



NURTURING NATIONAL VALUES: A PANACEA FOR NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA.



¹**Adie, Joy Ashibebongye**

Email: Joy55583@gmail.com

²**Madukwe, Esther Chijioke**

Email: madukweesther94@gmail.com\

&

³**Edeh, Stephen Olenye**

Email:olenyeoleny@gmail.com

1,2&3 Department of Educational Management

Faculty of Educational Foundation Studies,

Collage of Education, University of Calabar, Nigeria.

Abstract

This paper explored the role of national values in addressing national security challenges in Nigeria. The study investigated the current state of national security, Identify challenges and propose possible strategies for nurturing national values to boost peace and security. A qualitative research approach was adopted for the study, using a case designed to explore the experiences and perception of resident in Cross River State, Nigeria. The study revealed that National Values such as patriotism, respect for human life and discipline are essential for promoting national security and unity in Nigeria. The study recommends integrating values education into educational curriculum, promoting community-based initiatives and leadership by example to promote a culture of peace and security. The finding of the study have implications for policy makers, educators and community leaders seeking to promote National Security and Unity.

Keywords: National Values, National Security, Educational, Peace and Security, Nigeria.

Introduction:

Insecurity in Nigeria today is the most discussed topic, This is because of the attacks on innocent Nigerians on a daily basis across the length and breadth of Nigeria. Patriotic and well-meaning Nigerians are disturbed and they keep wondering and asking why this onslaught on Nigerians? The country is currently faced with security, economic and social problems. Okorafo and Njoku (2012) puts it that serious crises in the values system of Nigeria, has caused increased insecurities, hunger and poverty. This has tarnished the nations reputations and severely hindered progress towards achieving its development objectives.

The National Policy on Education (2014) expresses the growing anxiety over the decline of fundamental and increased rancor in the Nigerian state. Where the values of people are taken over by mere Materialism, Insecurity, Killings and Criminality. Citizens seek wealth, fame, power without the values of hard work, They seek pleasure without smeared conscience. They want knowledge with no character fame, business without morality and religion without holiness. The result of all of this actions becomes problems of insecurity experienced in Nigeria today. Consequently, there is no extent of government reforms that can make such a country to achieve to a sustainable development. Ogude (2017), therefore the call for values education and a re-orientation in our society is a call for national culture that would reshape the character and values system of Nigerians.

National values are the pillars of a nation's identity, they help to create a sense of shared identity and purpose among citizens, it influences the way people think, behave, interact with one another. It provides a cohesion in terms of social, economic, religious, national unity, behaviorism as well as environmental stewardship which helps to impact non-traditional threats like climate change and pandemics. The integration of National Values in the Nigerian Educational Curriculum right from the primary education with emphasis on character and values education rather than just civic education which is a wider field is one possible way for Nigerians. Education managers should help to guide the instructional deliverers to teach the students in an early age so that the children can learn from an early stage to understand and grow up with an awareness of patriotism, unity, integrity, respect for human life, tolerance, hard-work, diligence, responsibility, fairness and justice, respect for authority.

Adie (2020): Education management can play a significant role in managing Peace and Security in Nigeria by promoting national values such as patriotism, respect for human life and tolerance. Transmitting an intellectual, committed, unquestionable morals, standard values and emotional stability to learners as required by the national policy on Education can save the ugly situation.

Denga (2008): Opined that peace is said to be the greatest factor facilitating sustained economic development. This is because war times always witness little or no economic investment. Values education promotes social cohesion by teaching values like tolerance, empathy and respect for diversity and bridges the gap between ethnic and cultural groups, reducing conflict and promoting unity. Values Education particularly emphasizes respect for human life and fostering a sense of civic responsibility.

Hence, in this paper, Values of Education is a panacea for reducing national security challenges.

Ategwu & Adie (2020): National value play a crucial role in promoting national security and unity in any country. They expressed the need for inclusion of National Values in Education curriculum at all levels of education. The subject should be one of those core subjects especially at the secondary and tertiary levels of education.

Nwolise (2017) notes that National Values are essential for promoting national development and security in Nigeria. However, Ozoigbo (2019) Nigeria is faced with challenges of internal security and have been experiencing crushing assault from armed robbers, kidnappers and banditry for the past few years. This is coupled with the age long war against Boko Haram sect and farmers/herders conflict across the six Geo-Political Zones in the country (Global Terrorism Index 2019). Bandits are now in killing and kidnapping situations all over the country, Today Nigeria is ranked 6th globally in the 2025 Global Terrorism with an Index score of 7.658. This ranking indicates a rise in terrorism-related fatalities with 565 deaths recorded in 2024 which represents a significant increase over the past two years.

Statement of the problem

The incessant security challenges in Nigeria especially in the Northern, South-East and the North-Central geopolitical zones has constituted a major challenge to the government. This has brought a setback on the economy, food security, educational development and peace of the people. Due to the vastness of this problem, This area of concern has attracted a lot of researches, conferences, workshops, summits and discussions.

Nations like India, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Slovenia, Philippines and the United Kingdom to mention a few have world best policies on value education to develop the character and ethics of their citizens from teenage and youth age. It is time to try new options, Political office holders should show strong commitment in the direction of securing lives and properties of the people not only in present but in the future too, hence adopting values of education to capture the younger generation can be a positive approach to curb security challenges in Nigeria.

Purpose of the study

The main purpose of this study is to investigate national values, national Security, Educational, Peace and Security, Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks to determine:

1. To examine the relationship between patriotism on national security.
2. To examine influence of respect for human life on national security.

Methodology

The study made used of survey research design. Survey is used by the researcher to gain a greater understanding about individuals or group perspectives to the concept. The population of this study comprised all judicial officers, security personnel and administrators of schools in Cross River State. The target population for the study was two thousand nine hundred and thirty three (2933) consisting of judicial officers, security personnel and administrators of schools for the year 2024/2025 academic session. There was no sampling in this study as such census was rather employed. A multi-stage sampling procedure was adopted for the study. To select the respondents used for the study, the researcher wrote the names of the three organizations that are in Cross River State on pieces of paper and folded them to conceal the information on each piece of paper. The researcher with eyes closed selected four pieces of paper with replacement, representing fifty percent (50%) of respondents in the study area. In each of the four selected organizations, fifty percent (50%) of respondents were selected for the study using the systematic random sampling technique. In each of the four selected organizations, the researcher wrote the names of all the organizations in alphabetical order, every second school on the list was selected for the study.

To select respondents in each of the three organizations selected for the study, the researcher adopted the systematic sampling technique to select forty nine percent of respondents in each of the organizations. The names of the respondents were written in alphabetical order in each organizations. Every second name on the list was selected for the study while all school administrators were automatically selected for the study.

A questionnaire titled “national values, national Security, Educational, Peace and Security in Nigeria” was used for data collation and was validated by three research experts in measurement and evaluation in the Department Educational Foundation, University of Cross River State. It was tested for reliability using Cronbach Alpha reliability method, the Cronbach Coefficient obtained were .71 and .73 which indicated high reliability of the research instrument.

Presentation of Results

This section presents the results of data analysis obtained in the study based on each hypothesis as well as their interpretation. The hypotheses are tested at .05 level of significance.

Null Hypothesis 1: There is no significant influence of patriotism on national security in Cross River State. The independent variable of this hypothesis was patriotism while the dependent variable was national security. Simple linear regression statistics was used in testing the hypothesis and the results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Summary of data and simple linear regression analysis of the influence of patriotism on national security in Cross River State.

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
.092	.008	.006	7.79911

Model	Sum of squares	DF	Mean Square	F	Sig
Regression	262.361	1	262.361	4.313	.038*
Residual	30899.632	508	60.826		
Total	31161.992	509			

a. Predictors: (Constant); patriotism

b. Dependent Variable: national security

The simple regression analysis in Table 1 on the influence of patriotism on predicting national security in Cross River State produced an adjusted R^2 of .006. This implies that 6.0 percent of the variance can be predicted from the independent variable (patriotism) in predicting performance of national security. The F-value of the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) obtained from the regression table was $F = 4.313$ having a p-value .038 with 1 and 508 degrees of freedom at .05 level of significance. The null hypothesis was rejected. This result therefore implies that patriotism significantly predicted effective national security in Cross River State by 6.0 percent. The result therefore implies that there was a significant influence of patriotism on national security.

Null Hypothesis 2: There is no significant influence of respect for human life on national security in Cross River State. The independent variable of this hypothesis was respect for human life while the dependent variable was national security. Simple regression statistics was used in testing the hypothesis and the results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2

Summary of data and simple regression analysis on the influence of respect for human life on national security in Cross River State.

R R Square Adjusted R Square Std. Error of the Estimate
.094 .009 .007 7.79747

Model	Sum of squares	DF	Mean Square	F	Sig
Regression	275.283	1	275.283	4.528	.034*
Residual	30886.709	508	60.801		
Total	31161.992	509			

a. Predictors: (Constant): Respect for human life

b. Dependent Variable: national security

The simple regression analysis in Table 2 on the influence of respect for human life on predicting national security in Cross River State produced an adjusted R^2 of .007. This implies that 7.0 percent of the variance can be predicted from the independent variable (respect for human life) in predicting national security. The F-value of the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) obtained from the regression table was $F = 4.528$ having a p-value .034 with 1 and 508 degrees of freedom at .05 level of significance. The null hypothesis was rejected. This result therefore implies that respect for human life significantly predicted national security in the study area by 7.0 percent. The result therefore implies that there was a significant influence of respect for human life on national security.

Discussion of findings

This section is devoted to the discussion of findings obtained in the study. The discussion was done according to each of the stated hypothesis.

Patriotism and National Security

This research hypothesis which addresses the influence of patriotism on national security in the study revealed that there is a significant influence of patriotism on national security in the study area. The finding of this study is in agreement with that of Ozoigbo (2019) who noted that Patriotism encourages citizens to prioritize national interest over ethnic, religious, or regional affiliations. When people see themselves first as Nigerians rather than members of a tribe or religion, they are more likely to cooperate in efforts to secure the nation. This unity is essential in tackling common threats such as terrorism, banditry, and insurgency. A patriotic population is more likely to support and cooperate with security agencies by reporting suspicious activities and collaborating during security operations. This community-level intelligence gathering is crucial in preventing crime and terrorism.



The finding of this study agrees with that of Ategwu & Adie (2020) who reported that Patriotism strengthens commitment to constitutional principles, law and order, justice, and human rights. This contributes to the development of institutions and systems that reinforce internal stability and reduce insecurity. A patriotic spirit reduces corruption and the abuse of power—both of which are root causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Citizens and leaders who are loyal to national progress are less likely to divert public resources meant for development or security. Patriotism can inspire young Nigerians to engage in positive nation-building activities like joining the armed forces, volunteer services, peacebuilding initiatives, or community development projects—all of which contribute to a safer society. When citizens display patriotic behavior, it helps build a positive international image of Nigeria. This can attract foreign support, partnerships, and intelligence-sharing that boost national security efforts. Patriotism is a powerful tool for promoting national security in Nigeria. When citizens are committed to the peace, progress, and unity of the nation, they become active partners in defending it. Therefore, fostering patriotism through education, leadership by example, and equitable policies is essential to achieving long-term security and stability. Patriotism plays a crucial role in national security by fostering unity, promoting responsible citizenship, and encouraging active participation in safeguarding the nation. A strong sense of patriotism can lead to greater social cohesion, reduced internal conflicts, and increased public support for security initiatives, ultimately strengthening Nigeria's ability to withstand both internal and external threats.

Respect for human life on national security

The findings obtained from analysis and texting of hypothesis two which addresses the influence of respect for human life on national security in study area revealed that the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that there is a significant influence of respect for human life on national security in the study area. The finding of this study could be linked to the fact that respect for human life provides a platform for citizen to interact and exchange ideas that would help achieve the goals of peaceful living. It has been observed that When the government, security agencies, and citizens respect human life, it strengthens the rule of law. People are treated fairly and equally under the law, regardless of their status, tribe, or religion.

The finding of this study agrees with that of Denga I. Denga (2008) who reported that Respect for human life refers to the recognition of the inherent dignity, value, and rights of every human being. It includes the protection of life, ensuring safety, upholding justice, and promoting human rights. In the context of national security, respect for human life plays a vital role in creating a stable, peaceful, and law-abiding society. In Nigeria, where insecurity is a persistent challenge, fostering respect for human life is essential to achieving sustainable national peace and security.

Respect for human life is a cornerstone of a peaceful and secure Nigeria. When life is valued and protected by all government, security agencies, and citizens—national security becomes stronger. It creates a just and peaceful society, reduces violence, and promotes cooperation. Therefore, promoting the respect for human life is not only a moral obligation but a strategic priority for national security in Nigeria.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the findings obtained from analysis of data and testing of hypotheses in the study revealed that there was a significant influence of patriotism and respect for human life on national security in the study area. It can be concluded that patriotism with value for education significantly influence national security in terms of school management and service delivery.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations were made:

School administrators should ensure that schools are provided with adequate security in order to make conducive for teaching and learning.



Administrators of schools should continue to liaise with security agencies ensure that school achieve its set goals and objectives

References

- Adie, J. A. (2020). Role of education management in managing peace and security in Nigeria. *Journal of Education and Human Development*, 9(1), 1-10
- Ategwu, P. O. & Adie, J. A. (2020). National values and national development in Nigeria. *Journal of Development Studies*, 16(2), 1-12.
- Atubi F.O (2020). Combating Security Challenges in Nigeria through Social Studies Education. *Ibadan Journal of Educational Studies*, 17 (1), 28-34
- Atubi, O. F. (2022). Value Education: A Remedy to Reducing Insecurities and Promoting Sustainable Development in Nigeria. 16 (1), 113-124
- Denga, J. D. (2008). Educational agenda for the new millennium: Nigeria in perspective. Education for the new millennium.
- Federal Republic of Nigeria. (2014). *National Policy on Education* (4th ed.). Pinterest Limited.
- Global Terrorism Index (2020). Measuring the Impact of terrorism. Institute for Economics and Peace.
- Laskini, V. V. & Paul, M. M. (2018). Value education in educational institutions and the role of teachers in promoting the concept. *International Research Journal of Educational Science and Research*, 8(14), 29–38.
- Nwolise, O.B.C. (2017). National Values and National Development in Nigeria. *Journal of Development Studies*, 18 (1), 1-12.
- Ogude, E. (2017). Value re-orientation in Nigeria. The role of women as change agents. *International Journal of Innovative Social Sciences & Humanities Research*, 5(1), 36–41.
- Okarafo, E. C., & Njoku, J. C. (2012). Effective parenting and socialisation for value re-correlation in contemporary Nigeria. *International Journal of Development and Management Review*, 3(1), 26- 38.
- Ozogbo, B. I. (2019). Insecurity in Nigeria: Genesis, consequences, and panacea. *European Journal of Social Sciences Studies*.
- Ukachukwu, C. C., & Naetor, V. M. (2020). Value deficiency, employment generation and crime among youths in Nigeria: An overview. *Asian Research Journal of Arts & Social Sciences*, 11(2), 13–24.