
Insecurity and Learning in the School Environment: Curriculum Implications

By

Musa Mohammed Mande

Department of Educational Foundations,
Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi.

Email: mmmande50@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Insurgency in Nigeria for the last six years has claimed the souls of many innocent students. This unfortunate situation is creating a state of insecurity in our schools and is capable of causing a paranoid condition in the minds of students, which will ultimately, affect students learning in the school environment. Hence, the need to incorporate security awareness in the students through the school curriculum.

INTRODUCTION

The school environments in Nigeria for the past six years have become a subject of attack, the situation has become unbearable to school children and it is adversely affecting education (Nadabo, 2013). Today it is news of Bomb blast, yesterday it was a suicide bombing, tomorrow it may be an assassination and the day after mass murder. Every day in Nigeria, the news seem to get from bad to worse as the security situation deteriorates further and further.

The submission by Nadabo is an account of what has been happening in Nigeria for the past six years. Indeed, everybody is in a state of fear, nobody feels safe particularly in our schools, markets, motor parks, mosques and churches. In fact, the insecurity situation has reached a level where one does not feel safe even in one house. Nigerians today sleep with their one eye open. Insecurity according to dictionary.com, (2015) insecurity is an uncertainty or anxiety about oneself or lack of confidence or state of being open to danger or threats. This means an insecure situation, condition, environment, state or nation will go a long way in creating a state of anxiety, whenever, this condition is created everybody will automatically be in a state of confusion, Hence, one becomes apprehensive to people one meets in a school, markets, motor park, mosque and church, even along the road this fear of unknown becomes vividly expressed in people's minds and faces.

Dictionary.com (2015) also refers to insecurity as a feeling of uncertainty or lack of confidence or anxiety about yourself. The moment one losses confidence about oneself, it will ultimately, generate a condition that will make an individual totally imbalance. Therefore, hardly can one do anything right for the simple fact that, the environment one belongs has become a constant threat to one life.

Chinedu, (2015) stated that nowadays, armed robbers would lay siege to an entire community or city for some hours without intervention from any security agency, Armed robbery in Nigeria had increased by six percent from

11 percent in 2010 to 2015, Almost, on a daily basis incidents of terrorists bombing are reported in Northern Nigeria.

The disheartening situation in Nigeria is the hardship and lack of sufficient combat equipment and our security personnel experience. The security agencies are left with few and less sophisticated guns and countable ammunitions while armed robbers and terrorists attack with sophisticated machine guns and bag full of ammunitions. It has become impossible for the security agencies to withstand the shower of artillery fire from them, to worsen the situation whenever, a security agent dies in such combat, the authorities do nothing or little to cater for the deceased family. Many of our security agents that died in active duty, their families are yet to be paid the benefits of their lost husbands and parents. These have been some of the reasons that prevent the security agencies to deliver their best when challenged by such security threats. Kayode, (2015) further stated that insecurity has gone beyond Boko Haram in Nigeria, robbery, corruption, rape and kidnap had added another list. One agrees with Kayode, because this societal negative developments made the Nigeria nation unsafe. The federal government cash less society policy secured the monies of citizens, now no longer one travels with money or keeps money at home. Therefore, armed robbery on the high way and homes are gradually reducing. This development created the current condition of kidnapping and demand for ransom from family members or employers.

Learning is generally referred to change in behaviour. This is reflected in the behaviour and attitude of learners in their daily action and activities. Dictionary.com, (2015) defined learning as knowledge acquired by systematic study in any field of scholarly application or the act of or process of acquiring knowledge or skills. This definition indicates the activities the learner has to undergo before learning takes place, which means learning can only take place when the learner is involve in the study activities in a particular area. In related definition oxford dictionary.com, (2015) refers to learning as the acquisition of knowledge or skills through study, experience or being taught. This definition has expanded the concept of learning to include not only study but also the experience a school has in its environment. Hence, the situation the child encounters also contributes to the overall learning situation. Moreso, the teaching and learning activities created a positive atmosphere for learning.

Pennsylvania state university, (2015) also refers to learning as a relatively permanent change in the behaviour or attitude of a person overtimes. In this definition, one realizes that the change in behavior as a result of learning is considered to be permanent or the attitude which is reflected in the general human interaction with the environment he belongs

The submission examined had revealed that learning occurs as a result of so many activities, this shows that, the learner has to be conscious of his involvement in learning activities and requires having a conducive environment for learning to effectively take place.

Curriculum being a means to an end, proves to be one of the difficult concept to define. There has not been an acceptable definition of the concept since, curriculum specialist looked at the concept in different dimension. Dictionary.com (2015) defined curriculum as the aggregate of courses of study given in a school, or university. The definition given exposed the concept of curriculum as the totality of course the learner has gone through in a school. This is true since

before graduation the learner is expected to pass some prescribed courses that qualify him to have the certificate at that level.

Oxford Dictionary. (2015) refers to curriculum as a course of study in a school or colleges. In this related definition, it is realized that, any course the learner encounters in the school is considered to be a curriculum. Naturally the courses the learner learns in school form the expected cumulative effects he is to have as the required experiences.

Cambridge.Org, (2015) looks at the concept curriculum as subject studied in school or colleges. This is a fact, if one takes a visit to school and requests for the school curriculum one realizes he will be served with listed topics to be studied in each subject. This means, the subjects the school teaches can be rightly referred to as the curriculum.

The school environment is where the learning takes place. This is the condition that a child or learner encounters that encourages him to have a positive learning behavior ranging from the classroom, hostels, sitting arrangements, lightening, ventilation to the food, water and sporting facilities etc. sde ct, (2015) looks at school environment as the physical and aesthetic surrounding and the psychological climate and culture of the school. The definition has in totality comprises all one needs to see in a school environment. The existence of this condition in school, gives the learner the mental comfort to learn.

Edglossory.Org, (2015) also refers to school environment as the diverse physical location, contexts and culture in which students learn. This definition does not much differ with the other presented before. They all have similar features because, they both look at the school in terms of its expected requirements for effective learning.

CURRICULUM INPUTS FOR SECURED SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Learning has been referred to as a permanent change in behaviour and curriculum as the aggregate of courses a child or learner studies in school. Insecurity, on the other hand, in our schools can be dealt with through curriculum inputs. This is possible if the school system evolves concept that will be enshrined in the school subjects. This is necessary if consideration of sound school environment is taken into account. Naturally, learning cannot and will not be possible in an unsecure school environment. We have also noticed the predicament our security agencies are facing in discharging their duties. Hence, to a greater extent, there is a need for students to know what is happening in the school environment in order to provide a security first aid to them. This is where curriculum has serious implication, it is the medium through which students will be informed how to take care of their learning environment. Some of these ways include:

1. **Monitoring the students' entrance in the school:** It is very important for our school curriculum to inform the school the need for monitoring students entraining the school environment. In most cases, people with ill intentions take the opportunity to come to the school environment as disguised students. Hence. Students should be taught to understand who comes and goes out. Normally students know themselves better than any other person, therefore, they need to be carefully observing the movement of strangers in their midst. This concept can feature in the school curriculum in all areas of study.

2. **Students in assembly ground:** There is the need to synthesize students to understand their next neighbour in assembly ground. Students attend assembly in queue according to their respective classes. Therefore, it is easy to know who is in front and behind you. If they are conscious of this situation, it is easy to understand Mr A, B or Miss A or B does not belong to our class. But this awareness can only be brought to the students' knowledge in the curriculum. This is because students usually take what has been taught to them in class more seriously than any other place, for the simple fact, they are expected to be examined in such topics.
3. **Students Hostels:** This is an area that is also prone to attack, if curriculum comes to play, the security situation in the hostel can also improve, the students have to be taught on how to be vigilante. The students should know how to improve their security by placing some local materials that can cause unusual sound when there is moment in their rooms. The usual psychology of a criminal hates sound when he is in operation. In this respect, so many local materials can be used to cause sound which is unusual and capable of alerting the students. The students' simple sound and shout are enough to scare such unwanted visitors.
4. **Students Movement in the Classroom:** students are always the permanent inhabitants of a classroom; therefore, they usually know who belongs to their class and who does not. The students have to be taught to understand this situation, in order to understand who comes in and out. Moreso, students that come into classroom with unusual size looking nervous or keeps to himself must be carefully observed, these are the usually characteristics of people intended to launch an attack.
5. **Students and Their Trustworthy Character:** - students have the habit of trusting people around, the situation should change now, they have to be taught to always have pessimistic minds for people they met in the school environment. In fact, security precautions recommends that not to trust anybody in an insecure situation. The students should be taught to know the movement of people that seem to be new in the school environment.

CONCLUSION

The major security challenge we are facing in our schools and Nigeria as a nation, students and the Nigeria citizens are not usually vigilant. We don't seem to control our environments both the school and community, it is not possible for the police and army to be everywhere in order to control possible attack. Hence, both students and community members must come together in order to understand the movement around them. The current campaign in our media i.e. Radio and television will play a vital role in raising the security alertness of our citizenry. The current checking points and traffic congested areas. It is necessary to employ all necessary measure, to protect our school environment in order not to cripple our educational stratum.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following recommendations are advanced in order to serve as a backup measures in our schools.

1. Deployment of law enforcement agencies to schools: There is the need to enhance the security of our school environment by deploying security operatives. Each state should be encouraged to deploy vigilante group to each school. This will to a greater extent, enhance the security of the school environment.
2. Employment of more security personnel:-If the government feels such security personnel are not really available. Efforts should be made to employ them. We have so many of such manpower in our streets doing nothing. The employment of these young men and women and giving them some induction course in security management, will improve the situation in the school environment.
3. Provision of Fence: Most of our secondary schools do not have fence, this makes the school environment vulnerable to attack. Fencing the schools will control the infraction of individuals into the school premises.
4. The Setting of Security Committee. The school management, should set up a security committee that will be charged with the responsibility of handling security issues in the school. This will be a channel of informing the school management and possibly the government any development that seems to be a security threat to the school environment.
5. Checking People Coming into the School: There is the need to check all students, visitors and staff coming to the school environment very day. This will avoid a situation that people with negative intention having access to the school environment.
6. Checking students entering classroom, library and dining hall: It is important to constantly check students before they enter into classroom. Library and dining hall. These places usually have high concentration of students' population and are targets of attack. Hence, protecting them will provide a conducive school environment.
7. Students and staff must always carry their identification cards:-
Students and staff must be encouraged to always have their identification cards. This measure will make it easier to understand anybody into the school premises and his intentions for coming into the school environments.

REFERENCE

- Albirus, C. (2015) combating insecurity in Nigeria. Retrieved on November, 2015 from www.briefnigeria.com
- Dictionary.com/dictionary reference.com/browse/curriculum. Retrieved on 17th December, 2015.
- Dictionary.combridge.org/-/ Cambridge advanced learners dictionary. Retrieved on 21st March, 2015.
- Dictionary.com reference.com/browse/learning. Retrieved on 8th December, 2015.
- Nadabo, S. (2013). "Insecurity in Nigeria: Causes and Resolutions." Retrieved August 11 2014 from <http://www.nigeriavillagesquare.com/articles/ htm>

Kayode, O. (2015) Insecurity in Nigeria: Looking beyond Boko Haram, Business day online Corp
Retrieved on 17th April, 2015. From
<https://www.google.com.ng/webhp=insecurity+definition>. Retrieved on 4th January, 2016