Radicalization Syndrome: Issues and Challenges of Decriminalization Victims of Vulnerabilities in Restorative Justice

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Abstract

Radicalization syndrome are process of causing someone to adopt a measure or strategy of radical approach or issues of the regulation in decriminalization of victims of vulnerabilities in restorative justice. This aim at individual or social group who come to adopt increasingly radical views in opposition to political, social or religious status quo. Radicalization occurs across multiple reinforcing pathways as a process to support terrorism and violent extremism and in some cases the Joint terrorist groups to combat the risk of vulnerability trying to assimilate them into society. The problems of radicalization and radical ideology has become a major impediments and threats to national security challenges and a means of promoting political violence, ideological and religious extremism. Most people were vulnerable to victims of restorative justice in the society as a result of decriminalization which is the removal of criminal status from certain behaviour or action and equally reclassification of law relating to certain acts of misconduct considered as a crime. The reformatory justice system is applied retroactively reflects changing social moral views than an act is not harmful in decriminalized. Deradicalization, disarmament, restorative justice, reintegration are measures advancing to tackle the underlying problems, fueling terrorism. Deradicalization is significant in combating religion, ideology, political motivated terrorism given that the strategy not only to deconstruct and radicalize the insurgency. Nigeria radicalization and decriminalization program anchored towards countering Boko Haram which contributes dominantly to the problem of violent extremism. Therefore, the paper concludes and recommends measure that can be strengthened in the radicalization program for successful operations or performance involving procedure and methods of effectively in the restorative justice.

Keywords: *Radicalization, Decriminalization, Restorative, Justice and Vulnerabilities*

Background to the Study

The changing trends and challenges bedeviling human society are dynamic especially in contemporary security issues. Daniel (2021), argued that these forms of dialectical interpretation forces emphasize the incidence or cases of persistence clashing of opposing influences or groups laws of contradiction. This collaborate the violent extremism revolutionary change which has become a major trajectory duo known as the law of the affirmation negation or negation of affirmation resulting to negation of negation otherwise known as the thesis or anti-thesis which are the antagonistic forces, cumulating into synthesis in the radicalization syndrome and issues of decriminalization in Nigeria. This process has gained significant current among government institutions, social structures, media practitioners, scholars and security apparatus including non- para military or community policing in discourse of terrorism and violent extremisms especially the terrorist attack across the geographical regions and countries from 2015 - 2021 including September 11, 2001.

Deradicalization is an important component as it is in the national affairs of violent extremism whether at the individual or group involves a process of rejecting the status quo and often democratic ideals, adopting an extreme political, social or religious ideology and condoning violence as a means to achieving ideological goals. Radicalization is a complex phenomenon and the process of radicalization begins with changes in self-identification due to grievance, frequently driven by personal or social groups concerns regarding local issues as well as international events (Freedom, John, Gregg, Krist, 2014), (Aliku, 2019), (Hakeem, 2020), and Compbell, 2020).

Fundamentals of radicalism, radicalization and violent extremism is the interactivity of victimhood, injustice, mobilization, grievances and oppression. The framed within or against a divisive narrative linked to group identities, values and culture of creates the Manichean us and them, good and bad, tawhid (oneness of God) and stark (Polytheism) and so on. Here, ideology be it nationalism, Islamic extremism or a right-wing dogma can lead to the perception that violence is a necessity and can also serve as a justification for the act itself. Daniel (2017), maintain that the deradicalization does not have a universally accepted definition as a new addition to the mainstream political and scientific landscape, this term has many imprecise definitions.

Deradicalization programs in Nigeria were designed to reverse a process – radicalization in which a person or group engages with adopts or develops extreme view or actions. Nigeria's deradicalization programmed and techniques are instructive form especially case study for neighboring countries. Nigeria has three programmed each handling among different group of participate. OPSC deals with male fighters who have willingly surrendered – a challenge that Nigeria' neighbors are also grappling with the programmed focuses on religious ideology, political grievance and post exist trauma (Akilu, 2019, Global change, 2018, Koehler, 2019).

The global challenge of how to deal with fighters after a conflict has neither been so widely debated and relevant. In Nigeria, given this is a global issue as a case study to

dratted on operation safe corridor, deradicalization programmed. Ibrahim (2020), Boko Haram has been wreaking havoc across the north-east, south-west, south-east, South-south, North-central, geographical zones and entities, neighborhood, states and the country including local level, national and international as a whole. A multinational joint task force was put in place to fight Boko Haram. The groups violence has led to the death of several people over 50,000 people, displaced over 2.5 million and triggered a large – scale humanitarian crisis across the region.

The paper conceptualizes radicalization syndrome as the process by which an individual or social group and society transitions from passive reception of revolutionary, militant or extremist views, ideas, ideology and beliefs to active pursuit of these ideas, especially through supporting, promoting, or adopting violence to realize such intentions. This transition underlies violent extremisms or terrorism. Similarly, this further collaborate Daniel (2021) victims of vulnerabilities who are persons whether individuals or corporate entities who have suffered the negative consequence or impact of criminal actions of offenders either in the form of incurring economic, financial losses, sustaining of physical injuries, losing of life, incurring psychological trauma, emotional and physical abuse. The victim suffered major neglect and relative lack of attention in the hands of analysts, government, criminologist, media practitioners, security experts and criminal justice system and consequently among members of the society as a whole (Daniel,2021).

Consequently, issues such as offender-victim relationship, victims' rights and need, rates of victimization, vulnerability to victimization, victim compensation and victim-crime reporting behaviour have begun to be consistently and systematically examined by expertise and authority concerned.

Conceptual Analysis of Radicalization and Decriminalization
Radicalization and decriminalization emanated even before post-9/11which was used interchangeable with insurgency and is not restricted to the religious, political economic and governance (Schmid, 2013). This has increasingly become problematic across human society including security agencies, social institutions, executives, legislature and Judiciary system. Doosje (2016), Ibrahim (2020), argued that radicalization is a process through which people increasingly motivated to use violent means against members of an out-group or symbolic targets to achieve behaviour change and political goals.

European Commissions Experts Group (2006) maintain that extremism manifest itself in terrorism cited in Schmid (2013). Radicalization is a pathway to violent political action this might exist for radicalized action in response to the perceived threat from an out group through which the victimizations as a motivator. It is useful to issue through the related notions of grievance and injustice and their relationship to victimization more generally. Individual or collective victimization both as a motivator and a justification for involvement in political violence.

The movement to reduce over-prosecution and mass incarceration has focused almost exclusively on non-violent offender despite data showing that over half of all incarcerated for crimes of violence. Radicalization into violent extreme that based on a reviewed of the existing literature motivational themes- injustice, identity and belonging-appear to be prominent and consistent (Compbell,2020). The issue and the impact of feelings of grievance and victimization is explored in the deradicalization program the goal is not necessary to change the beliefs of the participants but to ensure that grievances are channeled in a constructive manner. The vicarious grievance and victimization as motivating factors, an important and related aspect that need to be mentioned here is that oppression. Radicalization according to Javier (2018) is a process through which radicalization occurs and its mobilization follows there if often a reaction by government to suppress dissent.

The concept of how opposing dyads can become locked in an escalating cycle of action and reaction. This is the cycle that starts with radicalization leading to mobilization resulting in suppression and in the victimization becomes referential. Terrorism is political action against a state and its citizens that pursues its goods through extreme violence, often on a specular or mass scale and that is generally criminalized through legislation, proscription and exclusion (Rajpurohit, 2016). One of the most important targets for police and security service operations and it has entered the public consciences as a major and perhaps permanents source of concern at work. In travel and during leisure. X – ray and security check at airports and other public place have become an accepted. Violence political conflict and its organized form as the internal opposition of political group to the state authorities has a history. Social banditry when it takes the form of redistribute political action pursued through violence criminal activities in support of their political aims and their overall political strategies and tactics are labeled as criminal by the state that they attack.

Pacification of their societies of industrializing states especially those that established liberal and democratic states especially those that established liberal and democratic structure greatly reduced the level of social banditry and institutionalized the legitimate and non-violent opposition of political parties. however, criminalized form of political violence could still erupt.

The most protracted forms of political violence have been linked with separatist and nationalist claims, as in the Irish Republican army in the United Kingdom from the late nineteenth century until the establishment of the Republic of Ireland in 1922. The IRA attracted political or military targets and saw itself as engaged in war against an imposed state, upheavals of the 1960's and saw themselves pursuing radical leftist policies through violent means because they were unable to pursue their goals through conventional political means.

Correctional Services and Radicalization
Correctional institutions where a nexus whereby radicalization was of little interest to the attacks across some states in Nigeria especially Imo State, Benin, Akwa - Ibom, Niger,

Enugu, Ebomyi, Abuja and Lagos respectfully. Central to this development was the discovery of an al-Qaeda training Manuel, seized during a 2000 police raid on a safe house in Nigeria, Manchester, England, which identified Western prisoners as candidates for conversion of Islam because they may harbor hostility towards their government (Pistole,2002). Since then, Islam has become one of the fastest growing religion among prisoners in the country especially Europe and North American (Beckford, David, and Khorokhavar, 2005; Spalek and Wilsom, 2002). Experts estimate that among those who seek faith while imprisoned astounding 80% turn to the Muslim faith (Ammar, weaver, and Saxon, 2004). They yearly number of conversions. To Islam in state and Federal correctional institutions is esteemed at 39,000 (Dix – Richard, 2002) or perhaps as many as 40,000 (Waller, 2003). Based on these since 9/11 research on this issue is sub divided into the three camps. The first claims that western Correctional service are incubators for radical Islam and terrorist ideology. Because Islam feed to pose a threat of unknown magnitude to security (Cillufo and Saathoff, 2006). The second camp claims that there is no security threat just the opposite is true. Islam is thought to hate a moderating effect on inmates that plays a crucial role in their rehabilitation (Ammar, 2004, Spalek and El-Hassan, 2007).

According to Zolls (2005), nationwide investigation of radicalization, administrators insists that there is no evidence of terrorist recruitment by nuanced approach, arguing that radicalization occur only under specific conditions. According to a landmark survey of prisons conducted by the FBI these conditions are most cases of prisoner radicalization involves domestic extremists with few or no foreign connections. Some radicalized Islamic gang. Currently revealed numbers of the gangs, indicating an emerging crossover from gang members to Islamic extremists. Radicalization activity appears to be higher in density populated areas on the West Coast and in the North East and charismatic leadership may be the simple most important contributing factor to radicalization (Van-Duyn,2006; Trout, 2007). Criminologists have independently confirmed several of those findings. Beginning with the discovery of a crossover between prison gangs and Islamic extremism. Problems of radicalization and increase in Islamic movement is alarming adding the threats and challenges pose in the nations as a whole. The findings are also consistent with the study (Hamm,2009) which discovered a pattern of radicalization among gang members and security.

Radicalization and Terrorism
Relationship between radicalization and terrorism is faced with two research puzzles. The relates to the criminological implications of radicalization. The process by which prisoners adapt extreme views including beliefs that violent measures must be taken for political or religious purpose. (Webb, 2010).

Radicalization terrorism is best conceptualized in terms of the theoretical perspective most attuned to temporary ordering: the life- course perspective concentrate on the criminal changing personal choices and life experiences over time, and seeks to uncover trajectories or turning points which from critical periods in the process of violent

development. Radicalization is concerned as one of what may have occurred both before and after imprisonment in the developmental process leading to terrorism. FBI's (2001) definition of terrorism defines the crime as a violent act or act dangerous to human life in violation of the criminal law to intimate or coerce a government, the civilian population or any segment thereof in the furtherance of political or social objectives. The database is concerned only with the case where offenders where radicalized and subsequently involved in either executed or attempted acts of terrorism upon release Brand on (2009) observes many modern Islamic terrorist movements in these parts of the world have been dominated and led by individuals who were radicalized. Such a limitation has the dual effect of significantly under reporting incidents of radicalization and terrorism.

Restorative Justice
Restorative justice is an approach to justice that seeks to repair harm by providing an opportunity for those harmed and these who take responsibly for the harm to communicate about and address their needs in the aftermath of a crime (UN, 2020). Restorative justice is a theory of justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior. Restorative trustee relies upon mediation; negotiation, dialogue and compromise to build a consensus within a community (UN, 2018). The 206 resolutions to the CCPC on restorative Justice in criminal matters is significant because it takes not of the United Nations Declaration on the rights of indigenous persons and supported the convening of experts on restorative justice. The UN experts restorative Justice emphasized the relevance of restorative Justice in terms of improving access to justice, including for vulnerably and marginalized population and societies in transition. Restorative Justice is system of criminal Justice which focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at large.

Restorative justice intervention is necessary but not sufficient to bring about safer and more peaceful comities. Restoration justice have been implemented in a range of organizational and community (Brathwhite, 2002) O'Brien and Bazemore, 2004) Based on hundreds of studies including a number of randomized experiments, restorative approaches have achieved the status of an evidence – based practice (Sherman and Strange, 2005, Bonta, Rugge, Scott, Bourgon and Yessme, 2008).

Restorative justice goes beyond the understanding of crime and criminality in the society. It sees how the society thinks about crime and at the time responds to the crime thereby restoring balance to the society. Restorative justice also sometimes called "reparative justice". Is an approach to justice that focuses on the needs of victims, offenders, as well as the involved community instead of satisfying legal principles or punishing the offender? Victims take an active role in the process while offenders are encouraged to take responsibility for their action to repair the harm, they have done by apologizing, returning stolen money, or community service.

Restorative justice connotes process whereby victim offenders and communities are collectively involved in resolving how to deal with the aftermath of an offence and its

implications for the future. Therefore, crime is a three – part definition; first as an act punishable by law second as an act forbidden by statute and third an act injurious to the public welfare crime is generally defined as a wrong against the state. Criminal justice system envisages at least 3 components: the law enforcement; Judicial process and reformatory institutions. It is defined as the collective institution through which the accused offender passes until the accusation have been disposed of or the assed punishment concluded.

Restorative justice process

Generally, there are process and dimension of restorative justice within a criminal justice system in Nigeria aim at restoring successful justice in the society thus:

a. **The police:** This is often seen as the pre-charge level where a particular issues or case is brought before the police. the police can actively recommend or take part in the restorative justice.

b. **Prosecution**: This occur when malla has been sent to the office of the prosecution, legal advice has been given and there is need for the matter to be prosecuted in a court of land and the matter is to be brought before the court or before the trail. The prosecution can institute restoration justice system mechanisms. In Nigeria, this process often comes in form of plea bargain or other negotiation process.

c. **Court**: This process occurs during the pretrial or sentencing stages. Court often encouraged the parties to explore or initiate the restorative Justice by encouraging the parties to peacefully resolve issue.

d. **Correctional** Institutions: The restorative justice process occurs as an alternative to incarceration, as part of or in addition to a non-custodial sentence, during incarceration, or upon release from the correctional institution such form of correction process includes community service, boastal training institutions for Juvenile. Section 460 of the administration of justice Act allows a court in correcting the convict to be sentenced to perform specified community service; in his community or any place the court deems fit to be appropriate.

Table 1: Radicalization characteristics involved terrorism N=2798

Involvement in Terrorism - Extremism Group	Number of People	Percentage
Islam	138	4.7%
Islamic Boko Haram Extremist Jihadist	1337	47.8%
Fundamental Violent Set	4	0.1%
Techniques Strategy Involvement	17	0.6%
Correctional Service Victims	69	2.4%
Christian Involved in Violent Extremism	6	0.2%
Number of Vulnerable Victims	11	0.4%
No Conversion	51	1.8%
Other people Arrested in Terrorist Set	123	4.4%
Under 20 Year below	57	2.0%
20-24	82	2.7%
25-29	94	3.4%
30-34	388	13.8%
Unknown Identified age group	401	14.3%
Not applicable	20	0.7%
Total	**2798**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, Extremism 2019-2021, Nigeria

Table 2: Selected States on Extremism and Decriminalization

Some Selected States Characterize with Anti-Social Behaviour, Terrorism, Extremism Challenges and Decriminalization	Statistics Data of State in Decriminalization.	Percentages
Borno	783	14.7%
Adamawa	629	11.8%
Katsina	342	6.4%
Niger	379	7.1%
Yobe	576	10.7%
Abuja	52	0.9%
Kaduna	497	9.2%
Jos	278	5.2%
Benue	127	2.3%
Kogi	241	4.5%
Taraba	215	4.0%
Ekiti	192	3.5%
Nasarawa	98	1.8%
Imo	93	1.6%
River	107	2%
Ebonyi	74	1.3%
Delta	96	1.7%
Lagos	109	2%
Kano	227	4.2%
Osun	72	1.3%
Anambra	127	2.2%
Bayelsa	41	0.7
Zafara	52	0.9%
Total	**5298**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, State Challenges2019-2021, Nigeria

The tables above revealed that the 47.8%, and 4.9% involves in Islamic jihadist, extremism and Islam radicalization among different sets. This process is in conversions to religions ideologies of intolerance violence extremism. While, various interpretation of the respondent was of the view that some Islamic group where responsible for mayhem and major impediments in terrorist activities in the country and across various states both internal, external, local, national and destabilizes human society in general. However, a significant number of Christian were identified responsible for violent extremism. This represent 0.2% were engaged in an act of terrorism. The terrible and vulnerable age categories that engaged in extremism criminality and radical ideological approaches were between 30-34 years represents 389(13.9) and unknown identified age group were 402(14). It is also revealed that some states in Nigeria had several battles on incidences of counter-terrorism, extremism and have had negative nightmare experienced. This represents 14.7%,11.8% and10.7%. While, some states experiences law rate of dehumanized incident ranging from 0.7%,0.9%,1,8% and2% respectfully.

The consistence and persistence plights and impediments include various insecurity in the state, insurgency and double jeopardy, sorrowful as well as loss of hundreds and thousands of lives and destruction of properties. The phenomenon radicalization and decriminalization of victims of restorative justice to the radical ideologies supporting insurgency despite the national insecurity woes. This was further collaborated Campbell (2020), Ibrahim (2020) deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration of repentant insurgent.

Conclusion and Recommendation
Radicalization turns on a matter of logical process directly or indirect used interchangeable with insurgency and is not restricted to the political, religion or ideological set. Criminologist and security experts including law enforcement agencies have identified no threat work measures from a deductive and proactive model by estimating the prevalence of radicalization within the general population. Deradicalization syndrome and decriminalization process constitutes a part of Boko Haram and separatist group which have not received attention in a given society (Aliku,2019).

Given the limitation and challenges in the deradicalization and reintegration process that undermine national threats and hindered development. Criminologist, experts and perhaps government should safeguard the program of deradicalization and apply adequate methods to sustain who do recognize a threat work from a deductive implication focusing on actual incident of radicalization and decriminalization. Radical ideological framework and religion violence directly or indirectly causes increasingly in terrorism and mayhem in the society due to inhuman treatment among the set. The study recommends that there should be an improvement in internal and external security collaboration and control measures to curb the rate of young men as foot soldier or Boko Haram attacks and other separatist groups seemingly gaining in strength engaging all manner of malady. Government and other actors or players should provide employment

opportunity to minimize threats and social ills across the regional system, states and international levels as well as to prevent and control weak structural system in order not to contributes to make people vulnerable to radicalization. Itinerant preachers capitalize on a situation by preaching an extreme religion and political and conveying narrative of the government nepotism, corruption and failure of social system. There is need for adequate strategies to address the ugly impediment bedeviling the society and to find some positive ways to prevent further escalation. Member of the community should be reintegrated and seriously engage in the deradicalization process in combatting victims of vulnerabilities and enhanced restorative justice.

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