



**COUNSELLING PERSPECTIVES FOR OVERTURNING EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY,
POLITICAL AND SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA.**

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Abstract

The paper writes on critical contemporary issues on education, politics and security which the researchers believe are the centers of focus in our country nowadays. Researcher, pointed out in his research why all hands should be on desk to address the issue of insecurity in the country so that our students as well as lecturers will be safe in the classrooms. The paper explains the need to diversify our research works towards critical issues like security and political issues in our country. The paper also calls for individual lecturer's participations in the fight against kidnappers using all the available avenues suitable for wiping them out. There is need for government to find lasting solutions to the problems of insecurity in northern Nigeria which in turn will help to boost students' morale and enhance their academic performance as well. The paper recommended that, there should be enlightenment campaign to sensitize people about the importance of stages of moral development; psychometric tests should be used by all political parties to select their aspirants as to avoid illegal use of money during elections.

Keywords: counseling, psychology, education, politics, security.

Introduction

Counseling is a collaborative effort between the counselor and clients. Experts in counseling help clients identify goals and potential solutions to problems which cause emotional turmoil; seek to improve communication and coping skills; strengthen self-esteem; and promote behavior change and optimal mental health (Cocchigilo, 2022). The boiling issue at hand is that, most of the counselling education researches conducted in Nigeria were not tailored to address current issues that could use technology to modify the behaviour of beneficiaries (students) in our tertiary institutions and at the same time, minimize the fear of insecurity in Nigerian schools using modern

instructional technology. Most of our undergraduate research works are duplications and have no focus towards solving current problems in the country via the use of instructional technology. Umar (2019) believed that students' projects in our country are becoming wastes as they do not address or solve any problem affecting our educational system. He also discovered that in advanced countries masters and PhD students' theses and dissertations respectively are used by the government to formulate policies that proffer solutions to peoples' problems but in Nigeria the reverse seems to be the case. The reason is that our project works lack generalization and do not address current issues in schools, politics and security situations of the country and it is only when there are security and political stabilities that teaching and learning can be perfected. Researchers irrespective of their fields of studies should begin to think of how to link their research work to reflect technological, political and security issues in the country because no one will be in the classroom if his life is unsecured. Esele (2022) warned Federal Government of Nigeria that the pervading insecurity in the country will never end unless public universities are reopened. A former President of the Trade Union Congress (TUC) gave the warning while commenting on the solidarity protest embarked upon by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) to press home demand of Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). Monguno (2022) admitted that Nigerians are tired of the current security challenges facing the nation and gravitating towards self-help. He also said that winning the war against terrorists will depend a lot on technology and all citizens, including civilians' population who are required to help the efforts of security, intelligence and armed agencies with useful information through their research findings in instructional technology and other fields of education. This means the solutions to security problems in our country have become every body's responsibility. Pham, Brennan and Richardson (2017) conducted research titled "review of counseling behavioural theories in security compliance and research challenges" and found that behavioural counseling theories have contributed to better understanding of how security protect lives of students and teachers in schools can be improved through the provision of rewards to any student or staff who provide useful information on how to solve security problems in Nigerian schools. The prevalence of social problems resulting from high level of insecurity in Nigeria motivated the researchers to think on how to find solutions to the incessant insecurity as a result of the activities of kidnappers in the country. Teachers cannot impart knowledge when the security of their lives and the lives of students are not guaranteed in the classrooms. Counsellors can only effectively apply psychological and instructional methods suitable for impacting knowledge to students when the school environment is safe. As educationists, there is need for us to diversify our research work towards providing solutions to critical issues relating to security and political wrangling in our country through the use of technology. The issue of insecurity

should not be left only to the security personnel in the country. The researchers are of the view that, academia irrespective of their fields of studies should begin to think of how to guide their students to conduct researches which will be beneficial to Nigerian security agencies and at the same time help in solving political problems in our country. The rate at which people are kidnapped in Nigeria is alarming and there is need for researchers in the field of education to intervene by proposing lasting solutions through the findings of their research works.

Most of the political problems in our country are caused by poor government policies. Bush (2010) defined politics as a means of activities that involve getting and using power in public life, and being able to influence decisions that affect the country. Bush (2010) also believed that education is the development of domains of human beings which cover the cognitive, affective and psychomotor spheres. In politics, elections of leaders are done and these leaders are responsible for overseeing the affairs of our country and monitoring our students who are into unionism/politics in our higher institutions. Therefore, leadership in politics is quite encompassing. Rodney (2012) viewed leadership as the state of being in a position of authority and he believed that modifying the behaviour of our leaders in politics will help to modify our tertiary institutions students who see our political leaders as their role model.

Politics and behaviour modification

Explanation about individual person's political behaviour includes not only that person's acts but also his trainings for action. Perhaps, most behavioural research that has to do with politics is not, in fact, conceived with the individual's doings, as such, it more often describes and explains the political behaviour of a group, a community, political leaders, or a local government, state government or the nation. It is also believes that such links are not in existence separately from the conduct of their individual members' behaviour. A number of students begin their political careers via participation in unionism in the schools, as such; they seek knowledge from political leaders or politicians who participate in politics at Local, State and Federal Government levels. The tactics and ways followed by their political advisers may likely have effect on their behaviours and at the same time pollute their minds. The behaviour of some of our youths who have been badly advised by dubious politicians need to be modified in such a way that it will make them useful to the society. Cocchimigilo (2022) defined behavior modification as the process of changing patterns of human behaviour over a long term using various motivational techniques, mainly consequences (negative reinforcement) and rewards (positive reinforcement). Therefore, students who are well guided by counselors from the onset of their political career have tendency of growing up with corruption free minds and good political ideologies. The researchers' concern as far as politics is concerned is the

behaviour modification of our political leaders through power instructional method which in turn will help in the modification of our children's behaviour. Our political leaders do advise a number of youths who are into politics, therefore, behaviour modification of our political leaders will go a long way in shaping and developing our children's' behaviour and it will also help to modify their behaviour.

Modifications of behaviour can take the following dimensions:

1. Cognitive restructuring. This can be achieved by continuously advising political leaders to refrain from giving out bribe to electors.
2. Rejection of distribution of pieces of cloths before and during elections
3. Rejection of distribution of money before and during elections
4. Rejection of distribution of food items before and during elections
5. Assertive skills, that is, stand firm by your words.
6. Attitude, integrity, transparency and other psychometric tests used to select qualified applicants in higher institutions can also be used to select party's flag bearers instead of using delegates to conduct primary elections.
7. Organize psychological enlightenment campaigns that will educate people on the importance of stages of moral development.
8. Principles of extinction in relation to human learning theories should be employed to discontinue the use of money during elections.

Kohlberg Theories of Moral Development and its Implications on Political Issues

Another important area which researchers in the field of education have to look into is the provision of electoral act for delegates. The use of delegates for the emergence of party's flag bearer is an issue which has to be addressed with immediate effect so that it will not in turn have effect on our children's personality development especially those in tertiary institutions who imitate the behaviour of their political role model in all their political activities. The use of money as bribe in politics nowadays has become rampant among our political parties. Amaechi (2022) believed that candidates are no longer voted based on their credibility but on the amount of money given to delegates. The society we live in cares not about moral development and that is why our adults' behaviour resembles that of children. According to Kohlberg (1984) moral development theories, moral development is an individual sense of justice and it consists of three major stages which every normal human being must pass through irrespective of his educational, political and security inclination. The first moral development stage according to the theories is called pre-moral development stage. During this stage, children obey instructions because of material things not minding the consequences of their actions and it is the lowest moral development out of all the three stages of moral development. The self-accepted moral principle stage is the highest stage of moral

development and it is all about rejecting an offer simply because of its negative impact on the society. But from the researchers' point of view, lowest moral development stage has turned to be our highest moral development. A case study of primary elections concluded in our country in June 2022, showed that money Amaechi (2022) was used to turn the highest moral stage of development of voters to the lowest stage of moral development so that the emergence of party flag bearers solely depended on the highest bidders. The elections of political party's candidates are no longer based on the qualities they possess but on material things. Monetization of primary elections is unacceptable and must be stopped for the benefit of our future generation. Thus, if the use of money to convince voters to vote for candidates not of his choice persists, our children in politics may copy and grow up with this abnormal behaviour. There is need to devise an instructional technological ways which will help to pave way on how to counsel our children against any act of indiscipline.

It was quite conspicuous how money was used to convince the delegates to elect party's candidate. Amaechi (2022) alleged that some delegates were induced with money to vote at the presidential primary in June, 20022. Nigerian government has been advocating for free and fair elections and also against bribery and corruption using different instructional technological means but with all these abnormalities observed during the last primary elections, people began to lose hope in the fight against bribery and corruption. An adult who is at the highest moral development stage will not collect dollars or naira to vote candidates who is not of his choice. Therefore, according to Kohlberg (2015), all the political party delegates in Nigeria are in the last stage of moral development and whosoever collects money to vote candidates not of his choice, has obviously displayed lowest level of moral development, behaviour which is expected to be displayed by children. Non awareness of stages of moral development could allow material things to blindfold us and replace our highest moral development with the lowest stage of moral level, the level where children belong. As adult, utilization of self-accepted moral principles level (highest moral development stage) and ability to reason and ponder well is of paramount importance because the level is meant for high level of reasoning and thinking but the reverse seems to be the case as far as political delegation during primary elections is concerned. Continuation of the aforementioned attitude by our politicians can eventually become part and parcel of their behaviour which may give birth to generalization of abnormal behaviour among children, adolescents and as well as adults. Generalization in the sense that, it will make our children and others to believe that corrupt practice is a legal business during elections in our country. The masses have been kicking against corrupt practices and the government has initially made it a duty to fish out corrupt politicians and prosecute them for the offences they committed but recently, crusade against corrupt practice has taken a new dimension. The dimension I

believe cannot help in tackling corruption in Nigerian politics. The government is no longer after the modification of behaviours of political offenders but working tirelessly to ensure that the convicted and imprisoned looters regain their freedoms.

Pavlov Learning Theories and their Security Implications on Payments of Ransoms

There is no doubt that security is one of the most essential issues in Nigeria. It is concerned about the safety of people and their properties and their survival. It is a goal to be pursued using modern instructional methods by every citizen of the country regardless of what it costs. Gee (2016) defined security as the protection from, or resilience against, potential harm (or other unwanted coercive change) caused by others, by restraining the freedom of others to act. The continuous increase in insecurity due to the activities of kidnappers in Nigeria can be traced to the attentions given to them by the family of the captives. A stimulus that is reinforced may likely occur over and over again. Ransoms are paid to the kidnappers to set their victims free, not knowing that these responses given to them invariably trigger their actions. Theories of learning enable us to understand that, behaviour will continue to surface if there is reinforcement. Because huge amount of money is paid as ransom to kidnappers, the responses from members of society have been heavily contributing to the increase in their activities and in fact, it has made them to create networks liking almost every part of the Northern Nigeria. Nigeria government must come in and enact laws that will prohibit payments of ransoms to kidnappers which the researchers believed will help to restructure their cognition. Cognitive restructuring as a method of behaviour modification will help to make kidnappers have a rethink and stop their nefarious activities. Application of extinction via instructional technological ways as a behaviour modification technique will help to put an end to kidnappers' activities. Extinction learning is a gradual decrease in response to a conditioned stimulus that occurs when the stimulus is presented without reinforcement. As far as classical conditioning learning theories is concerned, extinction occurs when the conditioned stimulus is applied repeatedly without being paired with the unconditioned stimulus. Over the time, the learned behaviour occurs less often and eventually stops altogether and conditioned stimulus returns neural. Because kidnappers receive ransoms whenever someone is kidnapped but if people stop paying ransoms, the behaviour will eventually stop occurring because it is no longer serves any purpose.

Pavlov (1849-1936) learning theories in McLeod (2018), when studying the digestive system of dogs noticed an interesting behavioural phenomenon: the dogs began to salivate when the lab technicians who normally fed them entered the room, even though the dogs had not yet received any food. Pavlov realized that the dogs were salivating because they knew that they were about to be fed; the dogs had begun to associate the

arrival of the technicians with the food that soon followed their appearance in the room. The animals had learned to associate the arrival of the technician with the food he always gave them on his arrival. Therefore, the stimulation kidnappers receive whenever a man is kidnapped is the negotiations they engage in with the family of the captives believing that ransom will be paid. The payment of ransom is the reward received by the kidnappers and it helps to encourage them to do more. The continuous payment of ransom has in one way or the other led to generalization of abnormal behavior and this has led to incessant security problems in our country. Generalization of behavior in the sense that, kidnappers not only operate in one or two states in Northern Nigeria, they have an extensive network in almost all the Northern parts of the country. They have even made it everyday business because ransoms are paid to them in exchange for captives.

Pavlov (1936) learning theories had demonstrated that learning could occur through association, Pavlov went ahead to study these variables that bring about the strength and the persistence of conditioning. Pavlov conducted series of studies and presented the sound repeatedly but without giving the food to the dog. After the initial acquisition (learning) phase in which the conditioning occurred, when the conditioned stimulus (sound) was presented alone, the dog's behaviour decreased. The salivation of the dog became less to the sound, and at the end the sound did not elicit salivation anymore and this is what is called extinction which I believe if properly implemented will stop the activities of kidnappers in our country. The principles of extinction should not only be applied to the classroom situations, but in solving social problems.

Educational and Social implications of Payments of Ransoms

As payments of ransoms have become rampant among the families of kidnapped victims, people now believe it is no longer a crime if someone gives out money to free kidnapped relatives. This belief may create a lot of educational and social problem such that our children and even the society may begin to see it is a business especially among the idle youths who finish their secondary and tertiary institutions having nothing doing.

Educational and social implications of payments of ransoms may give birth to the following:

1. It may lead to increase in the activities of kidnappers in Nigeria
2. It may lead to state of lawlessness in the country
3. It may discourage youths from involving in small scale business when huge amount of money is paid to kidnappers who do not struggle before getting the money
4. It may increase the rate of bribery and corruption in the country.

5. It may kill our students' morale especially those in higher institutions or those struggling to get admission into higher institution of learning.

Effect of Insecurity on Students' Mental Health

School environments are not in any way safe as the activities of kidnappers keep increasing on a daily basis. Students and parents in the society are of the view that the environments they reside are full of insecurity and if nothing is done, people will continue to live in fear. Atiku (2007) sees poor school environment as one of the factors that contribute to insecurity and also affect the mental development of children. School environment are supposed to be conducive for children in order to facilitate teaching and learning. Mohammed (2012) opined that enabling school environment should be provided for students to enable them succeed. Kidnapping of Nigerian students is well pronounced in northern Nigeria. In the recent times, many students from different schools were kidnapped and the most devastating effect is that these students are under captivity and they are being tortured by their captors. Indeed this occurrence has created a lot of fear and anxiety in the minds of innocent students. The students are no longer safe in the schools; the probability of their being successful in their academic pursuit is far fetched as their mind is always not at rest. The feelings of anxiety as a result of imaginative of the traumas faced by their friends may likely have devastating effects on their academic performance. Our students are always in fear and are in a stressful condition because of high rate of insecurity in the country; they believe their lives are at risk whenever they are in the classroom receiving lessons. More so, the activities of kidnappers have disrupted school activities in the affected areas and it has academically drawn the students in the affected areas back in comparison with their counterparts from other parts of the country. Banerjee and Chatterjee (2012) observed that stress may be seen as a state of mental or emotional strain which affects student irrespective of the developmental stage. Stress may rise due to feelings of discomfort which could be as a result of kidnapping activities. Muhammad (2011) and Atiku (2007) opined that parental influence is one of the major factors that affect children's academic performance. As such, a number of studies revealed that parents' unfavorable conditions can subsequently lead to poor performance at the early stage of the child education.

The fact that some states are at disadvantage and behind in their education as a result of high rate of insecurity, should make the examination bodies to ponder on how to encourage students from these states. States with high rate of insecurity should be treated like disadvantaged and the examination bodies should give them special treatments during and after the examinations. It is not in any way possible to compare the performance of students whose brothers, sisters or parents are in the hands of kidnappers with those living peacefully with their relatives. Students from these kidnap

affected areas encountered stress due to the fact that their parents are nowhere to be found and there is no hope of reuniting with them. For a student, stress may be caused by failure in academic performance, sports, financial problems, mental health problems or loss of a family member or close friend (Oken, Chamine &Wakeland, 2015). Another step of paramount importance which the researchers believed should be put in place to assist students from the states with high level of insecurity especially those who have lost their parents or guidance to kidnappers, is to give them scholarships up to the university level. This will help to overcome any form of post-traumatic disorders. Also, cognitive restructuring technique can be used to help overcome mental health problem affecting the children of kidnapped parents. This technique is a coping technique that substitutes negative, self-defeating thoughts with positive, affirming thoughts that change perceptions of stressors from threatening to non-threatening (Dombeck, 2014). Hope, et al. 2010) in Salma, Garba & Zakariyyah (2020) suggested for some major steps to follow when applying cognitive restructuring to treat students with mental health problems:

1. Identification of problematic cognitions known as automatic thoughts which are dysfunctional or negative views of the self, world or future
2. Identification of the cognitive distortions in the automatic thoughts
3. Rational disputation of automatic thoughts with the Socratic dialogue and development of a rational rebuttal to the automatic thoughts.

Conclusion

Apart from the applications of counseling in the school settings, researchers provided conceptual framework on the use of counseling techniques in solving instructional technological, political and security problems in Nigeria and this in turn; will increase the scope and need for counseling. With the advent of new ideas, the use of counseling has seen a paradigm shift for instructional technology, political and security issues. The new ideas have created rooms for the applications of counseling in politics via instructional technological methods which can be used to modify the behaviour of politicians. Because of this innovation by the authors, counseling can also be used to modify behaviour of kidnappers through the use of principles of extinction under theories of human learning. Also, the need for our political leaders to be sensitive of moral development stage they belong as to avoid the use of material things to brainwash them, a behaviour displaced by children during their moral development stage was explained. Finally, due to the problems encountered in education, politics and security; counseling at this stage becomes crucial as it helps someone to develop confidence in making informed decisions.

Recommendations

1. There should be enlightenment campaign to sensitize people about the importance of stages of moral development.
2. Psychometric tests should be used by all political parties to select their aspirants as to avoid illegal use of money during elections.
3. Examination bodies should map out instructional technological plans on how to specially treat students from states with high level of insecurity as it will help to reduce the stress and traumas they are passing through.
4. The researchers are of the opinion that all hands should be on deck using instructional technological methods to address the issue of insecurity in the country so that enabling school environment can be put in place for effective teaching and learning

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