

Business Education as A Tool for Curtailing Insecurity in Nigeria: An Opinion Survey

AUTHOR(S):OGUNLEYE Funmilola Mary
ENIJUNI Anthony Tola (Ph.D)**Abstract:**

The study examined the causes of insecurity in Nigeria and the strategies in which Nigeria can curtail insecurity in Nigeria through business education. Two research questions were raised and one hypothesis was formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. The population of the study comprised 40 lecturers in business education and Office Technology and Management from three Universities and Federal Polytechnic, Ado Ekiti respectively. All the lecturers were used since the population was manageable. A questionnaire containing 22 items was used for data collection. The questionnaire was given to experts in Business Education for content and face validity. The internal consistency of the instrument was ascertained using cronbach alpha with coefficient value of 0.75. Data collected were analyzed using mean and Standard deviation while t-test was used to test the hypotheses. The findings revealed among others: the need for provision of adequate laboratories for business education for skill acquisition, provision of needed teaching facilities for teaching business education, adequate funding of business education, etc. This will help the students to develop skills to enable them set up their own business, thus, helping the country to curtail insecurity. It was recommended that the government should provide business educators with an effective re-training programme in the use of modern technique and make sure equipment are sufficiently available in the schools to enhance the quality of teaching. This will guarantee job creation and the best practices for poverty/crime reduction.

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Introduction

The country of Nigeria is now plagued by chronic insecurity. As a consequence of the growing level of insecurity in the nation, suspicion and enmity have taken root among the population. The unity and affection that served as the foundation for Nigeria's nationhood are slowly deteriorating as a consequence of a variety of challenges, including, but not limited to, an increase in the number of kidnappings, suicide bombings, armed robberies, ethnic and religious disputes, and other issues. Because of this, the authorities at all levels have been forced to redirect their attention away from development efforts and towards the fight against terrorism, the resolution of conflicts, and the formulation of measures to preserve national unity. The fact that the perpetrator is still able to convince and recruit members of society who are jobless or have nothing better to do, especially young people, suggests that the efforts made by the government to alleviate insecurity are inadequate. The growth of armed robberies and kidnappings in the east and west, the presence of boko haram in the north, and the presence of militants in the Niger Delta are all strong indicators that Nigerians live in a state of constant fear. It would seem that the perpetrators of these horrific deeds have no remorse for the anguish they have caused to the residents of the whole country. The criminals' brutal behaviour is becoming worse, despite the fact that the government is still dedicated to combating them.

Insecurities arise whenever there is a feeling that one's life and property are not being appropriately safeguarded (Aliyu 2015). A situation is said to be insecure if there is such a feeling. When there is insecurity, there is no chance for peace, and there is a danger to people's lives as well as their possessions. It is abundantly obvious that Nigerians spend their lives in terror due to the prevalence of violent crimes like as armed robberies, kidnappings, the boko haram insurgency, rape, suicide bombings, and religious turmoil. According to Aliyu (2012), insecurity is the outcome of a structurally ingrained development problem that supports the establishment of poverty, unemployment, and inequality in the country. This issue also contributes to the deterioration of the nation's infrastructure. The factors identified by Aliyu have unquestionably contributed to the growth in insecurity. These factors have done so by rendering their victims dissatisfied, socially unhappy, and socially estranged. These groups of individuals express their wrath and fury by acts of violence, and some of them use the heinous chance to do so in order to stay alive. Azazi (2012), in support of his point, noted that the majority of criminals in our society are of working age but are not actively participating in productive activities. This is in contrast to the majority of law-abiding citizens in our society. He said that unemployment is the single most important factor contributing to the state of insecurity in Nigeria because it has compelled millions of Nigerian youngsters to vent their anger and frustration via criminal activity and violence. The vast majority of the suspected offenders are graduates of postsecondary institutions, with just a small number being high school dropouts or graduates of secondary institutions. These physically fit men, whose energy might have been used to assure the country's economic prosperity, instead resort to crime as a means of livelihood. This is unfortunate since their efforts could have been exploited to help the nation. This is evidence that supports the old adage that an idle man is the devil's workshop.

In light of the aforementioned, the nation of Nigeria is spending its resources in an effort to confront the insecurity that is caused by its apathetic youthful population. It is quite upsetting that this nation's opponents have infiltrated every sector of the economy, which makes it difficult to combat insecurity. Their acts provide credence to Adejumo's (2013) claim that



those who sow the seeds of insecurity can be found in every region of the country and have probably been doing so even before our nation was formally established as a republic. This suggests that the acts taken by our past administrations were a contributing factor in the growing sense of insecurity that is causing a stir right now. When he suggested that the nation's successive governments should be held accountable for the high level of insecurity that exists in the nation today, occasional insurgency in the Niger Delta, battles between Fulani herdsmen and farmers, ethnic and religious strife, and other violent acts that had resulted in Nigeria's current problems, he was referring to the fact that these governments should be held responsible for the high level of insecurity that exists in the nation today.

The conclusion that can be drawn from this is that the country's struggles against insecurity will only result in a triumph of a transient kind if the fundamental causes are not adequately addressed. However, in order to eradicate hunger and poverty and progress inclusive economic development in Nigeria, it is vital to address the underlying causes of the nation's insecurity. Only then will it be possible to achieve these goals. Oluwa (2014), who is in accord with the aforementioned, said that the fundamental reasons of insecurity, such as hunger, poverty, illiteracy, and disparities in income, are to blame for the increasing prevalence of insecurity. This is in line with the aforementioned. It is abundantly evident that empowering Nigerians by providing them with training and classes that are centred on the acquisition of skills would be a proactive strategy to solve the problems that are a direct consequence of the fundamental factors that contribute to insecurity. Their thoughts would be turned into lucrative endeavours as a result of the growing number of Nigerian students obtaining training in skills for equitable economic growth. A suitable business education programme is the silver bullet for satisfying these adolescents' long-term financial demands.

In the same vein, there should be equal rights, opportunities, and treatment for both genders in all aspects of life in order to fulfil the monetary requirements of the younger generation. If young people of both sexes, regardless of their gender, are given enough opportunities to improve themselves, it will be far more difficult for harmful organisations to recruit them for their cause and put them to use. Consequently, this strengthens the country's defences. Occupational programmes, such as those for business education, are one way to accomplish this goal.

In Nigeria, business education is one of the vocational programmes offered by higher education institutions. The participants gain skills that are both practical and marketable, allowing them to further their economic growth and pursue opportunities for independent work. According to Onojeta (2012) and Azizi (2015), the purpose of business education programmes is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, vocations, and attitudes necessary to run their own businesses and make a positive contribution to the economy. Business education programmes also aim to encourage students to pursue careers in business-related fields. According to Azih (2015), business education places a heavy focus on general education and training themes that are arranged in a structured manner and are necessary for certification considerations. According to Aliyu (2006), a style of education known as "business education" is one that encourages the development of information, competencies, and personality qualities that are crucial to the performance of the economy. According to Nwosu (2007), business education is a subfield of general education that imparts the socioeconomic, personal, and vocational skills essential for the growth of a more inclusive society. In the field of business education, the most common areas of concentration are marketing, accounting, and office administration and management. The purpose of a



student's time spent in a business education programme is to assist them in acquiring the knowledge and skills required for them to successfully establish their own companies once they have graduated from the programme.

Asoquo (2005) in Umezulike (2015) identifies the objectives of Business Education as:

1. To provide opportunity for practical job preparation or vocation studies for students/masses in order to make them render effective and efficient services in office, distributive and service occupations.
2. To provide opportunity for students and the public to develop an understanding of the business and economic system of the nation so as to enable them to participate actively as producers and consumers of goods and services.
3. To prepare the students/public for leadership position in both public and private life.
4. To serve as a guide for individuals/students for suitable placement in business, government and office employment.
5. To enable students/individuals have career consciousness and economic understanding of the free enterprise system.
6. To prepare students/individuals based on the interest and aptitude with the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to enter into a business occupation, advances and profit in it. To develop in the students and the public the basic awareness of the contribution which business, government and office employees make to the nation's economy.

The increasing rate of insecurity in Nigeria demands that there should be occupational education towards skill acquisition in order to reduce unemployment. This is because insecurity is believed to be perpetuated by frustrated unemployed youth of the society. As a result of unemployment, many of these active youth have involved in criminal act such as: Kidnapping, killing stealing, armed robbery, etc which is detrimental to National development of the country. The continuous existence of this scenario remains a concern to the researcher and based on this therefore, this study seeks to find out if acquisition of skill through business education could be used as an instrument to curtail insecurity in Nigeria. The main purpose of the study is to assess the strategies for curtailing insecurity in Nigeria through Business Education programme. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Identify causes of insecurity in Nigeria.
2. Identify strategies for curtailing insecurity in Nigeria through Business Education programme.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the causes of insecurity in Nigeria?
2. What are the strategies for curtailing insecurity in Nigeria through Business Education programme?

Research Hypothesis

One hypothesis was formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. There is no significant difference in the mean rating of male and female lecturers on the strategies for curbing insecurity in Nigeria through Business Education programme

Methodology

The study adopted descriptive survey design. The population of the study comprised 40 business educators from the four tertiary institutions offering Business Education and Office

Technology and Management Programme in Ekiti State. The institutions are Federal University, Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology, Ikere Ekiti, and Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti. The entire population was used for the study since it was manageable. A structured questionnaire that was divided into two parts was used for data collection. Part A was on personal data of respondents while part B contained a total of 23 items used in answering the two research questions. The entire questionnaire were correctly filled and returned. The instrument was validated by three experts from the department of business education, Bamidele Olumilua University of Education, Science and Technology, Ikere Ekiti, Ekiti State. The reliability of the instrument was determined through test-retest method. Result was obtained using Cronbach Alpha and a reliability coefficient of 0.75 was obtained. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions while the t-test was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. Mean rating below 2.5 was rejected while any rating of 2.5 and above was accepted.

Results

Research Question 1: What are the causes of insecurity in Nigeria?

Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria	X	SD	Remark
High rate of migration	3.24	0.59	Agreed
Poor parental upbringing	3.35	0.60	Agreed
Poor leadership	3.43	0.54	Agreed
High level of poverty	3.20	0.84	Agreed
High rate of unemployment	3.38	0.57	Agreed
Religion conflict	3.40	0.70	Agreed
Weak security system	3.25	0.69	Agreed
Loss of social-cultural and communal value system	3.26	0.62	Agreed
Poor quality of education	3.25	0.55	Agreed
Lack of spirit of patriotism	3.35	0.54	Agreed
Insincerity of government	3.25	0.69	Agreed

Grand mean = 3.31

The results of the study shows that all the items in the table were accepted as the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. All the items scored a mean point above 2.5 showing that they all agreed to all items listed as causes of insecurity in Nigeria.

Research Question 2: What are the strategies to curtail insecurity in Nigeria through business education?

Table 2: Strategies to curtail insecurity in Nigeria through business education

Statement items	X	SD	Remark
Provision of adequate laboratory for Business Education for skill acquisition	3.63	0.93	Agreed
Provision of all needed teaching facilities for teaching Business Education	3.99	1.1	Agreed
Regular supervision of Business Education programmes to ensure quality	3.80	0.93	Agreed
Adequate funding of Business Education programme	4.15	0.85	Agreed
Ensuring good maintenance of equipment	4.29	0.57	Agreed
Setting up entrepreneurial business centre for	3.97	0.91	Agreed

students by staff to learn skills			
Regular retraining of business education lecturers on emerging skills	3.98	1.06	Agreed
Qualitative entrepreneurial training for students in Business Education	4.02	1.01	Agreed
Constant review of Business Education curriculum for skills acquisition	4.12	0.89	Agreed
Provision of financial aids to graduates of entrepreneurial training	3.90	1.04	Agreed
Ensuring adequate supply of power	3.54	1.21	Agreed

Grand Mean = 3.94

The result in the table 2 shows that all the items in the questionnaire were accepted as the strategies to recover Nigeria from Security turbulence through business education. All the items scored a mean point above 2.5 showing that they all agreed to all items listed as strategies to recover Nigeria from security turbulence.

Test of Hypothesis

Ho1: There is no significant difference in the mean rating of male and female lecturers on the strategies for curbing insecurity in Nigeria through Business Education programme

Table 3: T-test result of male and female lecturers on the strategies for curtailing insecurity in Nigeria through Business Education programme N=40

Variable	N	Mean	SD	df	T-cal	T-tab	Decision
Female	15	30.71	10.02	38	1.42	1.96	NS
Male	25	28.9					

In table 3, the calculated t-value of 1.42 is less than t-critical value of 1.96 at 38 degree of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. This means that there was no significance difference in the mean rating of male and female lecturers on the strategies needed to curtail insecurity in Nigeria.

Discussion of the Findings

The result of the study showed that all the items listed as causes of insecurity in Nigeria were accepted and the items listed as strategies for curtailing insecurity in Nigeria through Business Education programme were equally accepted by the respondents. The test of hypothesis showed no significance difference in the opinion of male and female business educators on the strategies to curtail insecurity in Nigeria. The study supports Umezulike's (2011) claim that juvenile criminality in Nigeria includes cultism, drug trafficking, armed robbery, kidnapping, etc. because of idleness. The study concurred with Ojukwe's study from Olumese (2011) that business education needs to be repositioned in order to help Nigeria overcome its security problems. The analysis agrees with Uloko and Ejikeonye (2010), who emphasized that unemployment is rising at a geometric rate, particularly in light of the world economic crisis. The study also supports Nwagbosa (2012) posits that the failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address challenges of poverty and unemployment is one major causes of insecurity in the country. They held the view that when youngsters are empowered by learning business education skills, they have a propensity to use such skills to open up new opportunities for various occupations.

Conclusion

Nigeria's level of insecurity is continuously rising, necessitating the need for vocational education, such as business education, to prepare pupils with all the skills they would need to be self-sufficient. This will lower the unemployment rate, which is a major contributor to insecurity in Nigeria. The improvement of one's level of living and the elimination of graduate unemployment are both issues that can be greatly reduced by acquiring business education skills for job creation and enhanced market employability.

Recommendations

Consequent upon these findings the study recommends that:

1. Adequate security of lives and properties should be provided by our leaders both at the Federal, state and local government level, for the comfort of all Nigerians. Security agents must be provided with arms and ammunitions to enable them perform their duties effectively.
2. There should be provision and improvement in the areas of equipment and manpower which are the prominent needs of business education in the country.
3. Business Education should be adequately funded by government.
4. There should be adequate training and re-training of business educators at regular interval so as to equip them with new skills and ideas in the field of business. This will enable them to equip their students with the new skills, knowledge and altitude needed in the workplace for them to be employable.

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