

Science Education as a Tool for Combating Insecurity in the Country

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Abstract

This paper examines combating insecurity in the country. It conceptualizes insecurity as the worthlessness of life and property because of its unsafe and unprotected nature which creates panic in the lives of the people. Insecurity is a state of being subject to danger or injury. It is also a condition of anxiety one expresses when one feels vulnerable to harm and danger. The nation is faced with problem of insecurities ranging from drug trafficking, crimes, poor management of the national economy to unemployment which is the other of the day. Kidnapping and other corrupt practices are not left out. Several strategies to combat the insecurity have been put in place yet nothing has changed for good. This paper discusses science education as a tool for combating insecurity in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Science Education, Insecurity, Unemployment.*

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Background to the Study

Security have been recognised as the primary condition for progress and development in any nation. Okene (2011), sees security of a nation as the ability of that nation to protect and develop herself, promote her cherished interest; legitimate values and enhance the standard of living and the wellbeing of her citizens. However recent happenings in the country have shown several degrees of insecurities that threatens the growth and development of the country. The insecurities include the increased killings, violence, and armed robbery. Eme (2011) listed some of the insecurities as: urbanization process, poverty, electoral frauds, and poor management of the country's economy, bad roads and state of our health institutions. The effect of all these insecurities is that intellectuals drift to other more peaceful and secure countries leaving our dear country in a condition called 'brain drain'. Unfortunately, several efforts have been made by the national security agencies to provide effective and enduring security mechanisms, yet nothing has changed.

According to Farlex (2013), insecurity is the ability of not being sure, certain or doubtful of a situation. That is when one feels unguarded or inadequately safe. Okenyodo (2016, maintains that the insecurities in the country now requires all to pay attention especially in the areas of scientific transformation through the acquisition of scientific knowledge via indirect or direct teaching and learning of science education.

Conceptual Definition

It is important to explain the meaning of the keywords in this work to enhance clearer understanding of the discussions.

Science Education

Any nation that seeks to overcome the insecurity problems must ensure the development of science education as it is the application of scientific principles to solving the problems emanating in the country through education. Science education involves research and dissemination of new knowledge which is also concerned with the mental process in reasoning and problem solving. Olagunju (2014), having seen science education as a systematic study of anything that can be examined, tested and verified, went further to add that science education is important as it affords a country the opportunity to explore and detect areas that need to be worked on; as the insecurity areas are not left out.

Insecurity

Insecurity in the form of breach of peace and security is a big menace in the country these recent times. Paskins in Radda (2013), stated that insecurity is a disvalue, a bad thing, one among a number of evils to which we are unavoidably exposed to. It is the state of being unsafe or insecure and a state of mind characterised by self doubt and vulnerability. While security is a guarantee and protection for vulnerable beings to exist; insecurity on the other hand is the lack of such protection. Instell (2015), observes the insecurity of the country to be in this order; insurgency in the north, ritual killings in the west, kidnappings in the east, militancy in the south-south and political and non-political assassinations all over the country. The above scenario has been a thing of concern to equip the citizens in social

transformations, growth, sustainable development and being security conscious at all times through science education. Insecurity can also be in these forms as Eme (2012), stated;

1. Population displacement
2. Rape and child abuse
3. Atmosphere of political insecurity and instability
4. Social tensions and new pattern of settlement
5. Governance deficit as a result of security agencies' inefficiency and corruption.

Armed robbers are not left out as they have taken over most part of the country. Nwadiolor (2010), observed that about 40% of Nigerians who are mostly youths are not employed which also contribute to the nations insecurities as they engage in some of the social vices if not all.

Relationship between Science Education and Insecurity

Science Education broadens ones knowledge and understanding of the happenings in life; this implies that without science education, there may be no adequate security. Generally speaking insecurity is the opposite of security. Hassan (2014), explains security as the defence, protection and prevention of core values and absence of threats to the set and acquired values and security can be achieved to a greater extent through the knowledge of science education. Insecurity according to Alegre (2009), is a feeling of general unease or nervousness that may be triggered by perceiving of oneself to be vulnerable or inferior in some way or a sense of vulnerability or instability which threatens oneself, image or ego.

According to Dembo and Mustapha (2011), insecurity is caused by three factors namely; Illiteracy, Unemployment and Disregard of traditional security measures. As Science Education is concerned with finding answers and solutions to problems and understanding of the happenings around us and the world atlarge, (Eze and Akubue, 2007) pointed out reasons for acquisition of science skills through science education for the production of much needed manpower for the national development of individual potentials, essence of discovery, development of rational thought, explaining of natural phenomena and general scientific literacy. Moreover, science education being education through the study of science has been recognised in the world over as a prerequisite for scientific development, it provides opportunities for students on acquire relevant functional knowledge and skills needed for advancement in science; and are encouraged to life by providing information on the topical issues in the country and proffering solution which are aimed at combating insecurities.

Science education also provides economic benefits by increasing the productive capacity of its people (Onyishi, 2007). It can therefore be concluded that science education can effectively combat insecurity in the country which is based on the fact that science education is the vehicle for scientific development of the country which will culminate to improved security of lives and properties. Science education also creates self employment opportunities through the various skills provided at various degrees as when one is busy doing one kind of job or the other, the rate of crimes and criminality will drastically reduce and subsequently eradicated thereby getting rid of most insecurity.

Science Education as a Tool for Combating Insecurity in the Country

Many of the developed nations in the world were able to achieve so much in the areas of security through science education (Aina, 2013). More so, science education is a tool for social transformation and combating insecurity. It breeds the best brains, builds the best workforce, develops the best social beings and ensures formidable teams of leaders and followers in any nation (Uyanga, 2016). Man's adaptation and survival in an environment depends on his degree of scientific knowledge and skill acquisition through the learning of science education whether formally or informally. Furthermore, science education involves the inculcation of scientific literacy that enables the citizens of a nation to utilize the physical resources they have to improve the standard and quality of life. It also enables the citizens to meet up with the basic necessities of life such as food, shelter and health. It also promotes security and industrialization, frees the citizens from fears of superstition while promoting law and order in the society which helps in combating insecurity (Uyanga, 2016). Science education can help combat insecurity through the following mean:

1. Addressing various misconceptions about life
2. Assisting the citizens to broaden their knowledge and understanding of life
3. Regional scientific cooperation
4. Exhibition
5. Awareness creation

Addressing various misconceptions about life

Science related knowledge and scientific literacy provide essential tools for surviving in the news jungle and for responsible citizenship. It teaches and clears every doubt and addresses the misconceptions people have about various facets of life in the country such as this notion "one who is educated must have a white collar job". Science education has addressed that notion by training and educating the citizens of a country to be self reliant and understanding our own actions to review them critically and take care of our rights. This is why science education is important in combating insecurity in the country as almost the citizens are busy working and doing all sorts of legitimate things to make life worth living and with this there will be no room for any form of insecurity.

Assisting the citizens to broaden their knowledge and understanding of life

Science education holds the key to the progress and development of a country. It plays a fundamental role in wealth creation, improvement of the quality of life, real economic growth and transformation. The scientific skills and knowledge through science education helps in moulding the character of the citizens from cradle. This scientific knowledge are imparted in the citizens in a way it is easily understandable so as to promote peace and combat insecurity in the country at any given time.

Regional Scientific Cooperation: As a scientist, science educators are always open to share ideas and discuss on the way forward of a country and inline to combating insecurity. Science educators from different regions in the country comes together to assist each other towards bringing out innovations and ideas from each other. Thus educating the citizens on the current security situation of the country and how best to combat insecurity.

Exhibition

This another means by which science education is used to combat insecurity in the country: Science educators normally showcase what they have in the laboratories and workshops, also what they have locally produced like liquid soaps, models of various objects and equipment that one can use to be self reliant in a country where the employment rate is daily on the increase so as to keep the citizens busy so they will not think of engaging in any ill act. All these sends vital information that help to combat insecurity in the country. Some of the materials are also sold at a reduced price in order to ensure that most citizens can afford them to avoid stealing.

Seminars and Workshops

The stakeholders in science education usually organise seminars and workshops for the masses in order to educate them on the need to shun bad practices and embrace harmony through various means like audio means, visual means, or audio visual means and physical interactions in most cases. The seminars and workshops are usually classified according to the age level of the citizens, adults are educated on the need to shun bad practices ranging from crimes, killings, kidnappings and the likes so that the peaceful atmosphere we yearn for will be achieved. Youths are educated on the need to shun every unruly behaviours and social vices ranging from drug abuse to smoking various weeds which can make the person to see war and violence as nothing instead they should involve themselves in what brings peace in the country while children are advised to always obey their parents and elders so they will have a brighter future full of peace and harmony which in turn will help to combat insecurity in the country both now and in the future.

Awareness Creation

Science educators often create awareness on the need for citizens to embrace peace and shun the social vices that lead to insecurity in the country. They do so through orientation and outreach, educating the citizens on the need to always study science education to enable them know the current security situation of the country and at same time expose them to the wide variety of moral and ethical science education materials that will transform their character, thereby helping to combat insecurity in the country.

Conclusion

Science education and science educators should be seen as an important tool to combat insecurity in the country. To combat security, all strategies are employed by the country to protect the citizens from all kinds of threats. Science education is seen as a tool to combat insecurity as the various skills and knowledge that will help promote good morals in the citizens are all embedded in it. Most of all it creates avenue for self employment to keep the citizens busy so they will not involve in acts that poses threat to the country thereby causing insecurities of all forms. While appreciating government efforts, all hands must be on deck to combat insecurity so that we have a better country. A secured environment gives rise to human development especially in the area of science making the environment habitable for the citizens. Government should pay more attention to educational activities by adequately funding educational sector as well as in science education so as to have sound scientific

materials that will enable the users have a positive mindset about the country through the acquisition of scientific knowledge from those materials and at same time help promote peace and harmony in the country and subsequently combat insecurity.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are put forward in order to achieve peace and combat insecurity in the country through science education:

1. Training and retraining of science educators should be a continuous process so as to equip them with up-to-date knowledge required to tackle corruption, indiscipline, violence and war in the country.
2. Science laboratories and other scientific equipment, facilities and infrastructure needed for effective teaching and acquisition of scientific skills through science education should be adequately provided for easy promotion of peace and combating insecurity in the country through various scientific means.
3. As Aina (2012), Ejidike and Oyelana (2015), identified inadequate funding as one of the challenges that hinders science education to promote peace and combat insecurity; solutions to lack of fund should be proffered. Government should adequately fund science education in order to have an everlasting strategy in combating insecurity in the country.
4. The establishment of science laboratories should be encouraged at all levels of education. This will enable early exposure of young citizens to healthy situations and best ways to embrace peace in the country and shun social vices like stealing and prostituting as scientific skills help one to be self-employed at various aspects of life.
5. Revisiting of science education curriculum at all levels in the country to make sure the various entrepreneurial skills for acquisition are included which aims at building a self-reliant citizens to reduce unemployment and make sure the appropriate skills and knowledge are directly emphasized on the exact bearers on everyday life activities.
6. Skill acquisition centres should be well fixed. Good roads and street lights should be encouraged.
7. Science education must be encouraged because the knowledge, skills and rational thinking it offers goes a long way to produce better individuals with better understanding and ideas. Science education in general should be made compulsory at certain levels of education so that every citizen will have an idea of what science education is all about especially in the aspect of combating insecurity.

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