

Effect of Insecurity on Education in Yobe State

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ABSTRACT

Yobe state is one of the relatively peaceful and secured states in Nigeria. However, in recent times it had suddenly mutated into an abode of terrorist and militant groups, with rampant cases of bombings, kidnapping and random cold-blooded killings. The masses loss of lives, displacement of indigenes and relocation of settlers to other parts of the country has caused the government to increase its budgetary spending on security and reduce its budgetary input in education. These have devastating consequences for the human capita development in Damaturu, Yobe State University is among several institutions which have been affected by insecurity problem in the state. In this article, the attempt is made to explore the relationship between insecurity and academic performance of the Yobe State University students. For this purpose, both primary and secondary data are used. The primary data were collected from university students via questionnaires and secondary data were taken from Yobe Ministry of Budget and Planning, National Bureau of Statistics and other reliable reports on the subject. In the process of data analysis, a descriptive statistical analysis was used. The observation made by researcher that the insecurity affects education and academic performance of the students of Yobe State University during intense insecurity.

Keywords: Insecurity, budgetary expenditure, displacement, human capital.

INTRODUCTION

Security is a concept that is prior to the state, and the state exists in order to provide that concept (Otto G., 2012). Security is the prime responsibility of the state (Homer-Dixon, 1999). The 1999 constitution of federal republic of Nigeria specifically states that "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of the government". Unfortunately, government on this constitutional responsibility has failed to provide as safe and secured place or environment for lives, properties, businesses, and economics activity.

The alarming rate of insecurity has fuelled the crime rate and terrorist activities in different parts of the country, especially in the north-eastern regions (Babangida, M.A., (2012). The Nigerian society is becoming more and more unsecured as many people are becoming more ruthless, desperate and

sophisticated. Nowadays new forms of violence have become common, Boko Haram bombings, kidnapping for ransom, political violence. These forms of violence have claimed the lives of many Nigerians, for instance Boko Haram is responsible for more than 6,000 lives since 2009 and death toll is still on the rise (Human Right Watch, 2014) in Yobe state alone, more than 209 schools have been closed, bombed and vandalised. Several attacks in Damaturu have claimed many lives of security persons, residents and vandalised financial institutions, government buildings, schools and healthcare centre. Since 2010, the federal and state government have increased their expenditure on security in an attempt to improve security in the country. The Nigerian government budget allocation to security since 2011 to 2015 is 920 billion naira, 924 billion naira, 923 billion naira, 923 billion naira, and 934 billion naira respectively (SIPPR, 2015, Table-1).

Table-1: Government Expenditure on Security

Years	Expenditure (in Billion Naira)
2011	920
2012	924
2013	923
2014	923
2015	934

Source: SIPPR, 2015.

The country has spent 4.62 trillion naira on national security within the last five years. The Boko Haram activities in Damaturu have caused negative impact on security of the state. It has heightened fear among the populace and the hostility has gone beyond religious or political coloration. The intensity of the insecurity challenge in Damaturu has affirmed that Boko Haram has become a phenomenon where no one is safe. The sect has made Damaturu a volatile environment and unsafe for people, business, private and public property owners. It is paramount for the government to find quick solution to fix the problem. This is because there is no way government would continue spending huge amount of money with no significant change in this level of security situation in the state.

It is common knowledge to all that north-eastern states of Nigeria were a peaceful region before Boko Haram uprising. It's a common knowledge to all Nigerians that has the country has been blessed with abundant natural and human resources but only been utilised by less than 25 per cent of Nigerian population (Sanusi, 2011), over 70 per cent of Nigerians are left in extreme poverty and illiteracy and this explains the uprising of Boko Haram.

It is thought that over 80 per cent of Damaturu fled out of town in August, 2013 due to intense insecurity. During this period, schools, shops, banks, and government services were closed down. This has also taken its toll on education in Yobe State especially in tertiary institutions like Yobe State

University. One of the major attacks was that of 1st December, 2014. This was one of the bloodiest and most organized.

The objectives of the study are following:

- Examine the causes and nature of insecurity in Damaturu
- Examine how insecurity affects the academic performance of students in Yobe State University
- Ascertain the impact of insecurity on education.

To meet these objectives, the study has used descriptive statistics, frequency tables and percentages. The sample size of this study is 100 which has been collected from Yobe State University through purposive sampling method. For collecting data one can formatted a well-knit questionnaire; the questionnaire has two parts: Part A and Part B. Part-A contains general information about the respondents, for instance; names, age, gender while part B contains questions on effect of insecurity on students of Yobe State University. Respondents are required to tick the appropriate options provided against each of statement.

OVERVIEW OF INSECURITY IN DAMATURU

Damaturu town is a local government in Yobe state. The headquarter of Yobe state is located in Damaturu because of its geographical centrality and strategic location at a convergence which connects the major towns of the state, namely; Gasua, Potiskum, Nguru, Giedam and Gujba. The town was founded since 1874 bounded by some towns; Gujba to south, Tarmuwa to north, Fune to west and border with Borno to the east. Yobe state was created on 27th August, 1991, carved out of old Borno state by military administration of President Ibrahim Babangida. The state covers an estimated area of 47,153 square kilometre and share international boundaries with Republic of Niger to the north and within the country it shares borders with Jigawa and Bauchi state to the west, Borno state to the east as well Gombe state and Borno state to the south. The population is 2.7 million based on 2006 census, while the population of Damaturu in 25, 600. The town witnessed fast growth at a time before insecurity became intense, as a result of the influx of people especially public servants, businessmen and politicians from within and outside the country. The major tribes of Damaturu are Hausa, Fulani and Kanuri. The major trends in insecurity came with the rise of Boko Haram.

There are three major contending perspectives to the understanding of insecurity in Damaturu. These are; the armed robbery theory, Wobble economy and opposition-ruling party thesis. The armed robbery theory points that the high wave of armed robbery in Damaturu is primarily responsible for the high level of insecurity. It argues that Yobe politics or to say, Nigeria at large. It is extremely competitive and perceived zero sum contests where winner takes all. The fallout is in the increased militarised nature of politics, the use of violence as an electoral

tool and cultivation of a culture of violence in the society. Again, this thesis recognises the existence of armed groups of varying character and intent operation in Damaturu. However, today's armed groups are better armed and trained and more sophisticated in their actions compared to those of the past.

Huge efforts have been made to remedy the situation both at the federal and state level with several measures and politics. However, despite the action put in place, insecurity still remains a challenge in Damaturu and poses a great threat to human capital development and academic performance.

CAUSES OF INSECURITY IN DAMATURU

Insecurity is a result of a malignant environment dominated by man's insensitivity (Edeko, 2011). Many people take advantage of their positions to force down policies that improvise the many in as much as it benefits them and a few others. Poverty and proliferations of small arms has also been blamed in Nigeria, like many other developing countries.

About 70 per cent of the Nigerian population is left in poverty. Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (2010) ranked Yobe state as number one out of thirty-six states that suffered from extreme poverty. This predisposes the poor to violence which is also fuelled by the ease of access to small arms (Lamgumba, 2010). It is reported that arms could be accessed for as low as 10 USD, so even the poor could access and sue such arms to cause havoc. It is a common sense that unemployment and poverty were the main problems behind the insecurity problems in Damaturu.

TRENDS AND ANALYSIS OF STATE EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION IN YOBE STATE

The most barbaric trend of insecurity in Damaturu is the rampant killing of students and teachers in government secondary school and other institutions, which has also constituted hindrances to academic activities. Insecurity in Damaturu has affected its educational sector significantly. It drains the resources that could have been used to improve the education system (Osisioma, 2012). It induces multiply levels of security check-points in almost every nook and cranny of Damaturu which makes it difficult for school to operate conveniently and efficiently. The department of Estate Management in Federal Polytechnic Damaturu were attacked and vandalised by Boko Haram. The administrative building of Yobe State University was also attacked and vandalised during 1st December, 2014 by Boko Haram on Damaturu. The sect claimed that their attacks were in line with their mission of banning western education in the northern part of Nigeria.

In recent years, both the federal and state level expenditure has been on the rise as a measure of improving security in Nigeria. However, this has resulted to less allocation to education sector, which forms the basis of any society. Security is not a discreet or measurable variable in quantitative terms but spending on

security can be used as proxy to quantify the volume of security especially if the spending is effective. For a proper design and planning of the education system and its institution to serve the development needs of Damaturu, further higher and fixed percentage of annual budgetary allocations must be properly monitored so as to minimise the difference between budgetary allocation and actual amount released, and government must find a quick solution to fix insecurity rather than just increasing security expenditure.

A vivid examination of the education sector in Damaturu shows that the short pull in education expenditure in some priority sectors points to the fact that education sub-sector has failed in its role of human capital development in Damaturu. The table-2 shows the expenditure on education in Yobe state from 2009 to 2013.

Table-2: Government Expenditure on Education

Years	Expenditure (in billion naira)
2009	12,307,701,000
2010	11,723,929,000
2011	11,304,324,955
2012	14,476,574,000
2013	17,005,499,100

Source: Yobe State Ministry of Budget and Planning

ANALYSIS OF RESULT

For us to find out the impact of insecurity on education in Yobe State, particularly in Damaturu, 100 questionnaires were administered, 90 were filled and returned back to researcher while 10 were not returned. The table-3 shows the sex distribution of the respondents. Its shows that 66.7 per cent of the respondents are male and 33.3 per cent are female, which shows that most of the respondents are male by gender. This might also indicate that those prone to security threats in the university are males.

Table-3: Gender Distribution of Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentages
Male	60	66.7
Female	30	33.3
Total	90	100

Source: Based on author's calculation

Table-4 indicates that respondents within the age range of 20-39 have the highest percentage of response, while those within the range of 40 and above have the least percentage, thus, indicating that the younger generation are mostly affected by insecurity.

Table-4: Age Distribution of Respondents

Ages	Frequency	Percentages
Up to 19	15	16.7
20-39	73	81.1
40 above	2	2.2
Total	90	100

Source: Based on author's calculation

Table-5 shows that 100 per cent of all the respondents are running a full-time program in the university, which indicates that many students live on campus or live too close to the institution and are likely to have witnessed the insecurity challenge first hand.

Table-5: Type of Program being Run by Respondents

Type of program	Frequency	Percentages
Full-time	90	100
Part-time	0	0
Total	90	100

Source: Based on author's calculation

Table-6 indicates that the current level of the respondents at the time of this research work. Respondents who are in level 400 had the highest percentage share with level 100 having the lowest share. This shows that the information would be based on past experiences, before and during the insecurity situation and this would give more insight about the effect of insecurity on the students.

Table-6: Current Level Respondents in the University

Current level	Frequency	Percentages
100	15	16.7
200	25	27.8
300	20	22.2
400	30	33.3
Total	90	100

Source: Based on author's calculation

ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTS OF INSECURITY ON EDUCATION

According to table-7 shows that 92.2 per cent of the respondents believe insurgency to be the main cause of insecurity in Damaturu. However, 7.8 per cent of the respondents responded negative to the question. This, therefore, indicates that the insecurity problem in Damaturu is caused by insurgency.

Table-7: Respondents View on Correlation between Insecurity and Insurgency

Option	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	83	92.2
No	7	7.8
Total	90	100

Source: Based on author's calculation

From the table-8, 66.7 per cent of the respondents agreed that there have been attacks on Yobe State University during their study in the institution while 34.3 per cent did not experience any attack on the institution. This indicates that a greater percentage of the respondents have been victim of insecurity problems while schooling in Damaturu.

Table-8: Attack on Yobe State University during Study

Options	Frequency	Percentages
Yes	60	66.7
No	30	33.3
Total	90	100

Source: Based on author's calculation

Table-9 shows that majority of the respondents do not feel safe within their academic environment. This may affect their level of concentration towards study and academic productivity.

Table-9: Do You Feel Safe In Your Current Academic Environment?

Options	Frequency	Percentages
Yes	20	22.2
No	70	77.8
Total	90	100

Source: Based on author's calculation

Table-10 revealed that 74.4 per cent confirm that the insecurity problem in the state has affected their academic performance while 25.6 per cent disagreed. This indicates that majority of the respondents' academic performances have been affected by insecurity.

Table-10: Has Insecurity Affected Your Academic Performance Negatively

Options	Frequency	Percentages
Yes	63	74.4
No	27	25.6
Total	90	100

Source: Based on author's calculation

Due to the insecurity, majority of the respondents believe insecurity have lowered their grades. 66.7 per cent agreed that insecurity had lowered their grades while 33.3 disagreed (from table-II).

Table-II: Has Insecurity Lowered Your Grades

Options	Frequency	Percentages
Yes	60	66.7
No	30	33.3
Total	90	100

Source: Based on author's calculation

Table-12 expressed about the respondent's grades before the intense security problem. The table indicates that majority of the respondents had a grade between 3.01-4.00 and no respondent had grades between 1.00-2.00. Those who had grades between 2.01-3.00 are 38.9 per cent while those with a grade between 4.01 and above are 16.8 per cent.

Table-12: Respondents' grade before Intense Security Problem

Grades	Frequency	Percentages
1.00-2.00	0	0
2.01-3.00	35	38.9
3.01-4.00	40	44.4
4.01-above	15	16.7
Total	90	100

Source: Based on author's calculation

Table-13 shows the changes in respondents' grade during intense insecurity problem. Respondents with grades between 2.01-3.00 increased from 38.9 per cent to 61.1 per cent, while respondents with grades between 3.01-4.00 dropped from 44.4 per cent to 27.8 per cent. Respondents with grades between 1.00-2.00 rose from zero per cent to 11.1 per cent and those with grades of 4.01 and above dropped from 16.7 per cent to zero percent. This indicates that the grades of majority of the respondents have dropped due to the insecurity challenge and therefore, insecurity in the state lowers the academic performance of students in Yobe State University.

Table-13: Respondents' grade during the Intense Insecurity Challenges

Grades	Frequency	Percentages
1.00-2.00	10	11.1
2.01-3.00	55	61.1
3.01-4.00	25	27.8
4.01- above	0	0.00
Total	90	100

Source: Based on author's calculation

Table-14 shows that 88.9 per cent of the respondents believe that insecurity has affected the normal flow of lectures while 11.1 per cent disagree. This indicates that majority of the respondents agrees that insecurity has affected the normal flow of lecture in Yobe State University.

Table-14: Has Insecurity Affected Normal Flow of Lectures

Options	Frequency	Percentages
Yes	80	88.9
No	10	11.1
Total	90	100

Source: Based on author's calculation

Table-15 has captured 56.6 per cent of the respondents do not believe that the government doing enough remedy for insecurity problem in Damaturu, while 44.4 per cent of the respondents believe that government doing enough to reduce insecurity in the state. This indicates that majority of the student do not agree that enough is done by the government to rectify the insecurity problem in the state.

Table-15: Do You Think the Government is doing Enough Remedy for Insecurity?

Options	Frequency	Percentages
Yes	50	55.6
No	40	44.4
Total	90	100

Source: Based on author's calculation

Table-16 indicates that 94.4 per cent of the respondents agree that insecurity has affected education in Damaturu, while 6.4 per cent do not agree. Majority of the respondents agree that insecurity negatively affect education in Damaturu, which includes primary schools, secondary schools and tertiary institutions. This in turn has affected the human capital development in Damaturu.

Table-16: Insecurity and Negative Effect on Education

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	85	94.4
No	5	6.4
Total	90	100

Source: Based on author's calculation

After a critical overview and analysis of the questionnaires, it clearly shows that insecurity has widely affects educational system and also the

students of Yobe State University by lowering their academic performance and productivity. Almost 80 per cent of all the respondents indicated a negative effect and nature of insecurity on the state's education system and backwardness in the academic performance of students. This in turn invariably affects human capital development of Damaturu and the state as a whole.

CONCLUSION

Insecurity drains vital resources that could be used to improve education and other vital sectors in Yobe. Insecurity constitute hindrances to the effective operation of schools, as many had to be closed down during intense attacks by insurgents in the town. It has also caused backwardness in the academic performances and productivity of students in Yobe State University, Damaturu. To curb insecurity, several measures have been put into action by the government but despite that, insecurity still seem to be the major challenge to the state. This has cause serious negative effects on the educational system of the state and turn affects its human capita development.

Since human capital development depends on the effective input into the education sector, the lack of budgetary allocation to this sector has also been one major factor that resulted in the deterioration of its human capital development. About 94 per cent respondents revealed that the insecurity has badly affected their academic performance.

Based on questionnaires observation, the following suggestions can be help in handling the insecurity problems and improve academic performance and human capital too.

- Schools should be allocated maximum security in other for both staffs and students to feel safe in academic environment and also create awareness among the students to be careful about the suspicious things.
- Both the government and traditional ruler should initiate programs that will help in sensitisation the people in the negative effect of insecurity.
- The government should engage in educating children on the street who are less privileged in order to reduce illiteracy, poverty and this would stop them from engaging in criminal acts.

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