

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SECURITY: A PANACEA FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT:

This paper examined the nexus between youth empowerment and security as a means of sustaining national development in Nigeria. It identified the need to re-engineer youthful potentials towards productive social enterprises through skill acquisition, education and socio – cultural value orientation. The paper examined the causes of national security challenges in Nigeria such as corruption, injustice, poverty, poor health care delivery services, decayed and collapsed infrastructure, environmental degradation and socio-religious crises and its effect on National development. The primary focus of this paper is that security is the major determinant of development of any society. It also critically examined the role of security in the development of the Nigerian nation. It ramified the concepts of national security and national development, how they are intertwined and linked them to the Nigerian society. It recommended among others that, Nigerian politicians should stop using youths as political thugs, but instead, empower them with relevant science and technical education skills that will make them to be self-reliant.

Keywords: Youth Empowerment, Security, National Development, Unemployment, Sustained National Development, Job Creation.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa. Nigeria is blessed with abundant human and natural resources spread throughout the country. Despite the fact that the nations are endowed with these resources, Nigeria is still struggling to be developed and be a power to be reckoned with in the community of nations. The problem of the continuous increase in poverty, armed robbery, militancy in the Niger Delta region and Boko Haram disturbances in the Northern region may not be unconnected to the fact that majority of Nigeria youths are not empowered to contribute to national development (Nnachi, Nwigwe, & Ukoma, 2013). Their belief of the youths is that the nation has failed them and therefore, they are paying back to the country what they felt was given to them. Unfortunately, most of our tertiary institutions turn out graduates on yearly basis without a corresponding job creation to take care of them (Nnachi, Nwigwe, & Ukoma, 2013).

According to statistics from the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Nigeria's unemployment rate is at 23.9 per cent and 60 per cent of its population are youths, translating to about 80 million Nigerian youths. Youth unemployment rate is over 50 percent, about 64 million Nigerian youths are unemployed. This scourge of unemployment has deprived many Nigerian youths access to contributing their quota to national development. The result of the rising youth unemployment situation in the country has provided shrinking options to job seekers as those who find work are forced to be less selective about the type of job they settle for, including part-time work and temporary contracts because they are in desperate need for any income.

Undoubtedly, the challenges for youths that are central to Africa's economic development are numerous and varied—they include employment, health and political participation. These issues differ among groups within countries (by gender, education level, ethnicity and health status), and across countries and regions. Conversely, the size, energy, enthusiasm, innovation and dynamism of youths are assets that can be harnessed for Africa's development with appropriate policies that deal adequately with the issues facing them.

Despite the elevated awareness of the challenges confronting Nigerian and Africa's youths noted by previous studies, several African countries like ours still do not seem to have developed comprehensive and effective policies to deal with the issues facing this large and growing segment of the African population or to have in place a means to assess the progress made. The purpose of this study is to advance the discussion of the problems facing youths in Africa by assessing whether African countries' existing youths policies can meet the challenges and how these policies can be improved to foster the continent's equitable and efficient development in general and Nigeria in particular.

The National Youth Policy is full of platitudes and little has been done to bring it into full implementation despite several reviews of the policy since its formulation in 1981. Admittedly, the federal government noted that policy attempts hardly provided a concrete framework for addressing the heightened problems confronting the youth in the 1990's. This was partly because the implementation mechanisms of the policy were weak and ineffective (SNYPD, 2009).

Bondzi-Simpson (2011) was therefore right to have asserted that enforcement challenge undermines the rate of development in most African states. Until 2007, there was no separate ministry for youth development in the country. Governments at all levels have continued to lay claim to several jobs created. Yet, the jobs are nowhere to be found by the massive youth. Dwindling economy resulting from corrupt practices (Otumba, 2013), lack of entrepreneurial skills (Alao, 2013), job creations, marketable and productive skills (Emeh, 2012) have all been identified as the root causes of youth unemployment. The need for sustainable development most especially in developing countries has necessitated a refocused attention on effective youth empowerment and national security. Sustainable development provides real improvements and changes in the quality of human life and conserves the vitality and diversity of the people (Ojenike, Adedokun, Odun & Ojenike, 2014)

Security is the condition of being protected physically, emotionally, psychologically as well as from other harm, attack, terror which could be considered as non-desirable. Edem (2010) defined security as assurance of the future wellbeing and freedom from threat. National security is a collection of precautions, resources and institutions built to secure a sovereign state. Providing national security for the lives and properties within a sovereign state is a vital social contract between the masses, the government and the state.

It is noteworthy that the incidence of militancy in Nigeria predates the 4th Republic. Nonetheless, the dismantling of military rule in 1999 led to the proliferation of insurgent and rebellious groups that were hitherto suppressed by successive military governments. The activities of these nefarious groups have been ascendant since the enthronement of civilian rule in 1999. Successive civilian administrations have witnessed consistent and sustained pressure from different ethnic militias like the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger-Delta (MEND), Oodua People's Congress (OPC), Arewa Youth Consultative Forum, etc. Similar pressure and general insecurity has also accompanied the increasing spate of kidnapping in the South-East geopolitical zone, politically motivated killings by unscrupulous groups, ethno-religious uprisings in Jos, Kano, Kaduna, Bauchi, as well as the incessant and often co-ordinated bombings in some terrorism-infested states of northern Nigeria by the Boko Haram sect.

The Boko Haram uprising of July 2009 in Northern Nigeria marked a tipping point in the conflict between the sect and government authorities. The brazen execution-style killings by both sides left more than 800 people dead in Borno, Bauchi, Yobe and Kano States (Human Rights Watch, 2012:32). From 2009 till date, the sect has engaged in arson, bombing, shooting and stabbing with disdain and impunity. The insurgents have attacked some strategic and high profile places/persons like the Nigeria Police Headquarters in Abuja on June 16, 2011; the UN House in Abuja on August 26, 2011; and St. Theresa Catholic Church, Madalla on December 25, 2011. Others are This Day and The Sun Newspapers' Offices in Abuja and Kaduna on April 26, 2012; the massacre of nine construction workers at the Shehu of Borno Central Mosque, Maiduguri on July 1, 2012; and the assassination of a respected elder statesman, Maj. Gen. Muhammadu Shuwa and his guest, Sagir Musa, on November 2, 2012 in Maiduguri. It is therefore; against this background that this paper discuss the meaning of youth empowerment, security and national development. The rest of the paper is arranged into literature review, followed by conclusions and recommendations.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Youth Empowerment

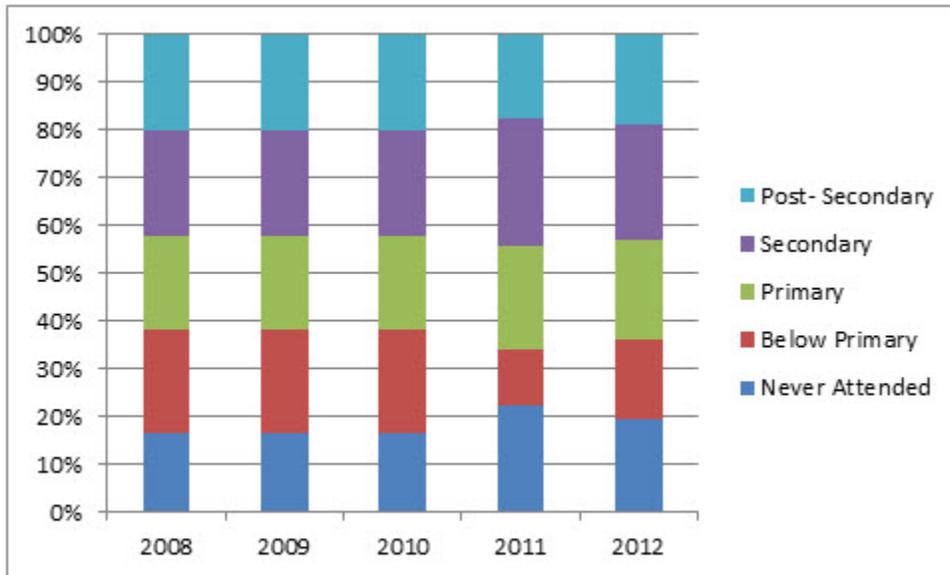
It is pertinent to define who a youth is though there seems no universal definition of who a youth is as the term is used differently by individuals, governments and non-governmental organizations. However, the United Nations and Common Wealth of Nations have come up with specific age categories to define a youth. Perhaps that informed Echebiri (2005) in Nnachi (2012:2) to indicate that: The United Nations uses age category 15-24 years to define a youth while the common wealth uses the age category of 15-29. Most countries have either adopted the UN or common wealth definition. However, in Nigeria, the range is 15-36 years has been taken to be the youth category.

Youth empowerment is an initiative with a view to re-engineering their potentials and energies for peace and stability to reduce poverty, un-employment and criminality. To buttress this view, Chikamayo (2013) asserted that, self-employment is being driven to the zenith by training and equipping youths with both financial support and the asset base to enhance the growth of their businesses. He further added that the interventionist programme in Abia State has attained enviable height in peace and security management. In the same vein, National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy, (2005) emphasized in its thrust towards empowering people to improve lives through plans for creating jobs, strengthening the skill base, protecting the vulnerable and promoting peace and security.

This is an approach to stop all sorts of marginalisation and negligence against the youths and to give them equal opportunity and access to education, financial control, political participation, leadership etc regardless of gender or educational level. Economic empowerment enables the youths to take critical decision on how to fix their life long experience and self development by it. The youths form the fulcrum trustees and occupy core centre of the politico-economy of a nation. A youth in Nigeria may be described as being energetic, full of life, vigor, stamina, vitality and endowed with drive and fearless. These potentials and resourcefulness if not directed towards productive ventures could be used negatively to disrupt social, economic and political structures. According to Agholor, Afatakpa and Kent – Onah, (2011) youthful age is between ages 1 – 45 years, the most viable stage in the life of humans. If individuals at this stage of development are not occupied by positive activities, the tendencies to take to negative vices will be extremely high.

Relatedly, in terms of education, from 2008-2012, over half of unemployed youth did not have an education past primary school (see Figure 1). This particular group has consistently accounted for over 50 percent of all unemployed youth. However, graduates of tertiary institutions also seem to be badly hit by unemployment too—making up about 20 percent of youth unemployment and often remaining unemployed for upward of five years after graduation (NISER, 2013).

Figure 1: National Youth Unemployment Figures (15-34 years) by Education, 2008-2012



Source: NISER, 2013

Several factors may be blamed for the prevalence of youth unemployment in Nigeria. There is a high population growth rate—3.5 percent per annum—which accompanies an already large national population of over 167 million people. In addition, deficient school curricula and poor teacher training have contributed to the failure of educational institutions to provide their students the appropriate skills to make them employable.

National Youth Empowerment Strategies

Following the unabated security problems and youth unemployment, the government of Nigeria had realized the need to appropriately adopt certain strategies to address the unwholesome behaviours of youths. These laudable strategies include the following:

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): At the September 2000 United Nations Millennium Summit, world leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration and a set of accompanying Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aimed at reducing poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy etc by 2015. It was instructive that developing countries before then should be able to develop and implement policies for enabling economic climate, like sound policies, good governance and appropriate financial support and physical infrastructure to be able to reach the target. In pursuance of this strategy, the minister of Youth Development Inuwa Abdulkadir had said that 658 corps members were trained and empowered to establish agro – enterprises and not less than 131, 659 corps members were given skill acquisition and entrepreneurship development training in the year 2012 (“Why Government Can’t Empower Every Nigerian youth”, 2013).

The Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS). This was introduced as a youth empowerment strategy in collaboration with Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) to provide window for building skills and enhancing employability. Primarily, it seeks to provide un-employed graduate youths with job apprenticeship opportunities that would expose them to skills and experiences relevant to current labour market and enhance their employability (Anuforo, 2013). Since January 2012, government had to see that the proceeds of the subsidy funds are applied to empower youths within the context of the social safety programme.

The Concept of National Security

The term “security” may be looked at as a state of being protected from danger or anxiety. For a nation, security connotes conditions of peace, stability, order and progress. National security has been construed in different ways, each of which emphasized vital factors underlying ideals. Brennan (1961) holds that national security is the protection of national survival, while Ray (1987) says that national security is to be understood in terms of the desire and capacity for self-defence. Ochoche (1998) holds that national security focuses on the amassment of military armament, personnel and expenditure. All the above definition sees National security has changed overtime. It was expanded to include international economics, long term goals of national development and reconciliation. They are very important for the security of any nation. With this approach, Asad (2007) says “that national security cannot be narrowed down to exclusively military term. Socio economic and cultural aspects, problems of development and modernization, and national integration should be deemed important in considering”.

Al-Marshat (1985) suggested that national security is more than territorial defence and should focus on the “Physical, social and psychological equality of life of a society and its members both in the domestic setting and within the large regional and global system”. According to Mathew (1989), Global development now suggests the need for another analogous broadening definition of national security to include resources, environmental and demographic issues.

Youth and Insecurity

The current insecurity challenge in Nigeria is at an alarming rate that calls for a greater concern. This emanate from low level civil disorder, large scale violence, even armed insurgency or terrorism that may be directed against citizens or the organs and infrastructure of the state itself (LEADERSHIP, February 1, 2013). In the realization of this, Security takes N921.91 billion as lion’s share of Nigeria’s 2012 budget (African Examiner, December 13, 2011). Some of the factors that created the insecurity loop holes are due to unemployment leading to joblessness and poverty amount the youth. Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) observed that already, jobs are declining while number of unemployed young people is on the increase. The International Labor Organization (ILO) in 2005 from her publication, categorized youths to be in the range of 18 and 35 years. By this implication, about 67million young Nigerians are jobless (Ochong, 2013). This is because this category of youth makes up the working population. A study carried out by the Observer French based Global news Network in 2008 shows that the Boko Haram, OPC Boys, and the Niger Delta Militants (Bakassi Boys) came on board as a result of the level of poverty among them due to mass unemployment. Security issue in Nigeria has been worrisome for more than two years now because of insurgence of Niger Delta and Boko Haram as averred by Horsfall (2013).

Going by the trend of event in Nigeria, the BH emergence in 2002 has destabilized the country's security outfit living hundreds of lives lost and injured with properties worth millions of naira lost while exposing the country and its citizens to security threats. Nkechi (2013) opined that it has made Nigeria to be a highly volatile society to violence. The violence has claimed many lives, injured many lives, destroyed many properties, and caused series of social and political unrest. For instance, a timeline of BH attacks between 30th December, 2010 and 23rd January, 2013 shows that fifty (50) attacks were carried out with about 657 lives lost and 438 injured within the 19 Northern states of Nigeria and Abuja (Punch, March 19th, 2013). This act has slowed down economic activities in all the affected areas and has threatened the insecurity of the nation as a whole.

Boko Haram (BM) has majority of his members are youths who got involved from their almajiri beliefs (youths seeking for alms) who does carryout series of attacks including suicide bombing. This is as a result of high rate of poverty caused by unemployment. Already, the country has ranked 153 out of 186 countries in the world regards her rate of poverty.

National Development

Scholars have variously perceived the subject of development. May (2004, p.18) defined it from the perspective of institutional framework especially of those created by Western ideologies. Others perceived it as a one-dimensional process and to that extent encouraged the pursuit of economic programmes that seem to compete with western industrialized countries in the level of economic attainment. At other times, we observe countries merely importing political system that are successful in western environment without reference to the requisite civil culture necessary to sustain them. An example is the British Westminster system and the American Presidential system of government that Nigeria borrowed. These perspectives see the western countries as models for development. Development is more than the provision of physical infrastructure.

Amucheazi (1980) was of the opinion that "development is realistically seen as a multi-dimensional process involving the totality of man in his political, economic, psychological and social realities among others". Development is a holistic phenomenon not a concept to be abridged in application or compartmentalized and approached as a uni-dimensional process. Essentially it should be man-oriented and not institutional-oriented. If we focus our attention on the individual citizens we can then think of what he needs at a particular time and how he can combat a number of colonial legacies which have held him down.

Development generally has to do with dynamics; positive development connotes progressive changes in everyday usage of the term. However, the focus of this discourse is national development. Development economics emerged in the post second war years, since then, the meaning of economic (national) development had really not been fixed and consistent. Between the 1940s to the early 1960s, development was seen as synonymous with economic growth. Many theorists as Rostow (1952) and Harrod and Domar (1957), among others proposed models of development, generally identifying structural changes, savings and investments as the source of economic development and growth. It was assumed that as the economy grows and output increases, there will be more happiness and improved welfare arising from the larger pull of resources which if well

distributed would have generally improved the well-being of the masses. The basic assumption was that in so much as the economy grows, trickledown effect will at least lead to improvement for everybody in the economy and standard of living would generally improve

Sustainable Economic Development

The term sustainable economic development (SED) or sustainable Development (SD) is a novel concept in the development literature. At one extreme, sustainable economic development is defined as an economic development which meets the needs of present generation and which would not endanger nor compromise the needs of future generation (Nagesha and Subrahmanya, 2006). One of the foremost international bodies advocating economic and environmental sustainability across the globe is the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED). The body defines sustainable development “as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (WCED, 2000, p.43).

Summing up the various definitions given above, the term sustainable economic development can be operationally defined as a strategic process of ensuring that the utilisation of physical environment and its diverse natural resources by nation should be done in a manner that the environment and its resources would provide continuous stream of benefits to both current and future generation. The way Nigeria manages its financial resources as well as its economic resources is economically unsustainable.

The failure of economic growth in most developing and developed countries of Latin America and Africa, in the late 1970s, to deliver corresponding social goods and solve problems of unemployment, poverty, disease, hunger, illiteracy and ever increasing crimes and wars, necessitated the new thinking, and redefinition of development from economic growth centered perspective to human centered approach (Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013). In this light Chandler (2007) sees development as a broader concept that recognizes psychological and material factors that measure human well-being. Development therefore is a multifaceted phenomenon and man centered. It is the process of empowering people to maximize their potentials, and develop the knowledge capacity to exploit nature to meet daily human needs (Rodney, 1972; Nnoli, 1981; Ake, 2001). The transformation of the society and the emergence of new social and economic organizations are critical indicators of development (Stiglitz cited in Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013).

Scholars have identified strong links between security and development since the cold war ended (Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013; Chandler, 2007). They argued that development cannot be achieved in any nation where there are conflicts, crisis and war. There is a consensus in the literature that security and development are two different and inseparable concepts that affect each other, and this has naturally triggered debates on security-development nexus (Chandler, 2007; Stan 2004).

The Relationship between National Development and National Security

National development and national security are two sides of the same coin. According to Egwu (2000), over the year, the security of the Nigerian nation state was reduced to that of the ruler and his immediate supporters. The country’s leaders rules

due to their ill-conceived notions of security. The security calculus of Nigeria State failed because it did not include vital aspect of social and national development, such as the provision of basic social amenities.

Thus, the Nigerian State could not meet the social, economic, or even the military conditions for national security. These problems are clear indication that the government failed to consistently and committed maintains the core social values and physical infrastructure necessary for establishing and sustaining national security, national survival and socio-political wellbeing of the nation. Nwakpa (2000) asserts the above fact when he says that the increasing national decay and insecurity is seen in the regressing economy, unable health services and facilities, lack of good water, transportation and fuel problems, unemployment and other problems that have overwhelmed the Nigeria society.

From the above we can see that security is anchored on national development. On the other hand, development can be anchored on security. For instance, the case of violence like ethnic crises, vandalism of pipes and electrical poles, armed robberies, kidnapping and others that cannot be mentioned, have hindered development of some infrastructures and foreign investment. Therefore, we can say that they two cannot be detached.

Dimensions of Security Crisis in Nigeria: Implications for National Development

In the discourse of security in Nigeria, Okorie (2011), Jega (2002), Salawu (2010), Onyishi (2011), Ezeoha (2011), Lewis (2002), have identified several causes of security crisis in Nigeria that pose grave consequences to national development. Chief among them is ethno-religious conflicts that tend to have claim many lives in Nigeria. By „ethnic-religious“ it means a situation in which the relationship between members of one ethnic or religious and another of such group in a multiethnic and multi-religious society is characterized by lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion and fear, and a tendency towards violent confrontation (Salawu, 2010).

Since independence, Nigeria appears to have been bedevilled with ethno-religious conflicts. Over the past decades of her Nationhood, Nigeria has experience a palpable intensification of religious polarization, manifest in political mobilization, sectarian social movements, and increasing violence (Lewis 2002:1). Ethnic and religious affiliations determine who gets what in Nigeria; it is so central and seems to perpetuate discrimination. The return to civil rule in 1999 tends to have provided ample leverage for multiplicity of ethno-religious conflicts. With over (400) ethnic group, belonging to several religious sects, Nigeria since independence has remained a multi-ethnic nation state, which has been grappling and trying to cope with the problem of ethnicity and ethno-religious conflicts (Salawu, 2010).

It has occurred in places like Shagamu (Ogun State), Lagos, Abia, Kano, Bauchi, Nassarawa, Jos, Taraba, Ebonyi and Enugu State respectively. For instance, the ethno-religious crisis in Plateau State has persisted and implicitly reinforces the problem of indigene/settler dichotomy that seems to lack constitutional remedy. It has become so prevalent in Jos, such that made Plateau State go down with the unenviable record as the first state in the Fourth Republic where a state of emergency was declared

However, the inability of the Nigerian leaders to tackle development challenges, distribute state resources equitably and render good services to the people appear to be one of the causes of ethno-religious violence. Salawu (2010:348) argued that a major cause of what we now see as ethnic-religious conflicts in Nigeria has to do with the accusation and allegations of neglect, oppression, domination, exploitation, victimization, discrimination, marginalization, nepotism and bigotry. The second is the grinding youth's unemployment. Youth's unemployment seems to have contributed in the rising cases of violent conflict in Nigeria. Unemployment according to the International Labour Organization could be seen as numbers of the economically active population who are without work but available for and seeking work, including people who have voluntarily left work (World Bank 1998).

It constitutes the total number of people that are out of work. Arguably, unemployment seems to be a global trend. However, Nigeria's unemployment situation deteriorated sequel to state inability to put in place appropriate mitigating mechanisms to abate or control its spread and impacts. For instance, over ten million Nigerians were unemployed by March 2009 and unemployment is running at around 19.7 percent on average according to Aganga the former minister of finance (see National Bureau of Statistics report 2009). Breaking it down, the report reveals that the national unemployment rates for Nigeria between 2000 and 2009 showed that the number of unemployed persons constituted 31.1% in 2000; 31.6% in 2001; 12.6% in 2002; 14.8% in 2003; 13.4% in 2004; 11.9% in 2005; also in 2006 it was 13.7%; in 2007 14.6%; in 2008 14.9%; in 2009 19.7% (National Bureau of Statistics 2009:238). From the above, it can be stated that unemployment has a severe negative implication on national development in Nigeria as most of its productive force are unemployed. What this means theoretically is that poverty and unemployment increase the number of people who are prepared to kill or be killed for a given course at token benefit Salawu (2010).

Also systemic and political corruption in Nigeria seems to have added another dimension of violent conflicts which has eroded National values. Corruption is bad not because money and benefits change hands, and not because of the motives of participants, but because it privatizes valuable aspects of public life, bypassing processes of representation, debate, and choice. It has been described in the academic circles as cancer militating against Nigeria's development; corruption is deeply threatening the fabric of the Nigeria society (Iduh 2011:124). Corruption hampers economic growth, disproportionately burdens the poor and undermines the effectiveness of investment and aid (Iyare, 2008). The existence of two anti-graft agencies; Independence Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) since 1999 appear to have done little in an effort to totally eradicate corrupt practices in Nigeria.

Table 1. Attacks by Boko Haram Sect in Nigeria from 2009 to 2012

S/N	Date of	State	Location of Attack	Impact
1	July 27, 2009	Yobe	Attack on Potiskum, Yobe State Divisional Headquarters.	4 people killed
2	March 13, 2010	Plateau	Another sect operation in the northern part of	300 people killed
3	Oct. 1 2010	Abuja	Explosions near the Eagle Square, Abuja.	12 people killed and many injured
4	Dec. 24, 2010	Plateau	A bomb attack, in Barkin Ladi, Jos, Plateau State.	8 people killed
5	Dec, 31, 2010	Abuja	Explosions in Mogadishu Mammy Market, Abuja.	10 people killed
6	Jan. 21, 2011	Borno	Attack on Borno state Governorship candidate of all Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), for the 2011 election, Alhaji Modu Gubio.	7 people killed
7	Mar. 2, 2011	Kaduna	Boko Haram killed policemen attached to the Residence of Mustapha Sandamu, at Rigasa	2 people killed
8	Mar. 30, 2011	Yobe	Bomb planted by Boko Haram in Damaturu, Yobe State, exploded and injured police officer.	1 injured
9	April 8, 2011	Niger	Bomb at INEC office in Suleja	8 people killed
10	April 26, 2011	Bauchi	Army Barracks in Bauchi bombed	3 people killed And many injured
11	May 29, 2011	Abuja Bauchi And Zaria	Multiple bombings in different locations in Northern Nigeria.	13 people killed And 40 injured
12	June 7, 2011	Borno	Series of bomb blasts occurred in Maiduguri	5 killed and several injured
13	June 16, 2011	Abuja and Borno	Nigerian Police Headquarters, Abuja, bombed by A suspected suicide bomber. A bomb blast also Occurred at Damboa town, Maiduguri	7 killed and many Vehicles damaged

14	June 20, 2011	Kaduna	Boko Haram stormed Kankara Police station in Katsina state.	7 policemen killed and 2 security men
15	July 9, 2011	Borno and Niger	A clash between Boko Haram and the military in Maiduguri, Borno State, also in Suleja, Niger State, a bomb was targeted at a church.	35 killed and many injured
16	July 12, 2011	Borno	Boko Haram threw an explosive device on a moving Military patrol vehicle	5 people killed
17	July 15, 2011	Borno	Explosion in Maiduguri.	5 people injured
18	July 25, 2011	Maiduguri	Bomb explosion near the palace of traditional ruler in Maiduguri.	8 people killed
19	Aug. 26, 2011	Abuja	A suicide Bomber drove into The United Nations building in Abuja	25 people killed and 60 injured
20	Sep. 12, 2011	Bauchi	A bomb attack on a police station in Misau	7 people killed
21	Sep. 17, 2011	Borno	Brother in-law of Mohammed Yusuf, the slain leader of Boko Haram, Babakura Fugu, shot dead in front of his house in Maiduguri by two members of the sect two days after he was visited by former President Olusegun Obasanjo	1 person killed
22	Oct. 3, 2011	Borno	Boko Haram attacked Baga Market in Maiduguri	3 people killed
23	Nov. 4, 2011	Yobe	Attack by Boko Haram in Damaturu, Yobe state.	150 people killed
24	Nov. 27, 2011	Yobe	Attacks in Gendam.	7 people killed
25	Dec. 24, 2011	Plateau	Bombings in Jos.	80 people killed
26	Dec. 25, 2011	Niger	Christmas Day bombing in Madalla.	50 people killed
27	Jan. 6, 2012	Adamawa	Christ Apostolic Church was attacked and Igbo People were	37 people killed

			also killed in Mubi in the same state	
28	Jan. 20, 2012	Kano	Multiple attacks in Kano.	150 people killed
29	Jan. 26, 2012	Kano	The Sabon Gari of Kano State witnessed another Explosion, which caused another pandemonium in the state.	Many injured and Some luxury buses damaged
30	Feb. 7, 2012	Kano	A bomb blast in Kano market and military barracks	5 people killed
31	April 8, 2012	Kaduna	Easter Day Church bombing.	38 people killed
32	June 17, 2012	Kaduna	Multiple attacks on churches.	12 people killed and 80 injured
33	Aug. 7, 2012	Kogi	Deeper Life Church.	19 people killed

Source:
Adapted from Achumba et al. (2013)
The

data in Table 1 above illustrate graphically the high level of insecurity in Nigeria from 2009 to 2012, and this situation has not improved but rather it is getting worse. The worsening security situation in the country has caused enormous loss of life and property and created general atmosphere of fear and social tension in the country.

CONCLUSION

From all indications, the only solution towards youth empowerment is by creating jobs in abundance and by providing relevant occupational skills as alternative to youth restiveness and towards unemployment. This can be achieved through STE programs. The need for science and technical education should be the corner stone, which a country should rely upon and should provide its youths the opportunities to train, develop skills, abilities, understanding, working habits, and to have knowledge on useful productive bases. It is well known that insecurity is one of the greatest problems confronting Nigeria today.

Consequently, the incoming government of All Progressives Congress (APC) has prioritized security in its manifesto. Among other things, it has promised to employ an extra 100,000 police officers and establish a properly trained and equipped Federal Anti-Terrorism Multi-Agency Task Force to destroy Boko Haram and any form of insurgency; introduce an immediate pay rise and improved conditions of service for all five security agencies among others. However, it is necessary to understand the concept of security in all its ramifications, the nature and character of the Nigerian State and the major threat to national security to be able to map out a programme to promote peace and security.

Nearly half of all people in the world today are under the age of 25. Effectively addressing the special needs of these youths is a critical challenge for the future. Youths, individuals between the ages of 15 and 24, make up over one-sixth of the world's population, but are seldom recognized as a distinct group for the important role they will play in shaping the future.

No nation can achieve growth or any form of stability that will enhance socio-economic development in an atmosphere of chronic youth unemployment. The role of Nigerian government must include the formulation of policies and laws that could help improve the economic and social wellbeing of its citizens and wealth creation. There is a need to increase jobs through small enterprises and poverty alleviation schemes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In line with our observations, it is recommended that youth entrepreneurship programmes should be made compulsory right from the secondary school. Moreover, curricula in the higher institutions should be redesigned to capture the current reality of producing job creators and not job seekers. There should also be institutional support for youth entrepreneurship programmes at all tiers of government; local, state, and federal. Cheap funds made available and accessible to interested young entrepreneurs is a necessity for the development of self-reliant programmes among youth.

For sustainability of the youth programme, private sector partnership is required for effective goal attainment. Youths should be presented with learning activities and experiences by schools to prepare and challenge them for peace and development e.g. leadership role, modeling, drama, debate, field trip, exhibition work etc. Youths should drop pride to key into available programmes and have confidence that they can make it through self – employment.

The state must therefore ensure that there is peace within her borders. The opposite of peace is war. Injustices, corruption, poor planning, tyranny and selfishness often affect development efforts of a nation. These elements breed disaffection, frustrations and in extremes cases, violent eruptions which precipitates crisis and insecurity all over the nation.

Peace is synonymous with security. No nation can afford to play with its own security. Emphasis on security therefore must not be limited force or hardware. It encompasses issues of justice, food, good health care, and environment protection, tolerance and respect for human rights. It is a total package. National security is like personal survival, is the first law among nations. National security is the precursor for national development.

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