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### Insecurity and the Challenges of Managing Schools in North-East Nigeria

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#### Abstract

Insecurity is the uncertainty that exist in a society about safety of citizen lives and properties not protected by government, to this end North-East region is witnessing terrible insecurity occasioned by terrorism kidnapping of school pupils and students, cattle rustling as well as abduction of school students for ransom, then has made school and schooling impossible for the fact that managing schools become risky and dangerous thereby, forcing schools to closed down indefinitely for years, some already burnt or destroyed, many students abducted or killed and many still in captivity this has brought school life to an end and great set-back to education in the region as a results of increasing insurgency

**Keywords:** Insecurity, Kidnapping, cattle rustling, Schools, Ransom, Education

## Introduction

Insecurity in a society is a terrible situation whereby citizens lives in fear/uncertainty to the security of lives and property, North-East region of Nigeria for years now in witnessing increase in insecurity as a results of terrorists activities in the region ranging from kidnapping and killing of innocents citizens, abductions of schools students and pupils for ransom, burning and destructions of schools and physical structures, as well as destructions of villages and cattle rustling.

To this end most towns and villages as well as schools were no longer secured for people to stay or schooling, the security network/architecture has been destroyed, terrorists and insurgents has taken control of

some villages forcing the inhabitant to migrate to other African neighboring towns and villages to take refuge due to insecurity, loss of lives and properties as well as lack of government protection to citizenry.

#### What is Insecurity?

Udo (2015) as in Guga (2021) said insecurity thus: state of being subjected to danger or injury, it is the anxiety that is experienced when feels are vulnerable and insecure. It means the state of not being secure or experiencing lack of confidence about yourself on your relationship with Other people.

In another separate vie about what insecurity is all about Ndubuisi Okolo and Anigbogu (2019) in Guga, (2021) said insecurity is all "as signifying danger hazard, uncertainty, and lack of protection. In

essence it implies the lack of or inadequate protection from danger"

Insecurity has been a major problem or challenge to lives and properties in the North-East region for sometimes now, which insecurity started with the emergency of "Boko-haram in Maiduguri capital of Borno State, which later scattered to town and villages in the region, to some extent to cross boarder to some west African neighboring countries like Niger, Chad, Cameroon etc. insecurity activities started with bombing public places like Markets, Churches, Mosques and other places of socialization like hotels and leisure centre with sporadic, burning of army and police barracks attacking villages and kidnapping and abduction of school village women, killing, raping innocent ones.

This insecurity is just similar to the early insecurity witness in the Niger Delta. Where MEND were involved in education of oil pipelines kidnapping and abduction of foreign oil workers for ransom. Benue state like other parts of North-East regions suffers another insecurity to lives and properties resulting from constant clash between farmers and herdsmen, this has also constituted a lot of insecurity in the area, occasioned by the political and tribal clashes between

Tiv and Jukun up to Taraba state 'within the North —East region. Insecurity in the North-East is multidimensional, the biggest being "insecurity on lives and properties' farming is no longer possible thereby creating food insecurity, since fear of being killed or kidnapped has stopped farming activities, no more functional business of buying and selling i.e. financial insecurity as well as other in security like

"worship" churches and mosque are no longer safe for worshipers, unemployment insecurity and information too. Maim. (2021) is of the opinion that insecurity "is a situation of being subjected to danger or injury. It is the anxiety that is experienced by people when they feel vulnerable and insecure", Maina (2021) further quoted Keri (2011) as saying, "insecurity as a state of not being sure, lack of confidence".

### **Insecurity in some other places and countries**

Gital (2018) there are security challenges in Nigeria we are experiencing security challenges posed by terrorists and such as Boko Haram, cattle rustlers, kidnappers, religious insurgency, and the war in Libya and Iraq has led to the spread of weapons in African countries. Nigeria has several camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) especially in the North-East, parts of Zamfara State, Katsina, Niger, Adamawa, Kaduna in Birnin-Gwari and Chikun areas as well as Sokoto, Sudan, Kenya, D.R. Congo and many other towns and villages in North-East and Plateau State.

In Bomo State alone, about 22 local government area were under the control of "Insurgency" terrorist from "Sambisa Forest" has over taken and control the affairs of the local before a security operative "Operation Lafiya Dole" restored confidence and re-captured the 22 local government area back to Borno State Government.

### **Insecurity and Managing Schools**

Generally, managing schools in the face of insecurity in Nigeria wasn't an easy task, both teachers and students as well as parents were in serious fear about the plight

of the security of lives and properties of everyone around the schools premises principal and teachers must be present to teach pupils and students yet schools are no longer safe for daily operation. lyabo Lawal (2018) said "Nowadays many children cannot attend school because of the fear of Boko Haram- she further explain that, "Even when children enroll in schools: many do not complete prima Fafuwa (1983) has since said the effect of insecurity on quality education thus; "the issue of insecurity in Northern Nigeria has compelled school children to drop out of school". He noted further however, that "drop out of school is one of the most serious problems that have contributed and continued to bedevil the Nigerian educational system from colonial administration up to independence in 1960 and even beyond".

Managing schools amidst insecurity in Nigeria started in North-East Nigeria, which is the main focus of this paper, Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok Borno State, about 300 girls writing final year school certificate examination WAEC/NECO were abducted by gunmen terrorists, kidnappers or insurgents. This has put fear and lack of control to parents and so many secondary schools or tertiary education in North-East. On 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2016, students of Babington seminary in Lagos were abducted by gunmen or kidnappers, as well as 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2016, another set of students of Igbonla Model College also in Lagos were abducted. 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, students of Tulips International College Isheri Lagos were also abducted, this also has forced Lagos State Government to temporary closed all schools in the state and this is a results of reoccurring of kidnapping students from schools for ransom, managing, schools becomes dangerous and created fears in the

minds of parents not willing to send their children to schools as well as school administrators are not willing see schools running because of fear that, they too will be abducted.

### **Insecurity and Managing Schools in North-East**

Virtually, all schools in North-East region comprising, Borno, Bauchi, Gmbe, Adamawa, I araba and Yobe States were affected by the insecurity resulting to total closed down of all schools for sessions, thus is as a results of kidnapping and abduction of students from Government Grits Secondary School in Chibok, which rock the whole world and invoke fear about school and schooling with mix feelings, and create lack of interest in college of Agriculture Mamudo Yobe State, lecturers from university of Maiduguri were also abducted, schools in Damasak were burnt down completely and towns neighboring Chad and Cameroon were under the control of insurgency, as such no schools of schooling ongoing, most were completely burnt down, towns were deserted, who then will manage the schools. And where are the schools even, state like Bauchi and Gombe schools were on for sometimes but operating in fear, for the fact that there was no adequate securities around the schools to protect the lives and properties of these schools most schools interior part of Adamawa States like Madagali a flash point, run to towns in Cameroon, bringine, an end to schooling, even in Maiduguri metropolis all schools including tertiary were completely closed down, people running out of the capital to other places to seek refuge.

Gwoza town was another dangerous area under the control of insurgency, no schools or schooling for years, Mubi town

was surrendered to insurgency for years, schools in the area were burnt down, even with the partial restoration of peace, schools in some areas are no more, Government is currently embarking on schools rehabilitation and construction. Various operations by military were put in place to bring peace to towns and villages across Nigeria Operation Lafiya Dole, Operation Harbin Daji, Safe Heaven, Thunder, but insurgency kidnapping and abduction of school students continues in a worst form in North Central States like Niger, Sokoto, Katsina, Zamfara and Kaduna States, schooling and most schools were put on hold in Zamfara State for whole session in fear of wide spread of insecurity, in Katsina State with the abduction of school students Government Science School Kankara who were rescued in Gusau, Zamfara State Government ordered the immediate closure of all schools in the state, this was followed by series of school students abduction in Government College Kagara and Islamiyara School in Tegna, Niger State, Kaduna State is also in the worst situation of students abduction especially tertiary, where students of Federal College of Forestry Mika-Kaduna and Greenfield University were abducted right inside the school premises, the students of Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic Zaria were twice abducted, and the most recent is the abduction of many students from Bethel High School Chikun, Kaduna State, most towns and villages in Kaduna are under threat and fear of rampant attack due to increasing insecurity in the state. Kaduna State is not left out in threat to managing schools amidst insecurity, most students of Federal Government College Birnin Yauri are in captivity when the insurgents drove into the school and abducted so many students some were rescued and many still in the hand of the bandits/kidnappers or abductors.

## **Managing Schools in I.D.P Camp**

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) are those people who fled or run away from their residence as a result of emergence of terrorism or insurgency resulting from the ongoing insecurity in their area, this has affected lives and properties houses and other items needed for survival were destroyed or burnt, as such people has no option than to escape, from the danger. In an efforts to provide the escapes with where to stay temporary, Government and other agencies like Red-cross international embark on construction of temporary residence for these refugees, known as "Internally Displaced Persons, Camp (IDP)" within the IDPs Camp, schools were provides especially for primary school and Junior Secondary Schools to promote learning but the environment doesn't provide the climate for learning the classrooms are not sufficient enough and conducive for learning, most of the children are not discipline enough due to the fear that chased them out from the homes, majority are happy because of the terrible nature of the (IDP) Camps, very unhealthy, no privacy, overcrowding as well as lack of settled mind and willing to learn without adequate instructional materials.

## **Problems of Managing School at IDPs Camps**

Internally Displaced Persons Camps has problems of managing schools in such environment thus:

- Lack of conducive classroom for effective teaching and learning the size is not enough to accommodate the pupils due to the nature of classrooms as temporary structure, no good sitting arrangement as

required of a classroom, therefore classroom management is not easy.

- Overcrowding due to the high population or influx of escapees from different parts of the affected areas by insurgency bandit or terrorist that flushed them out of their original residence, every child will like to attend classroom as nothing much to engage the pupils who are ideal and fearful.
- Lack of inadequate teaching and learning facilities government is not providing enough facilities that will promote effecting teaching and learning in the (I)Ps camps schools as no Government is funding such schools adequately.
- Spread of diseases especially infections rapidly and widely in IDPs camps, effects the school pupils easily as transmitting agents.
- Wide spread of violence cases in IDPs camps like rape, child abuse, lack of enough professional teachers, therefore such schools are regarded as host.

### **Insecurity as a great setback to Education**

The progress of education in any society into see to the functional schools ongoing learning taking place and students are graduating for employment and developing other sector of economic, but reverse is the case in North-East region, since the emergency of terrorists kidnappers and abduction of students in various schools as well as rampant burning of schools and killing students, parents and children started fearing sending their children to schools, Most schools were completely burnt down

forced authorities to issue order of indefinite closure of all schools.

For years schools were closed down in sonic areas, there no more physical structures called school buildings in some villages the communities have fled the towns captured by insurgents Boko Haram, therefore school building to house school are no more, people and children that will go to school are not there therefore schools have lost the glory of being a “learning center” education has been forcefully, phase out, yearly or annual final school certificate has not been conducted anymore, school life, or span have been terminated children are no more going to school, schools also are no more, teaching and learning activities have been suspended, most children/students becomes “out of school children” many, are redundant as “School drop-out” these are set back to education.

### **Challenges**

- No enough security operative in most of the affected area that can bring peace and protect lives and properties.
- There are many schools destroyed, as such no classrooms for academic activities.
- Government of Brono and other neighbors need a lot to bring basic school to life.
- Security in place for protect future occurrence is not enough to guarantee continuation of schooling activities.
- North-East and Government of the region don't need to hold hand and see schools a not in session.
- Lack of employment has forced many pupils out of school due to



poor socio-economic background of the parents. Many school girls are still in captivity by terrorist, this will continue to scare parents from sending girl-child to school.

## Prospects

- Security operatives to restore peace and put security in place to protect lives and properties in all schools in North-East Nigeria. This is a serious task on Government at all levels.
- Re-building and rehabilitation of all schools must be speedy and time completion to enable academic activities and schooling to resume in the affected areas.
- Efforts of the Governor of Borno State and other Governors in the region are commended for bringing most schools back to life again, the North-East Development Commission should double its efforts in re-building and rehabilitating schools in the regions to restore confidence lost in schooling and education in the region.
- There is need for tight security around all schools in the regions to avoid re-occurring incidents of kidnaping, abduction of students and burning of schools, restore full confidence in school for the educational progress of the region.
- North-East Development Commission and all state Governors in the region to rehabilitate and bring back al drop-out students who forcefully becomes "out of school children" to rejoin and resume learning indifferent schools so that "they are not waste to in the society".
- Government must provide employment and create many to

improve socio-economic background of parents, to be able to send their children back to school again.

- All school Girls in captivity by the terrorist to be freed and reunited with family to continue with their education.

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