebellion against the society. It could be that a person is a victim of chance and happens to fall into crimes on the occasion that one is convicted falsely, accused or convicted, and made charges, the person may become more hardened and filled with anger, he will take arms against the society.

In Nigeria for instance, the prisons lack capabilities of reforming criminals and where such is lacking, the victim is thrown into the dungeon with hardened criminals and instead of reformation, he become a better criminal having learned from the masters. Source: https://www.pulse.ng/gist/top-10-causes-of-crime-in-nigeria/v8bltwl

Meaning and Dimensions of Security

Security, as a concept is derived from the Latin words securus, meaning to be safe, freedom from anxiety or fear to be emotionally secure, affording ▬▬ to be confident. It has been defined as "The condition or feeling of safety from harm or danger, the defense, protection and observation of core values and the absence of threat to acquire values" (David, 2006).

Dimensions of Security

According to (Dania and Eboh (2013:65) there are seven dimensions of security, call it human security from the macro perspective. They are:

Food Security: This refers to availability of food and ones access to it. A household is considered food secured when its occupant do not live in hunger or fear of starvation. Food security exists when all people at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

Economic Security: This is a condition of having stable income or other resources to support a standard of living now and in future.

Health Security: This is a policy area in which national security and public health concerns overlap. It is the awareness of being secure that health is good and if not, the ways to obtain came to return to good health. It aims to guarantee a minimum protection from disease and unhealthy lifestyle.

Environmental Security: This examines threats posed by environmental events and trends to individuals, communities or nations. It may focus on the impact of human conflict and international relations on the environment or on how environmental problem cross state borders.

Personal Security

This is the feeling of being secured having a personal or residential security system or being aware of your surroundings.

Community/National Security: This deals with putting people in the lead and helping them to improve their experience of safety and security. It is also about making sure that every member/citizen of the community/nation is in safety in order to avoid danger.

Political Security

The houses comprises of both economic and environmental security which deals with maintaining the stable economy of the society and securing the environment. As such, political security seeks to ensure the safety of the economy and its environment.

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 persevere threats and situations building on their strengths and aspirations. It also means creating systems that give people the building blocks, dignity and livelihood, have access to resources and basic necessities of life and inhabit in an environment which is not detrimental to their health and wellbeing. It means protecting different freedom from fear and freedom to take action on one's own behalf (Dania and Eboh, 2013).

Factors Responsible for Insecurity in Nigeria

There are several factors posing threat to security in Nigeria
These are summarized below:

Crime - Crime against the individual and against the State

This occurs when the rules of the society are broken with impurity. The rate of crime in Nigeria is at an alarming rate. The issue of robbery, rape, murder, smuggling, drug peddling, money laundering, counterfeiting of currency, child abuse, human trafficking, kidnapping and embezzlement of fund has become the order of the day. These have created fear in the mind of many Nigerians, and as such, made the country insecure for her citizens.

Selfishness

This arises when an individual constantly thinks of himself or herself before others especially when one is holding a public office. Our political leaders and host of others holding important offices are self centered. They are not representing the interest of the masses. Selfishness has deprived people of employment and admission into higher institutions. Majority of Nigerians especially the young school leavers have involved themselves in one evil or the other, thereby causing a lot of insecurity in the country.

Disobedience

Disobedience as one of the causes of insecurity in Nigeria is evident in our homes, schools and society in general. Majority of Nigerian youth are hard hardened and as such, go against the rules of the society, thereby indulging in activities such as robbery and cultism which brings insecurity in the society, making it uncomfortable for its citizens.

Favourism

The issue of ethnicity have done more harm than good to the Nigerian nation. some able qualified men and women, boys and girls which are liable to work roam around with no job because they have nobody at the

helm of affairs, and because people in position to give out jobs, are busy looking for those which are of the same ethnicity, in order to render job.

Bad Leadership

Bad leadership brings the animalistic tendencies to the followers. The issue of bad leadership has led to unemployment, violation of human rights, marginalization, and unequal development. It is expected that a leader should place the national interest first before him, but today the reverse is the case. The leaders are only interested in favouring their states and ethnic groups to the detriment of others.

This issue of bad leadership has led to massive youth unemployment violation of human right, marginalization and unequal development. these have lead Nigerian citizens into ugly situation that is not favourable to the development of the country (Dania and Eboh, 2013).

Roles of Social Studies Education in Combating Crime and Insecurity in Nigeria

Social Studies is an interdisciplinary subject that scramble into other social sciences to borrow concepts, ideas, method and generalization in order to study and solve the problems of man in a wholistic way, has lots of roles to play in combating crime and insecurity in Nigeria.

Through the awareness of our physical and social environment, citizens are made to know the evils associated with the act of vandalizing our physical and social environment, such as vandalisation of government properties, oil bunkery, destruction of our national resources, such as vegetation, the use of gamaline 20 in destroying our waterbodies. Through the teaching of Social Studies, the child will know that all these are criminal act and will have negative effect in our environment.

Social Studies education from its inception in the Nigeria school curriculum has one of its objectives to develop skills and spirit of co-operation as basis for national unity and development: considering these cardinal objectives of Social Studies, which it has strived to achieve if it is achieved, Nigeria will be a better and peaceful place to live. This could be active through classroom instruction process of social studies education skills, knowledge, abilities, attitude, positive behaviour, competences can be inculcated into Nigerian citizens that will help to avoid crime and promote national unity

There are desirable attitudes and values which a good citizen should possess. These include cooperation comradeship and togetherness, honesty, integrity, hard-work and fairness. These attitudes and values as stated in national aims and objectives 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 kick against crime and insecurity in Nigeria. The teaching of this desirable attitude religious tolerance, honesty, patriotism at all levels will also help to produce citizens who will see the country as their own and fight against crime and work for peace and harmony in the country.

Similarly, since Social Studies help to develop in the students' appreciation for the diverse nature and interdependence of Nigerian communities the knowledge of Social Studies will help us to understand that even in the most of our diverse nature i.e. cultural, religious, ethnicity, class etcetera; we need each other to survive. When these are at the back of our minds, the issue of religious crisis, political crisis, ethnic conflicts and other vices all will die a natural death.

Social Studies teaches the child to acquire relevant body of knowledge and information necessary for his personal development. The knowledge of Social Studies automatically helps the child to have all it takes to be self reliant and responsible citizens who can fend for himself. These point out the issue of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and greed which are major causes of crime in every society. These four problems put together lead to bribery, corruption, kidnapping, robbery, killing, vandalization, cultism, drug trafficking, examination malpractice, prostitution, suicide etc. with the acquisition of the right knowledge and information needed to be self reliant, citizens will live comfortably and participate fully towards the development of the society as Social Studies portrays. From the above discussion, no one will be involved in any of the criminal acts thereby reducing the rate of crime in our society.

Through Social Studies teaching, citizens will develop the spirit of national consciousness. The citizens will place national interest first before personal ones. If this is done and the citizens have the nations interest in mind, the country will be secured. The teaching of appropriate values, positive values, honesty, integrity, hard work, fairness, justice and togetherness which are necessary for national development should start from early education. Emphasis on the above concepts by Social Studies will enable citizens to develop positive attitude towards the country which will help to eradicate crime and insecurity in the country.

Conclusion

Social Studies Education is a feral instrument for integration in Nigeria. The role of Social Studies in Nigeria as a tool for combating crime and insecurity has been stressed. Social Studies as an interdisciplinary subject is designed to proffer solution to man physical and social problems. Social Studies a tool for controlling crime and insecurity in our society, is designed to develop and inculcate among our students positive attitudes, appropriate values of hard work, integrity, justice and togetherness which are necessary for harmonious living. This teaching should start from the early education of the child.

Recommendations

For Social Studies to be able to achieve its existence, as a tool for combating crime and insecurity, the following should be taking into consideration.

There is need for continuity: Social Studies should be taught at all levels of education. It should also be made compulsory for students to acquire positive attitudes that will enable them to resist crime and insecurity.

Government should encourage small scale industries through granting of loan without interest. This will reduce unemployment. the rate of insecurity and crime will be minimized as people are gainfully employed.

The government should allow the judiciary to perform their duties without interference. This will scare people from committing crime as the issue of fatherism will not be allowed.

There should be prompt reporting of cause of planned arrest to security agents. This will lead to the avoidance of negative values that can disrupt the peaceful co-existence in our nation Nigeria.

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