



Research Article

Volume-02|Issue-08|2021

Minimising the Spate of Insecurity in Nigeria: The Social Studies Perspective

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Article History

Received: 07.08.2021

Accepted: 20.08.2021

Published: 27.08.2021

Citation

Mofoluwawo, E. O. (2021). Minimising the Spate of Insecurity in Nigeria: The Social Studies Perspective. *Indiana Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2(8), 56-64.

Abstract: *The need for security was the basis of the social contract between the citizens and the state, Security should be a fundamental right and entitlement of every citizen in which people willingly surrendered their rights to the government who oversees the survival of all. Insecurity is the order of the day in Nigeria of today and it's even the talk of the town. Insecurity is one of the major setbacks to development in any nation. Nigeria nation at sixty (60) has witnessed and still witnessing unprecedented level of insecurity. This study examined how Nigerian government can minimize the spate of insecurity and how Social Studies education can be used in ensuring security. This study was guided by four research questions. A total of 150 subjects comprising of male and female teachers drawn from five local government areas of Ogbomoso metropolis in Oyo State. The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics of mean and rank. The study revealed that ethical degeneration and moral depravity breed insecurity, corruption of leadership and followership is a fuel to insecurity. The study also revealed that the existence of porous borders in Nigeria made the country accessible to various criminal activities. It further revealed that Social Studies education was conceived in Nigerian schools to create path to peace, and harmony through inter-ethnic interactions, good governance and stability. The following recommendations are made among others: rising poverty and unemployment indices be reversed, consolidation of democracy through rule of law, public accountability and good governance, Nigerian values and moral education should be re-discovered and re-inculcated formally and informally.*

Keywords: *Security, Insecurity, Development, good governance and Social Studies education.*

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INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian state is today confronted with myriad of insecurity challenges such as the menace of political corruption, armed robbery, kidnapping, ethno-religious violence, Boko Haram insurgency, violence, Fulani herdsmen-farmers conflict just to mention a few (Alemika, 2015). Violence, conflict, natural disasters, has sent and is today still sending hundreds of people to early graves. Millions have also been made refugees outside their nations or displaced from their homes. Properties (private and public) and infrastructure worth trillions of naira have been destroyed, while huge amount of money that would have gone into human welfare and national development have been directed into wars, conflict management, combating violent crimes and managing natural disasters such as flood, (forest) fire, and so on (Nwolise, 2014).

It is a fact that all human beings and nations need security to develop and become great. Without security, development will be a mirage as all development efforts will come to naught. Right from the Hobbesian state of nature where life was nasty, solitary, brutish, human beings had apprehended the necessity to build a society where they would yield their right to life, liberty and property to a leviathan which is to protect them from tearing each other apart in the process of realization of their rights (Oyebode, 2009). The above assertion proved that security has become

the corner stone of governance in modern society. Even the more attractive idea of Locke, suggesting the setting up a civil society based on a social contract of limited, constitutional government which would guarantee what Americans later describe as the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness was also founded on the security of society's members. Consequently, security has become the touchstone of governance in modern society. Where and when there is no safety of life or limb, there cannot be any improvement in the essential conditions of the populace (Ogunyemi, 2009). Security is therefore, a pre-requisite to societal development. Nigeria is blessed with abundant human and material resources but is very much behind the expected level of developing (Mofoluwawo, 2016).

Insecurity affects human beings and is powered by corruption and poverty of the leadership and followers (Adoyi, 2014). The inability of this democratic dispensation to fulfill their set agenda as for improving the quality of lives of Nigerians meant there was nothing to distinguish them from military regime and it as well enhances insecurity (Adoye, 2014). The insecurity challenge has assumed formidable dimensions forcing the country's political and economic managers and the entire nation to regret the loss of their loved ones, investments and absence of safety in most parts of the country. The number of violent crimes such as kidnappings, ritual killings, carjacking, suicide bombings, ethno-religious killings, politically-

motivated killing and violence, ethnic clashes, armed banditry and others has increasingly become the regular signature that characterizes life in Nigeria since 2009 (Imhonorop & Urim, 2012). Nigerian government past and present have tried available means of tackling the problem of insecurity but the problem seems to rise with greater monstrosity like the proverbial phoenix (Onifade, et al., 2013). The problem of insecurity according to Onifade et al. (2013) has defied the present medication. This may not be unconnected with the increasing ethnic hatred, religious bigotry, political rivalry and a growing population of dissatisfied citizens in the country who feel that they have been short-changed and given very limited or no access to the common patrimony.

In his own observation, Egwu (2001) had argued that the primordial tendencies of various ethnic groups towards violence, the perennial eruption of various ethnic militias and the preponderant religious fundamentalism in place, given expression to by some sections of the dominant religious establishments in Nigeria, have inevitably aggravated the scale and propensity of insecurity and widened its scope in various ramifications. This study was helped by the scholarly work of Ujomu (2011) who opines that moral foundation of national security was all the more significant because the trend of events in the history of military and economic growth in Nigeria especially under military regimes of Babangida and Abacha pointed to a familiar pattern of ethical degeneration and moral depravity which led to the systematic and institutionalized erosion of personal and collective peace, safety, stability and harmony within the Nigerian society.

Ajiboye et al. (2005) argued that one of the objectives of Social Studies is to develop in citizens positive values and attitude of honesty, hardwork, fairness, integrity, tolerance, justice and so on which can enrich ethical life of an individual in Nigeria. The development of the above virtues in the life of every Nigerian will go a long way in re-awakening of moral values and virtues in the country and can thus minimize the abnormal development of insecurity in Nigeria. Against this background, the paper examines the conceptual clarification of security, insecurity, causes of insecurity in Nigeria, the implications and challenge of insecurity in Nigeria as well the possible ways out and the perspective of Social Studies in minimizing the state of insecurity in Nigeria.

Conceptual Discourse Security

Security means safety. In everyday usage, security means the state of being or feeling secure or safe. Imobighe (1998) conceptualized security from the angle of militarism – the ability of the state to defend itself from military aggression. The collapse of Soviet Union (a super power) in 1991 without war and the humiliation of the United States by a handful of

unarmed, angry Arab youths in 2001 change the concept and practice of security. People returned to McNamara's (1968) view as opined by Nwoli (2014):

In a modernizing society, security means development. Security is not military hardware, though it may include it; security is not traditional military activity, though it may encompass it. Security is development and without development, there can be no security.

Today, security concept has expanded horizontally and vertically. Horizontally, security now covers economic, political, environmental, military, social, legal, physical, spiritual and other dimensions with emphasis on human security. Vertically, it now covers individual's social groups, states and humanity. Nweze (2004) defines security as the presentation, protection and guarantee of safety of life, property, wealth of the citizenry and measures to guard against threat of the national security. Ibidapo-Obe, (2008) describes security as the existence of conditions within which individuals in a society can go about their normal daily activities without any form of threat to lives and properties. Omede (2012) considers security as a dynamic situation that includes the capacity of the state/country to ward off any threats to its deep rooted values and interests. Onifade et al. (2013); Achumba et al. (2013) view security as the condition that is present as a result of putting in place ways for the protection of persons, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions.

Insecurity

Insecurity according to Achumba et al. (2013) is the opposite or the antithesis of security and has attracted such descriptions as danger, want of safety, hazard, uncertainty, want of confidence, state of doubt, instability, trouble, lack of protection and being unsaved and others. Insecurity means the state of being exposed to attacks. It is a state of anxiety and palpable fear. The insecurity situation in this present democratic dispensation has intensified since the 2009 attack by Boko Haram in Bauchi state. Insecurity can make one to lose confidence, be afraid, oppressed, unsaved, lose focus, and be devastated and lose one's humanness.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Security is vital for national cohesion, peace, and sustainable development. Insecurity is one of the major setbacks to any nation development. Matter of safety and security are topical issues in today's Nigeria. Life has always been precarious in Nigeria; the country is subject to all manners of dangers. Security and insecurity are two sides of the same coin which has been misrepresented in Nigeria. Security is human and structural. The need for security was the basis of the social contract between the citizens and the state. The cost of insecurity is quite high both for individual Nigerians as well as the nation. It stunts personal development and interfere with his or her ability to

develop his or her potentials. The mind and energy of the average Nigerian is consumed with issues of safety and security to the extent that he or she has little energy to contribute to Nigerian's development. Nigerians need a polity that is stable, peaceful and safe enough from criminal assaults, murder, chaos, tyranny and breakdown of authority so that the populace can face issues of development with vigor and courage.

In the light of the above, the following research questions are germane for this study:

- To what extent has insecurity constitute a problem in Nigeria?
- In what ways has the nature of governance, disintegration of communal values, ethnic/religious intolerance, porous borders and many more affects, security of lives in Nigerians?
- How can Social Studies education help minimizing the spate of insecurity in Nigeria?
- What are the possible ways of minimizing the spate of insecurity in Nigeria?

Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria and its Implications

Existing literature on insecurity in Nigeria have traced the causes to a number of factors which are in twofold: remote and immediate causes. The remote causes are as follows:

Lack of Good Governance: Many scholars have linked security of any nation to good governance system. The reason is because peace and security is determined by good governance. Good governance is the panacea for insecurity challenges bedeviling Nigeria. The only way through which war against insecurity can be won is by forming the culture of good governance where the government will be responsible, accountable and transparent to the governed. Good governance is a function of visionary, transparent, trustworthy and credible political leadership whose driving force is an improvement in the collective well-being of the citizens through well- conceived implemented economic politics and human development programmes (Oluwarotimi, 2012).

Loss of Socio-Cultural and Communal Value System: The disintegration of communal value system which place high premium on human life and despised greed. Oppression and exploitation of the weak among others has also contributed to the unpleasant security environment in the country. New value systems that are zero-sum, paternalistic, chauvinistic and corrupt in nature that preaches that might-is-right have all taken over. Endearing social values and morals have been traded off for western values (Onifade et al., 2013). The Nigerians traditional society has some ethos and values that provided and sustained security among citizenry. Values like honesty, respect for constituted authority, hardwork, integrity, hospitality, respect for elders etc. All these values in those days made it impossible for

insecurity to thrive. Nowadays, these cherished values have eroded by modernization, westernization and globalization. Vices like criminality, materialism, dishonesty, get-rich-quick syndrome, kidnapping and other vices have replaced what held traditional society safe and secured.

Poor Security System: The security system in Nigeria according to Ozoigbo (2019) is very weak both in personnel and equipment. The security personnel are poorly equipped, trained and remunerated. This prevented them (security personnel) to meet the security challenges of modern time. Facts abound that many of the soldiers fighting the insurgency in the northeast of the country have on some occasions been ambushed and many killed by the Boko Haram fighters due to information leaked to them by those who supposed to fight them. On many occasion, money meant for the procurement of weapons have been embezzled and misappropriated by some of Nigerian security personnel bosses without adequate investigation or punishment.

Ethnic/Religious Intolerance

Nigeria is a multi-ethnic and religious country. Unfortunately, these diverse ethnic and religious groups did not see themselves as one entity. They thus failed to tolerate one another. These diverse groups upheld ethnic bigotry and religious fanaticism which facilitated insecurity in the country. The adherents of the two major religions in Nigeria never see themselves as one and creations of the same God. Hence they resulted to mass killing of one another at the slightest provocation. Adagba et al. (2012) even reiterate that almost all violent crises in Nigeria are rooted in this ethnic/religious intolerance factor. Ethno-religious intolerance that usually transcend into conflicts have become disintegrative and destructive social element threatening the peace, stability and security in Nigeria (Eme and Onyishi, 2011).

Breakdown of Institutional Infrastructures

The foundations of institutional framework in Nigeria are faulty and shaky and this have provoked a deterioration of state governance and democratic accountability, thereby paralyzing the existing formal and legitimate rules nested in the hierarchy of social order (Igbuzor, 2011; Achumba et al., 2013). The state of insecurity in Nigeria is a function of governance failure. This manifests in the incapacity of government to deliver public goods to its citizens. A vivid example of this is what happened in October, 2020 during this just concluded end-Sars protests by the Nigerian youths where the thugs mixed up with the youths to vandalize the stores in different states of the federation and went away with so many food items. The governors supposed to have given the vandalized food items to the masses as palliatives to cushion the effects of COVID 19 pandemic. The lack of basic necessities by the Nigerian people has created a growing army of frustrated people who resorted to violence at the slighted provocation or

opportunity. Hazen & Horner (2007) in their own view concluded that Nigeria is a “paradox of plenty” where despite there are plenty resources to provide for the needs of the people, but the culture of corruption in public service has resulted in the dearth of basic necessities.

Immediate Causes of Insecurity include the following:

One of the immediate causes or challenges of insecurity in Nigeria according to Langumba (2010) is free movement of deadly weapons and ease of acquisition of these weapons by unscrupulous individuals and militant groups in the country as well as neighbouring nations. This development portends grave security consequences to Nigeria and West African nations far greater from the HIV/AIDS scourge. On account of high demand for deadly weapons, Nigeria became a dumping ground for surplus weapons from developed nations cutting down their stock of arms and ammunitions (Edeko, 2011).

Coupled with the above is the sophistication and firepower of militant groups, armed robbers and Boko Haram in Nigeria. The better trained criminals and militants often overpower Nigerian security operatives. They bombed police headquarters, military cantonments and high profile security posts. There are instances where weapons in the control of the police and military officers are stolen by armed groups during attacks on their military/police outposts. There are cases according to Naagbantou (2005) where armed groups carry out a well-coordinated attack and kill Nigerian security officials in Niger-Delta region and other locations.

Unemployment/Poverty

Adagba et al. (2012) opine that high rate of unemployment for the teeming population of Nigerian graduate (mostly youths) and poverty among Nigerians are adversely attracting them to violent crimes. The failure of successive government in Nigeria to address the challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities is one of the major causes of insecurity in Nigeria (Nwagbosa, 2012; Akanni, 2015). The above causes corroborated the proverb that ‘an idle hand is the devil’s workshop’.

Another challenges facing national security in Nigeria is **porous border posts**, Nigeria border is so porous that it is easy for terrorists, human traffickers and drug barons to infiltrate the country and perpetrate heinous crimes and acts of terrorism. The above statement attests to the burning question ‘where does Boko Haram, MEND, kidnappers, armed robbers get their stock of arms and ammunitions? Nigerian custom service during routine surveillance according to Onuoha (2006) had intercepted large consignment of arms and ammunition worth over N4.3 billion (US \$30

million) at border posts. This seizure confirms the potency of the illegal trafficking of arms by bad boys for perpetrating violence and renders the country insecure. Nigeria is estimated to host over 70 percent of 8 million illegal weapons in West Africa (Edeko, 2011). The porous nature of Nigerian borders has enabled non documented migrants from neighbouring countries like Chad, Niger, Benin, Mali and Niamey to invade Nigeria with their criminal tendencies (Adeola & Oluyemi, 2012). Influx of these unwarranted migrants will still be worsen now that the present administration is constructing railway line from Katsina state to Niger.

The Social Studies Perspective

Social Studies emerged as school programmes across the globe in response to the challenge of building the capacity of citizens to contribute meaningfully towards solving personal and societal problems. Yusuf et al. (2010) reiterate that Social Studies was conceived to not only come at the drift experienced in the Nigerian society but to create a path to peace and harmony through inter-ethnic interaction, good governance, stability and economic progress. Social Studies is society bound. Its curriculum reflects the problems, yearning and aspiration of a given society. Osakwe (2009) agreed that the very nature and content of Social Studies made it a veritable instrument for developing a new socio-political order. Social Studies curriculum is to make children develop a sense of comprehension towards other people, their diverse cultures, history and those fundamental things that make them humans. Similarly the Social Studies curriculum is designed to develop every child’s capacity to recognize the many dimensions of being human in different cultural and social contexts, and develop a sense of solidarity and sharing based on a sense of security in one’s own identity (NERDC, 2007).

The Social Studies curriculum of Nigeria takes into consideration the peculiar problems of the country among which are insecurity which has become an issue of national concern irrespective of cultural background. Others are corruption, kidnapping, rape, advanced fee fraud and many others (Jekayinfa, 2014). In order to produce citizens that will promote national development, there are attitudes and values which are considered desirable that a good citizen should possess. These include cooperation, comradeship, honesty, togetherness, integrity, hardwork, equity and fairness. These were stated in the National Aims of Education and could be achieved through the teaching of Social Studies. Social Studies have therefore been identified as a veritable tool for social reforms and economic transformation through character moulding and developing of the mind without which no economic transformation can take place. Social Studies have the potency to rescue Nigeria from the prevailing economic situation due to the fast erosion of values and of consciences in the ways of life of most Nigerians.

The potential of Social Studies are yet to be fully explored and exploited in Nigeria's quest for a desirable socio-political and socio-economic order. The link between security and Social Studies education would seem to lie in teaching all of us that security should go beyond law and order by encompassing meaningful existence for the generality of the populace (Oyebode, 2009). Nigeria may not be able to achieve significant socio-economic transformation without giving serious attention to the teaching of values in Social Studies (Iyamu, 2014).

Impact of the Spate of Insecurity in Nigeria

The under listed are a checklist of the impact of the spate of insecurity in Nigeria.

Underdevelopment

It is a fact that development thrives in a secure and serene environment. So also does under development thrives in an unsecure and conflicting environment. The sure bait to insecurity as opines by Ozoigbo (2019) is under development. For people to invest in developmental projects, they must be certain of at least relative stability and guarantee of safety. Insecurity and underdevelopment are like mother and child for they are inseparable.

Poverty and Hunger

Insecurity of life always breeds social dislocation and population displacement. When people out of threat, fear to life and actual killing cannot go to their farms to plant and harvest, what sets in is hunger and lack which leads to poverty. The people in the Northeast and parts of North Central and Northwest are displaced from their natural and ancestral habitats and now live in the Internally Displaced Camps (IDP) across the country.

Poor Image in the International Community

The spate of insecurity in Nigeria has given Nigeria a very poor image to the neighbouring nations and international bodies. No investors will want to site his/her companies in an unsecure place. The spate of insecurity in Nigeria has made many countries who has their investment in Nigeria to close down or withdraw their citizens from Nigeria. Some out of fear and threat have relocated to neighbouring West African countries (Campbell, 2009, Ozoigbo, 2019). In fact, killing of innocent youths who were staging peaceful protest on END SARS at Lekki-Toe Gate on the 20th of October, 2020, by Nigerian soldiers have further attested to the spate of insecurity in Nigeria.

Other impact of Insecurity in Nigeria are the issue of drug abuse, kidnapping and armed robbery, all of which have wrecked unprecedented havoc in Nigeria.

Possible Way out to the Spate of Insecurity in Nigeria

- Regenerating the moral values and codes

that should guide the actions and behavior of citizens is an urgent task that must be done to safeguard the future of the country and raise passionate and ethical citizens who are committed to the welfare and betterment of Nigerians and Nigeria (Ujomu, 2001). Tackling insecurity in Nigeria, there is the need to go back to good virtues and moral values that held traditional society secure and serene. Values and moral education must be put in place both formally and informally in order to rear up a new generation in Nigeria. Values in Social Studies education like honesty, dignity, fairness, hardwork, respect for life and its reward system, respect for constituted authority and patriotism must be embraced by Nigerian youths and adults. Social Studies education as well as civic education must be re-emphasized in Nigerian schools.

- Restructuring the Nigerian state: Restructuring entails giving more powers to the federating units that made up the country as this will allow for growth through healthy competition. Ojukwu (1988); Ozoigbo (2019) believed that one of the major causes of insecurity as manifested in insurgency, militancy, youth restiveness and a call for self-determination is the current structure of Nigeria. Nigeria from inception in 1914 has never clicked as a nation rather what was observe are amorphous groups of individuals pretending to be a nation. "Restructuring is a foundational plan for Nigeria's future prosperity without oil. The contradictions of the old oil-based economy, vis-à-vis the population and geo-political pressures are swirling and the challenge of a new institutional framework to lead the emergence of the new economy is urgent" (Soludo, 2018).
- Good governance and quality leadership. Oluwarotimi (2012) submits that good governance is the panacea for insecurity challenges in Nigeria. She went further to state that the war against insecurity would be won only by good governance standards; that is forming the culture of good governance where the government is responsible and accountable to the people. Since peace and security is determined by good governance. Good governance is a function of effective, visionary, transparent and credible political leadership whose driving force is an improvement in the collective well being of the citizens through well conceived, effectively implemented economic policies and human development

- programmes (Oluwarotimi, 2012).
- Rule of law must be upheld by all and sundry: Rule of law holds supreme the laws of the land which everyone must abide with irrespective of position of office. Any society that mocks her laws or discriminates against them is a chaos and failed one. Rule of law in Nigeria today is a mirage because even law enforcement agents disregard the laws of the land with impunity. The politician has immunity against the law of the land. Some citizens who are sacred cows contravene the laws of the land and go scot free, some regional groups show themselves as being above the laws, and all these attitudes create a state of lawlessness and anarchy that breed insecurity. Hence, nobody should be above the law. Everybody should be under the law and even be punished for any offence committed.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed descriptive survey research design in determining the extent of the spate

insecurity in Nigeria. A total of 150 male and female respondents drawn from public were randomly selected through purposive sampling techniques from five local government areas of Ogbomosho metropolis (i.e. Ogbomosho North, Ogbomosho south, Oriire, Surulere and Ogo-Oluwa Local Governments). The sample was stratified into 15 males and 15 female from each of the said area of study. a self designed questionnaire consisting 16-items based on 4-points likert scale of SA, A, SD and D was developed on minimizing the spate of insecurity in Nigeria. The Cronbach co-efficient alpha was used and reliability estimate of 0.86 was found. The face and content validities were obtained through two Social Studies experts examination of the items. Data collected was subjected to statistical analysis. Any mean less than 2.5 is considered not significant.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Research Question 1

To what extent has insecurity constitute a problem in Nigeria?

Table 1. Analysis of the Extent of the Spate of Insecurity in Nigeria

| S/N | Items | Mean Weight | Rank |
|-------------------|---|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Insecurity affects human beings and is powered by corruption of leadership and followers. | 2.76 | 2nd |
| 2. | Primordial tendencies of various ethnic groups toward violence aggravate insecurity | 2.70 | 4 th |
| 3. | Ethical degeneration and moral depravity led to erosion of personal collective peace, safety and stability of the nation. | 3.25 | 1 st |
| 4. | Unemployment breeds poverty and extreme poverty leads to criminality that beget insecurity | 2.75 | 3 rd |
| Grand Mean | | 2.87 | |

Table 1 above revealed that insecurity affects human beings and this is powered by corruption and poverty of leadership and followers. All the four items raised has mean weight that is very significant. Ethical degeneration and moral depravity and erosion personal collective peace, safety and stability of the nation has the mean weight of 3.25 and its ranked 1st. Also primordial tendency of various groups toward violence aggravate insecurity in Nigeria ranked 4th. All the variables identified tend to be significant with grand

mean of 2.65, hence insecurity constitute a great problem in Nigeria. The findings is in line with Adoyi (2014); Egwu, (2001); Ujomu (2001); Nwagbosa (2012) who attested to all the items raised.

Research Question 2

In what ways will the nature of governance, disintegration of communal values, ethnic/religious intolerance, porous borders and many more affect security of lives of Nigerians?

Table 2. Analysis of Nature of Governance, Ethnic/Religious Intolerance and Its Effect Security of Lives in Nigeria

| S/N | Items | Mean Weight | Rank |
|-------------------|--|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Good governance is a function of visionary, transparent, trustworthy and credible political leadership | 1.87 | 4 th |
| 2. | Values like honesty, hard work, integrity, hospitality, respect for elders that those days made insecurity impossible to thrive have been eroded by westernization and globalization with various vices that promote insecurity. | 2.42 | 3 rd |
| 3. | Almost all violent crises in Nigeria are rooted in ethnic/religious intolerance factor and mass killing of one another at the slightest provocation. | 3.61 | 2 nd |
| 4. | Nigeria has porous borders which made it easily accessible for terrorists, human traffickers and drug barons to infiltrate the nation and thereby perpetrate their heinous crimes. | 3.76 | 1 st |
| Grand Mean | | 2.92 | |

Table 2 above indicates that the existence of porous borders in Nigeria made the country assessable to various acts of criminal activities thereby made the nation insecure. Item 4 on the table has highest mean weight of 3.76 while item one on the table has the least mean weight of 1.87. In all, three out of the four variables were significant. The grand mean is 2.92 and its even greater than the criterion mean weight of 2.50. The findings is in consonant with the finding of

Oluwarotimi, (2012); Onifade et al. (2013); Adagba et al. (2012); Onuoha, (2006); Adeola & Oluyemi (2012) who believed that all the items raised in table 2 affect security of lives of Nigerians.

Research Question 3

How can Social Studies education help in minimizing the spate of insecurity in Nigeria?

Table 3. Analysis of How Social Studies Can Help In Minimizing the Spate of Insecurity in Nigeria

| S/N | Items | Mean Weight | Rank |
|-------------------|---|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Social Studies is society bound and its curriculum reflects the problems, yearning and aspirations of a given society. | 2.63 | 3 rd |
| 2. | Social Studies was conceived in Nigerian schools to create a path to peace and harmony through inter-ethnic interaction, good governance, stability and economic progress. | 2.89 | 1 st |
| 3. | Social Studies curriculum is designed to develop every child’s capacity to recognize the many dimensions of being human in different cultural and social contexts, and develop a sense of solidarity and sharing based on a sense of security in one’s own identity | 2.70 | 2 nd |
| 4. | The link between security and Social Studies education would seem to lie in teaching all of us (Nigerians) that security should go beyond law and order by encompassing meaningful existence for the generality of the populate | 2.60 | 4 th |
| Grand Mean | | 2.71 | |

From table 3 above, insecurity can be minimized through the teaching and learning of Social Studies because its introduction in Nigerian schools was to create a path to peace and harmony through inter-ethnic interaction, good governance, stability and economic progress. All the four items stated were significant with the grand mean of 2.71. This findings is in line with the findings of Yusuf et al. (2010),

NERDC (2007) and Oyebode (2009) who stressed the important role Social Studies can play in minimizing insecurity challenges in Nigerian society.

Research Question 4

What are the possible ways of minimizing the spate of insecurity in Nigeria?

Table 4. Analysis of Possible Ways of Minimizing the Spate of Insecurity in Nigeria

| S/N | Items | Mean Weight | Rank |
|-------------------|--|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Re-discovery and inculcation of Nigerian national values and moral education honesty, sanctity of human life, hardwork, respect for constituted authority, integrity etc must be put in place formally and informally. | 3.75 | 1 st |
| 2. | Restructuring of Nigerian state as a foundational plan for Nigeria's future prosperity with-out-oil | 3.86 | 4 th |
| 3. | War against insecurity can only be won only by good governance where the government is responsible and accountable to the people. | 3.61 | 2 nd |
| 4. | Nigerians should hold the rule of law with high esteem. No one should be untouchable or a sacred cows, everyone should under the laws of the land. | 2.42 | 3 rd |
| Grand Mean | | 2.91 | |

Table 4 above shows that item one of the table has the highest mean weight of 3.75 i.e. re- discovery and inculcation of Nigeria a national values and moral education. All the four items raised are significant with the grand mean of 2.91. The finding is in consonant with that of Ujomu (2011); Ojukwu (1988); Ozoigbo (2019); Soludo (2018); Oluwarotimi (2012).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The gravity of insecurity is quite high both for individual as well as the nation. As for the individual, retard personal development and interfere with his or her ability to develop his or her potentials. The mind and energy of the average Nigerian is consumed with issue of safety and security that he or she has little energy left to contribute to Nigerian's development. Nigerians need a policy that is stable, peaceful, and safe enough from criminal assaults, murder, chaos, tyranny and breakdown of authority so that the populace can face issues of development with vigour and courage. To attain such a polity the following recommendations are hereby suggested:

- Government at all level should ensure that rising poverty and unemployment indices be reversed and a realistic social security programmes be pursued and systematically implemented to ensure that the populace meet their basic needs. This should be coupled with the establishment of micro-credit facilities for youths and poor people to benefit from.
- Consolidation of democracy through rule of law, public accountability, good governance and participatory democracy.
- Public education, enlightenment and mobilization on security issues.
- Serious combat of corruption, especially with graduated punishment.
- Justice in the distribution of national resources to all groups.
- Necessary provision needs to be made to refurbish the police and other law enforcement agencies, social amenities are to be provided for the neglected rural majority and urban disinherited.

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