

Historical Antecedents of Boko Haram Insurgency and Its Implications for Sustainable and Educational Development in North Central Nigeria

Muraina Monsuru Babatunde^{1*}, Uyanga Unwana-Obong D¹, Muraina Kamilu Olanrewaju³

1. Department of Educational Foundations, Guidance and Counselling, University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria
2. Department of Guidance and Counseling, University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

*E-mail of the corresponding author: murainamonsuru@gmail.com.

Abstract

The importance of higher education in any economy is enormous. It is acknowledged in the literature that education has a positive relationship with the sustainable development in different countries. The purpose of this study was to x-ray the historical antecedents of Boko Haram insurgency and its implications for sustainable and educational development in North Central of Nigeria. Historical research design was used in the study. The paper therefore examined the origin of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria, cases of Boko Haram and its implications for sustainable and educational development of the North Central Nigeria. The study showed numerous effects of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria to include economical, political and social as well as educational in Northern states of Nigeria. Economically, the nature and operation in the area of economic activities of the states concerned are dead resulting to migration of people from the affected places to other areas due to restiveness. Also, educationally, schools are not left out as parents are rejecting their children schooling in volatile North. Many schools have been closed down due to Boko Haram activities, talented lecturers, teachers have abandoned their schools for other schools in other peaceful states leading to brain drained syndrome. More than 800 school buildings are affected in the north, leading to some students having lessons under trees and canopies. Also, school girls are abducted. The paper therefore recommended a proactive and pragmatic approach to quelling this menace including the provision of employment for unemployed ones and proper education for non educated ones.

Keywords: Boko Haram Insurgency, sustainable development and educational development

1. Introduction

The importance of education in any economy is enormous. It is acknowledged in the literature that education has a positive relationship with economic growth and sustainable development and that the development of nations in the 21st Century depends on the quality and the quantity of this level of education in different countries (Obasi, 2009). Thus, the origin of western education in Nigeria according to many historians of education (Osokoya, 1989; Fafunwa, 2004 & Muraina, 2014) dates back to 1842 with the arrival of the Christian missionaries and later the subsequent intervention of the colonial government. However, education during the missionaries and colonial era has gone through many unsavoury phases, almost defeating the purpose for which it was initiated and leaving much doubt in the minds of many intellectual people. Today, it is unfortunate that educational institutions are regularly associated with negative energy and tendencies in the Nigerian society. The issue of discontinuity and disruptions in these institutions is often occasioned by rampant strikes, often declared in a manner that depresses not only stakeholders in education but the entire society in general.

Nigeria, the most populous African country with more than 300 ethnic nationalities or groups has been described as one of the greatest Islamo-Christian nations of the world (Opeloye, 2001). What this implies is the fact that Nigeria is about the only country where one finds a very large population of Muslims living side by side with a very large population of Christians. The country can be zoned into three in terms of religious affiliation of the citizenry, viz: the giant North with a large Muslim majority, the South- East populated mainly by the Christians and the South- West with balanced Muslim-Christian population. The Indigenous African Religion practitioners constitute a negligible minority of the country's population. In recent past therefore,

Nigeria has witnessed brutal confrontation and massive assault from terrorist groups which are undoubtedly the most blood-thirsty and destructive, both in term of demonic brutality, mindless savagery and flagrant disobedience to the principles of peace and stability of our noble country.

It is worth saying that security of life and property is germane for any country of the world to experience sustainable development. Good and proper security has been the watchword of the major advanced countries of the world like United States of America, United Kingdom, Japan to mention but a few. However in Nigeria, over the years, disproportionate attention to the security sector by the Nigerian leadership has being a major threat to sustainable development of the country. There is also the problem of micro economic instability distortions and leakages in the Nigerian economy with the attendant problem of infrastructural constraints and hyper inflation.

The implication of this scenario for sustainable development is that more people are trapped into the vortex of interlocking vicious circle of poverty. This constitutes a dismal performance of the economy with devastating implication for sustainable development in Nigeria. Another way in which insecurity negatively affects sustainable development is in the sphere of tourism. Tourism is a viable sector with sufficient economic, socio-cultural benefits. However, for a country to reap these benefits, a country must be free of security threats. Security constitutes a sensitive aspect of tourism. Nigeria has abundant tourist centres. However, they have made negligible contributions to sustainable development due to the security challenges or insecurity saga perpetuated by the incessant bombing activities by Boko Haram.

Apart from the significant contributions to the economy at the national level, foreign investors create livelihood opportunities through the creation of job opportunities and the provision of large scale products and services in the host country. Nigeria can no longer avail itself of this opportunity due to unfavourable business environment of insecurity created by the violent activities of Boko Haram. Apart from the unfavourable investment climate and stagnated external resources inflow into Nigeria, the Boko Haram insecurity problems has caused a greater percentage of the internal resources and attention to be devoted only to the security sector. With the enormous resources at its disposal, leadership in Nigeria is confronted with the problem of focusing its expenditure priorities on security in disfavour of viable human capital development and other growth and productivity promoting sectors. This no doubt, poses a serious challenge to a dynamic framework for the provision of job options and the elimination of poverty, which of course constitutes the hallmark of sustainable development. This is made worse as leadership is pre-occupied by waging and bent on winning the war against terrorism through huge budgetary allocations to the security sector.

The multi-ethnic and multi-religious configuration of Nigeria largely accounts for the incessant ethno-religious imbroglios experienced in the nation for over three decades since the 2nd Republic in 1979. The country has hardly survived the ethno-religious crises when the Boko Haram problem violence erupted in 2008. The Boko Haram insurgency with all its destabilizing propensities is another challenge of serious concern for which the Federal Government of Nigeria is yet to find solution. According to Obioma (2012), some of these terrorist attacks are politically motivated even though some may have other ancillary motives such as religious, economic or social. Records showed that terrorism has long started in Nigeria before the declaration of amnesty for Niger Delta youths by President Yar' Adua in 2005. There existed for instance in the Niger Delta region Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), Niger Delta; People Volunteer Force, the Egbesu Boys and Niger Delta Vigilante with a long history dating to the Adaka Boro Movement in the 1960's. (Ayangese, 2010) and that of Ken Saro Wiwa's struggles. These militant groups launched agitation against environmental degradation, unemployment, poverty, deprivation and marginalization in the Niger Delta areas of Nigeria. Also in the East, the Bakassi Boys and the Bakassi Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) are also terrorist groups fighting for equal rights and security of N'digbo true federalism, autonomy and political relevance of the Igbo people in Nigeria having been ravaged by the civil war and abandoned thereafter. In the down West was the Odua People's congress (OPC) serving as militating wing and mouth-piece of the Egbe-Omo-Oduduwa for the Yorubas. The Arewa People's congress in the Northern Region was also a formidable group. Several pockets of minor militant groups also arose in places like the Jos Plateau area, Igala, Idoma, Zaki, Ihiam and others. Their interest was mainly on land acquisition, boundary adjustment and grazing rights. The questions then arise: Who are the Boko Haram? What are the Movement's ideological doctrines? Are the doctrines in tune with the pristine Islamic principles, or are they prone to subvert the Islamic cultural values? What is the motive for the formation of the Movement? Is it to achieve political gains or is it a response to the trendy global terrorism?

2. Statement of the Problem

The incessant bombing by Boko Haram insurgents no doubt impact negatively on lives, property and educational development in Nigeria. Though, there is the dearth of quantitative evaluation of the catastrophic attacks, available statistics has it that between July 25 and February 2011, Human Rights Watch (2012) reported a total death toll of 935 persons in 164 attacks. It was also reported that an estimate of 550 people were killed through bombing and other means; 550 persons were killed in 135 attacks in 2011 alone. While in 2011, at least 500 people were killed in Boko Haram attacks (Amnesty International, 2012). Apart from the loss of lives, there is also the wanton destruction of property worth several billions of naira through bombing (Oluwaseun, 2012). The above scenario has dire consequences for sustainable and educational development in the regions of attack in particular and Nigeria in general. In the regions where the bombings are pervasive and the property destroyed potentially and in real terms, drag their economic fortune back by several steps. Besides the property destroyed, economic life in those regions is automatically grounded to a halt. People are no longer free to go about their economic and educational activities for fear of being killed. This is made worse as several thousands of people have migrated swiftly to other parts of Nigeria. The overall implication for sustainable development is that the economic and educational activities are fast deteriorating. The murderous campaigns and vicious onslaughts on

individuals and institutions provide highly unfavourable business environment for internal and foreign investment, which is a major factor in the achievement of sustainable development. As such, the present study concentrates on the historical antecedents of Boko Haram insurgency and its implications for sustainable and educational development in North Central of Nigeria.

3. Origin of Boko Haram and the Spate of terrorism in Nigeria

Boko Haram is a dreaded Islamic sect known as “Jama’atul Ahlul Sunnah Lidda’ Wat, Wal Jihad” meaning a group committed to the propagation of Prophet Muhammed’s teachings and Jihad (Meehan and Spaier, 2011). Literarily, Boko Haram means “Western education is forbidden” which is the belief the sect emphasized. The origin and founder of Boko Haram is shrouded in uncertainty. Some scholars traced the origin of the sect to 1995 with Lawan Abubakar as its founder. It was when Abubakar left for further studies in Saudi Arabia that the sect then known as Sahaba that Muhammed Yusuf who is also regarded as the leader, took over the affairs of the sect. Others traced the sect founder to Shehu Sanni, a civil right activist in the Northern Nigeria. Apart from the above, numerous expositions on the origin and founder of Boko Haram abound (Danjjibo, 2009; Bumah & Abimbola, 2009; Langmang, 2011; Adike, 2012; Uzodike & Maingwa, 2012).

The Boko Haram Movement founded by Ustadh Muhammed Yusuf in the North- Eastern part of Nigeria is officially recognized by its members as *Jama’at Ahlis-sunnah Lid-Da’wat wal Jihad*, meaning people committed to the propagation of the Prophet’s teachings and Jihad. The Hausa appellation Boko Haram signifies its ideology which forbids western education and any culture that is western. It is for this reason that they advocate abolition of democratic governance and any man-made laws. The movement did not become militant until 2009 when its leader was captured by the men of security forces and was later found dead. From 2009 till date, the Boko Haram, in pursuit of their ideology, have engaged in arson, bombing, shooting, stabbing with disdain and impunity, targeting important national events, public institutions, markets and sometimes Christian places of worship and Christian festivals and most recently the mosques.

It is remarkable to note that apart from the Boko Haram’s targets, they sometimes engage in sporadic bombings of the major Northern towns and cities, as it did happen in Kaduna, Zaria, Jos, Kano, Maiduguri and Damaturu among others. When this happens, they kill indiscriminately; they killed both Muslims and Christians alike. They have killed the rich and the poor, young and old, males and females, weak and strong, elites and commoners, northerners and southerners alike. With this, it can be reasonably concluded that the Boko Haram insurgency is a war against the nation. It was under the leadership of the slain Mallam Muhammed Yusuf that Boko Haram became radicalized and enjoyed foreign collaboration especially with the Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (Abimbola and Adosote, 2012). Since 2009, Boko Haram has constituted a serious security threat in the Northern part of Nigeria. Its terror campaign assumed an alarming dimension from 2010 till date. However, until June 16, 2011, the onslaught was restricted to the North -East geo-political zone. The first attack outside the zone was the bombing of the Nigeria Police Headquarters in Abuja. That attack was triggered off by the utterances of Hafiz Ringim, the then Inspector General of Police who threatened to smoke Boko Haram out in a press statement on his duty tour to Maiduguri, where the sect launched an attack. The attack on the Police Headquarters was followed up with the bombing of the United Nation House, also in Abuja on August 26, 2011 (Alojewwa, 2012).

3. Cases of Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria from 2009 to 2013 in the Northern part of Nigeria.

Below is a list of boko haram’s catastrophic terror in strategic locations in Northern Nigeria:

1. July 2009, Yobe State Attack on Potiskum, Yobe State Divisional Police Headquarters, three Policemen and one fire service officer died.
2. January 21 2011 in Borno State, the Borno state Governorship candidate of all Nigeria Peoples Party ANPP, for the 2011 election, Alhaji Modu Gubio, brother to former governor of the state, Modu Sheriff, killed by sect members alongside six others in Maiduguri, Borno State.
3. March 30 2011 in Yobe State, bomb planted by Boko Haram in Damaturu, Yobe State, exploded and injured a police officer.
4. April 9 2011 in Borno State, bomb explosion occurred at a polling unit in Unguwar Doki Maiduguri, killing the suicide bomber
5. May 30 2011 in Borno State, bombs exploded early morning on Baga road in Maiduguri, Borno State, 13 dead and 40 injured.
6. June 7 2011 in Borno State, Series of bomb blasts occurred in Maiduguri, Borno State, claiming five lives and leaving several others injured.
7. June 16 2011 in Borno State, four children killed in a bomb blast at Damboa town, Maiduguri, Borno State.
8. July 9 2011 in Borno State, a clash between Boko Haram and the military left about 31 people dead in Maiduguri, Borno State.
9. July 12 2011 in Borno State, Boko Haram threw an explosive device on a moving military patrol vehicle,

- which claimed five lives.
10. July 15 2011 in Borno State, explosion in Maiduguri injured five people.
 11. September 17 2011 in Borno State, brother in-law of Mohammed Yusuf, the slain leader of Boko Haram, Babakura Fugu, shot dead in front of his house in Maiduguri by two members of the sect two days after he was visited by former President Olusegun Obsanjo.
 12. October 3 2011 in Borno State, Book Haram attacked Baga Market in Maiduguri and killed three people.
 13. November 4 2011 in Yobe state, about 150 people killed by Boko Haram in Damaturu, Yobe state.
 14. November 27 2011 in Yobe State, seven people killed in attacks in Geidam, Yobe State.
 15. December 18 2011 in Borno State, three members of Boko Haram were killed when their bomb detonated in Shuwari, Maiduguri, Borno State.
 16. December 22 2011 in Borno State, explosive and gunshots killed four people and left several others injured.
 17. December 30 2011 in Borno State, seven people killed in Maiduguri, Borno State
 18. January 28 2012 in Borno State Gambiru Ngala, (Borno) One Killed
 19. February 12 2012 in Borno State, Boko Haram members killed in Maiduguri
 20. February 17 2012 in Yobe State, 2 People killed in Geidam, Yobe State.
 21. February 21 2012 in Borno State, pupils of Gomari Costain Primary School in Maiduguri woke up on Tuesday to discover that their school has been destroyed by boko Haram claimed responsibility
 22. February 22 2012 in Borno state, Abba Ganaram Primary School, Maiduguri was also set ablazed.
 23. March 30 2012 in Borno state, Nigeria's Boko Haram milled 4, robbed bank in Borno State- Reuters
 24. May 25 2012 in Borno State, Police Headquarters, Maiduguri was attacked, 7 dead.
 25. July 30 2012 in Borno State, Six people killed in Maiduguri, environs including two Air force officers.
 26. October 2012 in Adamawa State, Boko haram: 40 Federal Polytechnic Mubi students massacred in Nigeria
 27. December 25 2012 in Borno State, Islamic militants attacked a church on Christmas day; afterwards the church was set on fire and killed 27 people.
 28. April 25 2013 in Baga, Borno State, Muslims gathering for morning prayers and school children, boko haram killed 87 children and adults.
 29. April 19-20 2013 in Borno State, massacre Islamic terrorist group, Boko Haram killed 280 people.
 30. July 6 2013 in Yobe State, Mamudo government secondary school; Suspected Boko Haram terrorists killed at least 41 children and one teacher.
 31. September 20 2013 in Borno State, boko haram sect made highway Ambush: 142 corpses Evacuated from Bushes.
 32. September 29 2013 in Yobe state, latest of the attack at college of Agriculture, Gujba in Yobe state where over 40 students killed on campus while more than 150 sustained injuries

Source: Compiled by the (Okpaga, Chijioke & Innocent, 2012)

4. The Boko Haram insurgency and its implications for sustainable and educational development in North Central Nigeria

Analysts and scholars listed numerous effects of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria to include economical, political and social as well as educational in Northern states of Nigeria (Ayangese, 2010; Uzodike, 2012 & Yakubu, 2012). Economically, it could be viewed from two different perspectives, namely, the states and individuals. Particularly residents of Adamawa, Borno, Yobe and neighboring States are seriously affected by the activities of Boko Haram Insurgency. By their nature and operation in the areas, the economic activities of the states mentioned are dead which led to migration of people from the affected place due to restiveness. Thousands of people have died in the sect's bloody campaign led to closure and or abandonment of people's business activities within affected region and also led to migration of people from the affected Region, thus, leading to replacement of General Andrew Owoeye Azazi as National Security Adviser with Colonel Sambo Dasuki by President Jonathan. He also sacked O. O Petirin as Chief of Defence Staff and elevates Rear Admiral Ola Sa'ad Ibrahim to his position. Rear Admiral Ola Sa'ad Ibrahim before his elevation is Naval Staff who was replaced with Rear Admiral D. J Ezeoba. M. D Umar was also sacked and replaced with A.S Dadem as Chief of Air Staff. The President also sacked Ogbonna Onovo as Inspector General of Police and replaced him with Hafiz Ringim who was subsequently sacked and replaced with Mohammed Dahiru Abubakar. Mr. Afakriya Gadzama was also sacked and replaced with Mr. Ita Ekpeyong as Director-General of State Security Service.

Reduction of people's patronage of the products and goods from Northern Region because of rumour that members of Boko Haram are planning to send poisonous products from their regions to other parts of Nigeria. 97 per cent of businesses were negatively affected by the security problem. Some of them had to close down, some of them had to retrench their workers while others had to cut down the number of hours of operation. Also, the insurgencies of Boko Haram have reduced drastically government derivation from the affected regions due to restiveness in those places as well as reduced investment and growth of business in the affected places without excluding government executed projects. Insecurity in Adamawa, Borno, Yobe, Kano etc alone has cost the

Nigerian economy N1.3trillion (\$6 billion) as a result of attacks by the Boko Haram group. It was further reported that the report monitored on the Voice of Kano attributed the development to a drop in earnings for nearly all businesses in the affected states.

Politically and Socially, Government's performance and ability to deliver its objectives, missions and visions to its citizen is reduced and unrealistic while social effect on the other hand connotes its effect on society and people's ways of life. The insurgence of Boko Haram in Nigeria has drastically reduced government of the day's performance in the affected areas. Although, Nigerian politicians are fond of promising heaven and earth for the purpose of gaining people's mandate; it is in this view that President Goodluck Jonathan has not been able to fulfill the larger parts of his promise due to confusion created in the Nation by insurgence of Boko Haram. It must be noted that the insurgence of Boko Haram have made public forum cautionable place to be in some Northern Part of Nigeria. The activities of Boko Haram have aggravated to the extent of developed negative impact in the mind of some Christians that all Muslims are extremist without taken into cognizance that extremism applicable to both Christianity and Islam. It should be noted that the activities of Boko Haram have made some Non-Muslims who have not privilege to mingle with Muslims in their life to belief that all Muslims are fundamentalists while some of them were mischievous with their opinions, with little exclusion about few Muslims from Yoruba Part of Nigeria. It should also be noted that the activities of Boko Haram have made some Nigerians who are not from Boko Haram affected States to be avoiding affected States to the extent that some corps members who are serving the Nation under the scheme of National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) are seriously rejecting being posted to some parts of Northern Nigeria.

Relationship between Nigeria and other Nations of the world because of bombing, couple with kidnapping and hostage taking with or without demand for ransom; particularly of alien which have resulted to demised of some of them and have greatly been an object of disturb not only to Nigeria but include International Community. It could be recollected that few months ago, United States of America warned her nationals not to go to some States in Nigeria without forgetting that United Nations have once included Nigeria in watching list of terrorist in the World. Educationally; Schools are not left out as parents are rejecting their children schooling in volatile north. Many schools have closed down due to Boko Haram activities, talented lecturers, teachers have abandoned their schools for another schools in another peaceful states, leading to brain drained. More than 800 school buildings are affected in the north leading to some students having lesson under trees and canopies. Numbers of school children have reduced drastically due to the activities of Boko Haram insurgency in the northern Nigeria, especially Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states. When there are security crisis or threats, it tends to affect the rate of attendance in school. There is no significant difference in school attendance among male and female pupils/student once there is a security crisis. Anyandike and Nkechi (2003) noted that irrespective of age, sex and nationality, once there is an attacks by the Boko Haram, the survivors often dread staying in such places and may hesitate sending their children to school especially when they are not too sure of the security measure that have been put in place. Boko haram attack is not restricted to the urban or rural areas. Their attacks cut across boundaries. Similarly, Oladunjoye and Omemu (2013) found out the following effects of Boko haram activities on school enrolment in the Northern Nigeria:

- School attendance is affected in areas prone to Boko Haram attacks in Northern Nigeria.
- There is no significant difference in school attendance among male and female students in areas vulnerable to Boko Haram attacks.
- The urban schools are often protected during such insurgency by government security forces.
- The rural schools are often neglected and the children live in perpetual fear of attacks.
- The primary schools record very low school attendance as parents disallow their children from attending school as soon as there is an attack or rumours of attack.
- Most secondary school students risk attending school even in the face of attack
- Security measures are put in place to protect tertiary institutions so, most students often risk attending classes.

5. Recommendations

The following recommendations are put forward to checkmate the Boko Haram insurgencies in the Northern Nigeria:

1. The paper therefore recommends a viable reorientation on the side of the Muslim extremists who have seized to see western education as sin, hence to curb these attacks on schools.
2. Therefore a total reorientation on value for life and unity even in diversity is strongly recommended.
3. Majority of Northern brothers and Sisters have concluded that Federal government of Nigeria has failed in its primary function of assuring the security of lives and property of citizens in many parts of Northern Nigeria; therefore a proactive and pragmatic approach to quelling this menace is recommended including provision of employment for unemployed ones and proper education for non educated ones.
4. No doubt, the impoverishment of the North is traceable to the long history of insecurity in the region. This has escalated under Jonathan's Presidency. The insecurity has led to mass exodus of investors from the

- North on one hand and the exodus of foreign investors from Nigeria on the other. The Northern elites should also preach peace in the region as it is believed that they are lovers of peace and tranquility, which the menace of Boko Haram threatens; as it is only in peace that the region will witness development of all sorts.
5. Refusal to do that, the president, haven identified some of the institutions of government which the sect has allegedly infiltrated, should swing into action and fish out those involved and prosecute them. He should also get at the root of the sponsorship of the rebellious group since the government's state of emergency in some states in the north has failed to curtail violence in those areas.
 6. Each school in the Northern Nigeria should have security present, since with the state of emergency declared by President Goodluck Jonathan, killings are still noticed unabated.
 7. All traditional rulers, youth leaders and politicians of northern states should come together and identify this hydra headed monster called Boko Haram and flush them out of the system or educate them to leave terrorists act. Nigerian government should establish special force that could counters the terrorism of Boko Haram caliber as well as open a viable channel for information sharing between the government agencies and the individuals or private security outfits because security is every body's responsibility. Let the government and all the security agencies do all that is necessary to stop the continuing damaging of schools properties and bloodletting especially in schools in Northern Nigeria.

6. Conclusion

The paper showed that Nigeria is confronted with the problem of insecurity. This is made manifest in the Boko Haram's murderous campaign against individuals and institutions in the North- East region of Nigeria. The upsurge of terror unleashed by this Islamic religious sect is rather unprecedented with monumental loss of lives and property. The problem of insecurity as identified in this paper is the outcome of frustrated expectations which breed aggression. The way the Nigerian society is structured paved way for frustration and that people are inevitably compelled to express their frustration through various shades of anti-social behavior including violent responses that are directed at those perceived to be responsible for their predicaments or are readily available to be used political agents for destructive purposes. The prevailing vicious onslaught of Boko Haram and the inability of the security sector to guarantee security have dire consequences for sustainable development. The economic life of people in those regions is grounded to a halt. The Boko Haram debacle creates an unfavourable investment climate for both indigenous and foreign investors that would have propelled the economic fortune of Nigeria. In order to surmount the insurgency, governance in Nigeria devoted all resources and attention on the security sector at the expense of other sectors that impact directly on the welfare and living standard of its citizenry.

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