



**BUSINESS EDUCATION: A VITAL TOOL TO RECOVER NIGERIA
FROM SECURITY TURBULENCE**

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Abstract

The study ascertained the causes of insecurity in Nigeria as well as the strategies in which Nigeria can recover from insecurity turbulence through business education. Two research questions were raised and one hypothesis was formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. The population of the study comprised 40 lecturers in business education in three universities and Office Technology and Management from Federal Polytechnic, Ado Ekiti. All the lecturers were used since the population was manageable. A questionnaire containing 22 items was used for data collection. The questionnaire was given to experts in Business Education for content and face validity. The internal consistency of the instrument was ascertained using cronbach alpha with coefficient value of 0.75. Data collected were analyzed using mean. The findings showed among others: the

need for provision of adequate laboratories for business education for skill acquisition, provision of needed teaching facilities for teaching business education, adequate funding of business education, etc. This will help the students to develop skills to enable them set up their own business, thus, helping the country to recover from security turbulence. It was recommended that The government should provide business educators with an effective re-training programme in the use of modern technique and make sure equipment are sufficiently available in the schools to enhance the quality of teaching. This will guarantee job creation and the best practices for poverty/crime reduction.

Introduction

Nigeria is currently witnessing high rate of insecurity. The increasing rate of insecurity throughout the country has given way to suspicion and hatred. The unity and love upon the nationhood of Nigeria was based dissipates as a result of the increasing rate of kidnapping, suicide bombing, armed robbery, ethnic and religious crisis to mention but a few. This has shifted the attention of government at all levels from development programmes to fighting terrorism, revolving conflicts and strategizing on how to uphold the nation's unity. Governments' effort to curtail insecurity seems insufficient as the perpetrator continuously convinces and recruits the unemployed and idle members of the society especially youths. The increasing rate of armed robbery and kidnapping in the east and west, Boko Haram in the north and militancy in the Niger Delta are clear indications that Nigerians live their lives in fear.

The perpetrators of these hideous activities seem to be unrepentant in causing trauma to the inhabitants of the entire country. Even as government has not relented on winning war against these miscreants, their inhuman activities are on the increase. Insecurity has gained popularity among the elites and other concerned citizens of Nigeria. The term insecurity is used to describe a situation whereby there is feeling of

inadequacy in the protection of lives and properties of individuals (Aliyu 2015). Insecurity is a situation in which there is no peace and there is threat to lives and properties. These threats may include armed robbery, kidnapping, Boko Haram insurgency, rape, suicide bombing, ethnic and religious crises Aliyu (2012) observed that insecurity is as a result of structural entrenched crisis of development that creates environment for the emergence of poverty, unemployment and inequality in the country. These factors as mentioned by Aliyu undoubtedly have contributed to the increase of insecurity by causing their victims to be frustrated, alienated and social discontents. These groups of people express their frustration and anger by sparking violence and some utilize such ugly opportunity as source of survival.

In support of Aliyu, Azazi (2012) explained that most of the perpetrators of crime in our society belong to the productive age who are not meaningfully engaged in productive ventures. He explained that unemployment is a single largest cause of insecurity as it has led millions of Nigerian youths into expressing their anger and frustration through violence and crimes. It is no more news that most of the criminals under investigation are graduates of tertiary institutions with few secondary school graduates and drop outs. These able bodied men whose energy could have been rightly used in ensuring economic development of the country now resort to criminality as a source of livelihood. This proves a dictum that an idle man is a devil's workshop. In the light of the above, Nigeria as a nation is wasting her resources fighting insecurity caused by her idle youths. It is heart breaking that these enemies of the country have permeated all the sectors of the economy making the war against insecurity to be difficult. Their activities proves the words of Adejumo (2013) to be true when he noted that perpetrators of insecurity are all over the country and their activities have been with us probably since we became a republic.

This means that insecurity which is causing hullabaloo today has its remote causes from the activities of our successive governments. Adejumo supported the fact when he posited that successive governments in the country should be blamed for the high rate of insecurity in the country today. He noted that sporadic militancy in Niger Delta, clashes between Fulani herdsmen and farmers, ethnic and religious conflicts as well as other forms of violent crimes which has culminated into Nigeria's present day challenges were existing before now. It therefore implies that defeating insecurity in the country will be a temporal success unless the root causes are adequately addressed.

However, addressing the root causes of insecurity in the country calls for participation of all Nigerians in tackling hunger, poverty and promote inclusive economic development in the country. Oluwa (2014) agreed with the above when he lamented that the increasing rate of insecurity is as a result of hunger, poverty, illiteracy, income inequality among others and these are root causes of insecurity. It is obvious that empowering Nigerians through skill acquisition oriented courses and training will be a proactive measure of solving the problems emanating from the above root causes of insecurity. With the teeming population of Nigerian students, receiving training on skills for inclusive economic development, their minds sets will be redirected towards productive ventures and adequate business education programme is a panacea for achieving sustainability of the economic needs of these youths.

Business Education is one of the vocational courses offered in Nigerian higher institutions. It helps the recipients with relevant and saleable skills for self-employment and economic development. Business Education courses are aimed at equipping individuals with knowledge, skills, vocations and attitudes needed to manage personal businesses as well as function effectively in the economic system (Onojeta, 2012) in (Azib, 2015).

Business Education focuses on training and general education subjects that are arranged and prescribed for possible certification (Azih, 2015). Aliyu (2006) describes Business Education as education for the development of skills/competencies, attitude and attributes which are necessary for the efficiency of the economic system. Nwosu (2007) describes Business Education as a part of total education that provides vocational, personal, consumer and socio-economic competencies that are needed for inclusive societal development. Business Education is offered both in colleges of education and universities. Courses such as accounting, marketing, management, keyboarding, office practice, office machines and shorthand are offered. There are two major options of specialisation in business education; namely accounting and office management and technology. The purpose of Business Education is to enable the students to acquire relevant skills and knowledge in related business courses to enable them set-up their own businesses after graduation.

Asoquo (2005) in Umezulike (2015) identifies the objectives of Business Education.

1. To provide opportunity for practical job preparation or vocation studies for students/masses in order to make them render effective and efficient services in office, distributive and service occupations.
2. To provide opportunity for students and the public to develop an understanding of the business and economic system of the nation so as to enable them to participate actively as producers and consumers of goods and services.
3. To prepare the students/public for leadership position in both public and private life.
4. To serve as a guide for individuals/students for suitable placement in business, government and office employment.
5. To enable students/individuals have career consciousness and

- economic understanding of the free enterprise system.
6. To prepare students/individuals based on the interest and aptitude with the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to enter into a business occupation, advances and profit in it.
 7. To develop in the students and the public the basic awareness of the contribution which business, government and office employees make to the nation's economy.

Business Education has to do with ability of the students to set-up their own businesses after graduation and run them successfully without failure with ability to cope with the environmental threats.

Statement of the Problem

When there is insecurity in the country, a country finds it difficult to promote businesses to feed the populace. Business Education graduates find it difficult to practice their profession by setting up businesses. This promotes unemployment and poverty. Aliyu (2012) observe that insecurity is as a result of structural entrenched crisis of development that creates environment for the emergence of poverty, unemployment and inequality in the country. Njoku (2015) identifies the following critical incidents that can lead to protest by students: bomb blasts, cult killings, fire explosion with injuries or significant damage, infection diseases, missing students, quest for wealth, carefree travels by teachers, rechanneling school fees, assault to students, mental health crisis, extortion by teachers, drug/alcohol, sexual assault, death of a student (on or off campus), significant injury on a student, mass exodus of teachers, less preference for teacher education, fewer female teachers in primary, Secondary and colleges of education, few females and males in some programmes, program establishment without recourse to parent body and non or accredited programmes, increase in school fees, attempted suicide, policy revision and policy reversal.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to assess the strategies for curminbing Insecurity in Nigeria through Business Education programme: Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Identify causes of insecurity in Nigeria.
2. Identify strategies to recover Nigeria from insecurity turbulence through business education.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the causes of insecurity in Nigeria?
2. What are the strategies to recover Nigeria from insecurity turbulence through Business Education?

Hypothesis

One hypothesis was formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. There is no, significant difference in the mean rating of male and female lecturers on the strategies to recover Nigeria from insecurity turbulence through business education.

Methodology

The study adopted descriptive survey design. The population of the study comprised 40 business educators from the four tertiary institutions offering Business Education and Office Technology and Management Programme in Ekiti State. The institutions are Federal University, Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology, Ikere Ekiti, and Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti. The entire population was used for the study since it was manageable. A structured questionnaire that was divided into two parts

was used for data collection. Part A was on personal data of respondents while part B contained a total of 23 items used in answering the two research questions. The entire questionnaire were correctly filled and returned. The mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions while the t-test was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. Mean rating below 2.5 was rejected while any rating of 2.5 and above was accepted.

Research Question 1: What are the causes of insecurity in Nigeria?

<u>Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>SD</u>
<u>Remark</u>		
High rate of migration Agreed	3.24	0.59
Poor parental upbringing Agreed	3.35	0.60
Poor leadership Agreed	3.43	0.54
High level of poverty Agreed	3.20	0.84
High rate of unemployment Agreed	3.38	0.57
Religion conflict Agreed	3.40	0.70
Weak security system Agreed	3.25	0.69

Loss of social-cultural and communal value system Agreed	3.26	0.62
Poor quality of education Agreed	3.25	0.55
Lack of spirit of patriotism Agreed	3.35	0.54
Insincerity of government Agreed	3.25	0.69
Grand mean =	3.31	

The results of the study shows that all the items in the table were accepted as the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. All the items scored a mean point above 2.5 showing that they all agreed to all items listed as causes of insecurity in Nigeria.

Research Question 2 What are the strategies to recover Nigeria from insecurity turbulence through business education?

Statement items	X
SD Remark	
Provision of adequate laboratory for Business Education 0.93 Agreed for skill acquisition	3.63
Provision of all needed teaching facilities for teaching 1.1 Agreed Business Education	3.99
Regular supervision of Business Education programmes 0.93 Agreed to ensure quality	3.80

Adequate funding of Business Education programme 0.85 Agreed	4.15
Ensuring good maintenance of equipment 0.57 Agreed	4.29
Setting up entrepreneurial business centre for 0.91 Agreed students by staff to learn skills	3.97
Regular retraining of business education 1.06 Agreed lecturers on emerging skills	3.98
Qualitative entrepreneurial training for 1.01 Agreed students in Business Education	4.02
Constant review of Business Education 0.89 Agreed curriculum for skills acquisition	4.12
Provision of financial aids to graduates 1.04 Agreed of entrepreneurial training	3 . 9 0
Ensuring adequate supply of power 1.21 Agreed Improving students attitude to skill s acquisition through Orientation	3.54

Grand Mean = 3.94

The result in the table 2 shows that all the items in the questionnaire were accepted as the strategies to recover Nigeria from Security turbulence

through business education. All the items scored a mean point above 2.5 showing that they all agreed to all items listed as strategies to recover Nigeria from security turbulence.

T - test result of male and female lecturers on the strategies to recover Nigeria from insecurity turbulence through business education N=40

Variable	N	Mean	SD	Df	T-cal	T-tab
Female	15	30.71	10.02	38	1.42	1.96
Male	25	28.9				

In table 3, the calculated t-value of 1.42 is less than t-critical value of 1.96 at 38 degree of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. This means that there was no significance difference in the mean rating of male and female lecturers on the strategies needed to recover Nigeria from insecurity turbulence.

Discussion of the Findings

The result of the study showed that all the items listed as causes of insecurity in Nigeria were accepted and the items listed as strategies to recover Nigeria from insecurity turbulence were equally accepted by the respondents. The test of hypothesis showed no significance difference in the opinion of male and female business educators on the strategies to recover Nigeria from security turbulence. The study is in line with view of Umezulike (2011) who observed that idleness has dragged many Nigerian youth to indulge in crimes like cultism, drug trafficking, armed robbery, kidnapping, etc. The study also agreed with study of Ojukwe in Olumese (2011) that business education should be repositioned so as to recover Nigeria from security challenges. The study is also in consonance with Uloko and Ejikeonye (2010) who stressed that that unemployment is

growing at a geometric progression especially with the global economic meltdown .they believed that when youth are empowered by acquiring skills in business education, there is tendency to use their skills to create new avenue for different types of jobs.

Conclusion

The state of insecurity keep on rising day by day in Nigeria, as result of this there is need for occupational education such as business education to train students to acquire all the necessary skills for them to be self-reliance. This will reduce the rate of unemployment which is the prominent factor causing insecurity in Nigeria. Acquisition of skills in Business education will go a long way in addressing the problems prevailing unemployment of graduates, enhance job creation and improve standard of living of individual.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made for the study:

1. Adequate funding of business education programme should be ensured.
2. Effective supervision of Business Education programme should be ensured by the regulatory agencies of all the higher institution in Nigeria.
- 3 Adequate security of lives and properties should be provided by government at the federal, state and local government level. Security agents must be provided with arms and ammunition to enable them performs their duties effectively.
4. The government should provide business educators with an effective retraining programme in the use of modern technique and make sure equipment are sufficiently available in the schools to enhance the quality of teaching. This will guarantee job creation and the best practices for poverty/crime reduction.
5. The government should as a matter of urgency through its agencies

like Bank of Industry (BOI) Small and medium Enterprises Scheme (SMES), Industrial training Fund (ITF) among others sufficiently empower graduates of business education at all levels through provision of credits facilities and also diligently mentor and monitor their activities to ensure sustenance and active contribution to nation building as well as poverty/crime reduction.

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