



**UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF C THE
CHALLENGES OF DEMOCRACY, INSECURITY AS IT
AFFECTS EDUCATION AND NIGERIA'S UNITY**

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Abstract

The paper examined the problems, challenges of democracy as well as insecurity in Nigeria as it affects the educational standard and the country's national unity. The objectives of the paper is anchored on the following: Assess the relationship between democracy and insecurity, establish relationship between democracy and insecurity, activities of insecurity and the consequences of insecurity on the education and unity of Nigeria. The study adopted the frustration aggregation theory as theoretical framework and the qualitative research analysis method. This enabled the researchers to have a critical observations, case studies amongst others. The major findings include the following; poor democratic practice resulted to insecurity, insecurity arose from poor education etc. The study concluded that poor democratic practice has destroyed the national unity of the country. It was recommended that government should come up with rational and sustainable ways to improve the democratic practice in Nigeria in order to enhance security and education. There should also be better measures to promote national unity geared towards egalitarian society. Stake holders of democracy should endeavor to maintain some decorum, ethic, good behaviour that will bring about good governance.

Keywords: Insecurity, Democracy, Education, Unity.

INTRODUCTION

The country's national unity until very recently has been that of oneness, cohesion and above all, one that is geared towards a purposeful and conscious direction to actualize the hopes and aspirations of the average Nigerian. The Country's national

unity has been consistently threatened by the poor democratic practice. This disunity has resulted to insecurity of lives and property. The worse of it all is the country's educational status that has been terribly Jeopardized. Before now particularly in the 80's and 90's people were going about their businesses and works as well as education lawfully and orderly without any skirmish or disorderliness. Even if some of these aforementioned Skirmishes were there, it was not that serious to disturb the peaceful co-existence as it is currently being witnessed. The leadership of Nigeria then is such that every aspect of national development and unity were adequately and particularly addressed and given the best of attention. It is the result of this seeming relationship that cut across every echelon of government that enhances and sustain good governance and promotion of national unity.

Gone are those good days that were anchored on better and sustainable relationship that is borne out of good governance. The reverse become the case today. A situation where democratic practice is built on ethnic consciousness, religion prejudice, terrorism, kidnapping and other such terrible vices that have completely disunited the country and consequently have thrown the entire nation into some highly unprecedented state of hulabaloo and quagmire. At first glance on the debate of factors that constitute threat to national security particularly in the Nigeria climate are militancy, insurgencies, terrorism, kidnapping, ethnic cleavages and herdsman crisis (Atelhe & Abang, 2017, Watt's & Ibaba, 2011). A very damaging situation that has made the country most ungovernable and two discomfoting to live in.

The poor democratic practice introduced brigands, intellectual misfits and all sorts of people into governance. Consequently, the people who are supposed to be the objective of good governance become victims of the poor caliber of persons that rigs their ways to power. The just concluded Academic Staff Union of University (ASUU) strike of 14th February 2022 to October 2022 is the most recent and terrible effect of poor governance arising from poor democratic practice in Nigeria.

Therefore, this paper is set to interrogate the seemingly intractable problem of poor democratic practice, insecurity of Nigeria as it affects and hinders the initially smooth educational system and the national unity of Nigeria. The reality is that no country can make any meaningful progress and development in a situation where there is pretentious relationship going on among the political class and expect to make the much anticipated progress that is expected of any democracy.

Problem Statement

The Nigerian democratic practice has been halt and distorted by the sharp and ridiculous practices that have consequently made governance a laughing stock. Further to it is the poor educational standard and weak security apparatus it has exposed the human lives and property to. Elections in Nigerian democracy has never been free and fair. The implication of this damaging effect it has on the electorate is its weak security apparatus and neglected educational sector. Many have inevitably asked to know what would have necessitated this situation such that things are increasingly and uncontrollably getting worse on daily basis. According to Zimako (2009), could it be traceable to the failure of thinking, collapse of reasoning, Shortage of common sense, lack of wisdom or abandoned values? It is questions such as this that has become the fulcrum of this discourse. Nigeria as a nation has been crawling as a result of the seeming over bloated and unhealthy democratic practice arising from pretensions and fake norms and practices over the years that hinders the much anticipated progress which by implication has terribly affected education and further collapsed our security apparatus. Today, People have become victims of what they no nothing about because of failed governance arising from poor democratic practices. In the words of Alpiki (2010), "Thus, in the era preceding independence, and mainly in the post independence era, there is enough evidence to support the argument that electoral behaviour in Nigeria was not guided by ideology, party programme or quality of candidates, but by a political calculus based on ethnic geopolitics."

It is against this backdrop the researchers intend to interrogate some of these unending problems arising from poor democratic practice in Nigeria and possibly see how this paper can help proffer solutions borne of altruistic motives that can help pull out this country out of the quagmire and situational crisis it has found itself.

Research Questions

The statement of problem just discussed has provided the following research questions.

1. What would have caused this poor democratic practice in Nigeria?
2. Could the poor educational standard and weak Security apparatus be traceable to poor governance arising from poor democratic practice?

Aims and Objectives of the Study:

The main objective of the paper is to address the poor democratic practice in Nigeria.

The Specific objectives are;

1. Assess the relationship between poor democratic practice and education in Nigeria.
2. Establish relationship between bad governance (democracy) and poor educational system.
3. Identify the nature and activities of insecurity in Nigeria
4. Identify the consequences of insecurity on the socio-economic activities in Nigeria.

Significance of Study:

The research is significant in the following order: Empirical, theoretical and policy bound.

Empirical significance: This research is important to students, and to people that have strong inclination for democratic practice.

It is very important to note that research inputs on affected areas such as insecurity and the near collapse of the education industry is fundamental in order to redirect the need to put an end to the poor system of governance arising from poor democratic practice.

Theoretical significance: The study recognize the frustration aggression theory. The theory is noted on the poor democratic practice that triggered insecurity in Nigeria.

The frustration aggression theory is strongly on the focus that often time people disillusionment is borne out of their expectations that were not met. As a result, it gives room to bottled up anger which is emitted through aggression. The proponents of this theory is John Dollard Dallar. And his colleagues developed this theory far back 1939 and has been given wide expansion by intellectuals such as Berkowits (1962) and Aubrey (1962) in explaining the needs and disappointment, that results in violent behaviour.

The significance of this theory is anchored on the behavioural outcome of individual that have been disappointed over certain promises. Such reactions have become

sources of violent reaction and behaviour that may scuttle a system such that we are presently experiencing.

Policy Significance; Here again the findings of the study will help to promote the development of ministry of foreign affairs towards the effective implementation of policies in ensuring that better decisions were reached and sustained to promote better democratic practice devoid of rancour and disunity. The study further revealed that some of the negative effects of democratic system of governance have on the electorates. The problems of poor education, total collapse the security network amongst others are terrible afflictions on the democratic system of governance.

Methodology

The paper adopted the quantitative research method. It is therefore imperative to note documentation and critical review that is anchored on clear interpretation of secondary data was recorded through observation.

Past events were analysed in an attempt to understand the present situation of things and to provide suitable answers to research questions earlier raised in this study.

Conceptual Clarification

In order for a thorough and clear understanding of this paper to be achieved some concepts regarding the research topic were examined below.

Insecurity: Insecurity connotes fear, danger, anxiety arising from a group of persons that have vowed to make governance intolerable to an existing administration. It could be occasioned by people who are violently happy to subdue others to part with their property or valuables. Thus, it is insecurity when people are no longer safe to go about their legitimate businesses. When lives and property are no longer guaranteed, insecurity would have taken place. According to Cocodia et al (2021)" Nigeria internal security' challenges have become more complex and more widespread over the years as all the six geo political zones are Plagued by one crisis or the other. In the North East and North West, it is Boko Haram. In the North Central, it is the pastoralist and herders conflict. In the South East it is kidnapping and Secession. In the South South Kidnapping and militancy. In the South West, incessant violent ethnic clashes and banditry.

Democracy: Democracy connotes a majoritarian rule. It is a system of government of elected representatives. According to Atani (2021) cited in NPSA South South Journal of Political Science, the hallmark of democracy is hinged on the ideas that power emanates from the people and is used for the actualization of the aspiration of the people. Diamond (2005) argued that "governance is good only when the authority and the sovereignty exercised by the government rest finally on the people as well as respond to their aspiration. In the same vein, Badru (2005) opined that "democracy is the foremost representative of an increasing citizen's political equality and equity when it comes to popular participation, asserting further that in democratic system, both the leaders and the led are enabled to be conscious of what is required and get accordingly for the social, political and economic good of society otherwise referred to as development."

Education: This is the means by which individuals get developed through the process of learning after undergoing examination or some formal practices. According Whawo (2000) "Education is also a process of developing the individual physically, mentally morally and socially for his own welfare and for the benefit of the society.

Unity: Unity encompasses some degree of harmoniousness, togetherness and oneness. Thus, it is unity when people live together to pursue their legitimate goals. It is unity when People with common historical belief, norms and practices live together to pursue their different goals in life.

Theoretical framework

Although a lot of theory ranging from the elite theory, group theory, conspiracy theory, power theory just to mention a few are logically suitable for this study but the frustration aggression theory has been singled out for this study because of its peculiarity and suitability. The frustration aggression theory which John Dillard and his research associate initially developed in 1939 and has been expanded and modified by scholars like Leonard Berkowitz (1962) and Aubrey Yates (1962) appears to be the most common explanation for violent behaviour stemming from inability to fulfil needs, (Best, 2006).

The point here is that most people reactions are borne out of disappointment arising from fake and empty promises by leaders. Consequently, the bottled up anger accumulated over time has a very terrible repercussion over their disenchantment. It is this type of scenario that manifest itself in our everyday relationship over democratic failures by the leaders. Often time, leaders make promises in the name of party manifesto, the resultant effect is disappointment and anguish. According to Markovits (1977), if African Societies were so great in the past, where is the evidence for this today? Corroborating the above, Akukwe (1988), opined that " when it adversely affects a significant number of people and they feel that something must be done through collective effort then we have got a social problem."

LITERATURE REVIEW

The challenges of democracy on education in Nigeria

The poor culture of democratic practice in Nigeria has a terrible and unending effects on education particularly on the tertiary institutions. Often, the procedure and pattern of elections of candidates into governmental positions leave much to be desired. This is obviously because the desperation of power seekers makes them to always part with gifts ranging from bag of rice, money to induce the electorates into voting for the wrong candidates. The implication of this is that candidates without the right initiative find themselves in authority. At the end better programmed that should help to promote the welfare of the electorates vis a-viz their expectations are Jettisoned for personal interests and desires. According to Ekekwe (2014) "the sharp contrast between the democratic countries of the prosperous West and the democratic woes associated with the poor countries of the Third World is a true reflection of the crucial role that wealth could play in democratic practice" It is not enough, to have citizens and to protect them, it is also necessary to give some thoughts to their subsistence And Seeing to the public needs is an obvious consequence of the general will, and the third essential duty of the government (Rousseare, in Cress 1987, p. 127).

So, the point in emphasis is that the action's of these leaders towards the practice of democracy has led to the neglect of the society in virtually all ramifications of human endeavour including education. It is this neglect that has continuously made some of our parents to send their Children abroad to a relatively stable and more orderly

society. The just concluded Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) strike is a very glaring case in point. As a matter of fact, during the periods there were female students who became pregnant. Others were exposed to other social vices that stagnated their educational pursuit. Again, some lecturers left their teaching jobs in search of better opportunities elsewhere. The consequences are endless. According Macpherson (1977:34), "the political system should both produce governments which would establish and nurture a free market society and protect the citizens from rapacious governments (for by the grand governing principle of human nature, every government would be rapacious unless it were made its own interest not to be so, or impossible for it to be so)"

Still in line with the aforementioned facts, the practice of the system of governance often times makes some of these powers seekers to even the University Student as party thugs for their nefarious activities. They could use them to maim, kidnap and sometime kill their political opponents. The Immediate consequence of this is that the desire to go to school is far from their minds since they have been exposed to quick means of making money.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Challenges of insecurity on Nigeria Education and Unity

The level of insecurity in Nigeria has not only threatened the peaceful co-existence of the country but it has equally done terrible and incalculable damages to the growth and national development as well educational development of the country. There were cases of students that were kidnapped in different parts of the country in the time past. Chibok girls of April 14, 2014 is a case in point. The Daptich kidnap is another case among too many to mention. Forest (2012) has carried out several attacks on national security and Public Institutions, Schools, Markets, Churches and Mosque Telecommunication equipment and International Institutions such as the United nations building in Abuja (Ibaba 2016). For as Akmoya will say "the leaders mismanaged the economy and these results in the continuing manifestation of a dog eat dog ethos which has become common feature of the Nigeria society."

However, the following reasons has been attributed as casual factors to these challenges.

Corruption The degree of this social factor has done very terrible havoc to the country's unity and educational standard. The recent Academic staff Union of University strike is one of the most recent challenges of the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. When a man faces economic difficulties, his security is being threatened. In the words of Oyobaire (1992), "Leadership that is poor, uninspiring, corrupt, oppressive and sectional can only generate resentment, dissension and revolt.

Religion is another possible cause of insecurity in Nigeria. According to Durkheim (1965). Religion is unified system of belief and practice relation to sacred thing. For Marx (1967) it is the sub of the oppressed creatures, the heart of the heartless world, the spirit of conditions utterly unspiritual. It is the opium of the poor. The idea of God is the keynote of a perverted civilization. It suppress religion which promotes and illusory happiness, is to establish the claims of real happiness. Unfortunately, religion in Nigeria has become source of conflict and disunity. Not a basis of serving a true God. In most African countries including Nigeria, it is a yardstick for voting during election.

Poverty is another problem provoking insecurity in Nigeria. In recent time, people have started using their fellow human being for ritual. Consequently, it has increased the embers of disunity and fear amongst people that have agreed to cohabit. According to Njoku (2004), poverty dehumanized individual and rob them of dignity. It pushes under aged children to assume the position of adults and this leads to child abuse.

Terrorism is the most recent of all the existing causes of insecurity. This has done incalculable damages to the educational sector and the national unity of the country. Horby (2001), define terrorism as "the use of violent actions in order to achieve political aims or to force a government to act in a manner prescribed by groups." The modus operandi of this group is to adopt different strategies ranging from the use of guns, bombs, and other deadly weapons to subdue their subjects. Many students, officials of government services, politicians, amongst others have been attacked by them. At a point, some Schools, were shut down because of their unbridled actions.

Conclusion

The disunity of the country, poor educational standard, arose as a result of low standard democratic practices. Leaders who emerged out of some desperation in politics have little or no idea of what do when voted into power. As a matter of fact, some of them even aid and abet the miscreants that often make the system ungovernable. Many of such miscreants have been sent to correction centre and regained their freedom through the poor judicial system and consequently find themselves in the society to create more havocs. Some schools in the past have been shut down because of the activities of these hoodlums. Consequently, the pace and speed of the education in this country, was retarded. Mosques and churches have been invaded by these blood thirsty of terrorists. Apart from the Nigeria civil war of

1967-70, Nigerians have never had it so bad. A lot really need to be done to reposition the country in order to get it right. It is in the light of this, the following recommendations should be considered:

Recommendation

1. Very strict and unpardonable measures should be adopted to curtail the activities of the terrorists.
2. Politicians without the relevant qualifications and moral upbringing should be barred from partisan politics.
3. If it is possible, people with the burning desire to use people for ritual purpose should have their legs amputated when caught.
4. Again, the benefits of political offices should be drastically reduced at least to discourage people from desperately seeking for political powers.

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