



# **Dwindling Economy And Security On Tertiary Education: Its Management And Way Forward**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The provision of education to the Nigerian citizenry has adopted the social demand approach. This has contributed significantly to massive expansion of the system without a corresponding increase in funding. Nigerians have always realized that education is the singular factor that brings about national development coupled with super economy and security. For almost all the problems of education in the country ranging from inadequate facilities, strike actions, scarce teachers, deficient classrooms, insufficient trained personnel, lack of educational materials for both teachers and students to issues like social issues, delinquencies, vandalizations of school facilities, are all embedded in lack of good economy. The state of education has been battered by many more factors aside from dwindling economy and security, may wreck, destroy or collapse education to the extent that there would be disbelief of benefits of education to the country or globe because charity begins from home. Building good education system requires a strong economy, and a strong economy in turn requires worthwhile security. This paper examines the impact of dwindling economy and security on education, how they can be managed and the way forward to national development. It was concluded that despite dwindling economy and security affect negatively there could still be positive side to them if well managed. Suggestions were made amongst others: Government should provide adequate money to cater for education for all if it must be realizable; teachers need to learn how to teach their students using the internet facilities in order to snap away from physical class and stakeholders should try to provide vocational training to teachers and students so that they would be able to adapt well in changes that may likely come in form of pandemic indicating way forward to rescue the raveling situation of Nigeria dwindling economics, if not providing lasting solution but temporary's one that could stand the test of time.

**Keywords:** Education, Management, Dwindling Economy and Security Management, Nigeria

## **INTRODUCTION**

Education is the most powerful instrument which can be used to change the world, and in today's globalized world, Nigeria in particular, with all its challenges and struggles, the only weapon that can foster the rise in economy and security is education. Education is the purchase of knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviour by as many people that desire it, to pull out from them the inherent or inborn traits, process such within to nurture all the useful pulled out traits in order to bring quality changes to the world, and as a tool for liberation and self-actualization in the development of any society or government or individual (Mogbeyiteren, 2022). In Nigeria, the government is enjoined by the provisions of Section 18 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (As Amended) to ensure that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2013). But

equalities seems not in place as some inhabit rural areas where the essential materials supplied to the urban centres are lacking or if at all supplied, may be inadequate, transportation to the schools in the rural areas may be a great challenge as some vehicle owners may not want to risk their lives on the bad road nor wish to spoil their vehicles or could be that there are specific days vehicles ply the road as it may not be an everyday journey made to schools and absenteeism of the teachers to the classroom as a result of hindering factors; all these can affect education and affect the number of attendees in the school which are meant to bring in cool money in form of fee,developmental.health charges.

At the personal, organizational and institutional level. Security is very crucial to the general well-being, progress as well as in the achievement of set goals and objectives. The society with poor economies and insufficiently developed education systems would be unable to leave the brutal circle without mediation. The need for Nigeria as a multi-ethnic society to live peacefully together becomes heightened in the face of recurring incidences of threats, destruction of lives and properties in the society as well as kidnapping of teachers and students in schools make some students drop out of school and equally supported teacher attrition to better places.

Economy and insecurity have really affected the lives of people in Nigeria most especially in the North East where students are afraid to go to school with the fear of the unknown, even to embark on any journey from one place to another with the hope that one would arrive safely is not sure because the road is unpredictable, these days one cannot identify the fake military personnel on the road, fear of vehicle being hijacked by men of underworld.

Education as we all know have manifold impact on society, from raising the quality of life, to creating conditions conducive to the development of talented individuals capable of changing society. However, with the passage of time and worsening economic situation of the country, it became apparent that government alone could not continue to fund education and the effect of poor funding seems to reflect itself in the dilapidated structures we see these days in schools, the eating away of highly trained and qualified staff, labour unrest and student disturbances. Students are forced to take lectures in the open field, under the shade provided by trees, as the regular classrooms become inhabitable.

Security is the protection of lives and property of members of the political community. It is the fundamental reason for the existence of a state Stability and continuity of livelihood that is, (stable and steady income), predictability of daily life (knowing what to expect), protection from crime (feeling safe) and freedom from psychological harm (safety or protection from emotional stress) which results from the assurance of knowing that one is wanted, accepted, loved and protected in one's community or neighborhood and by people around. It focuses on the emotional and psychological sense of belonging to a social group that can offer one protection (Odufowokan, 2011).

## **Conceptual Terms**

### **Dwindling Economy and Security**

Dwindling economy is otherwise known as depression economy or economy depression interchangeably or recess economy. It is an occurrence wherein an economy is in a state of financial turmoil, the result of a period of negative activity based on the country's Gross Domestic Product Rate. However, this has become a global phenomenon; and a very good example is the global oil crash market and pandemic virus ravaging the human race and these had conjointly led to the decline in the Gross Domestic Product growth per capital of the country; which forces deprivation in the performances of economic sectors, cost-cutting of staff and wrapping-up of industries. It is a lot worse than a recession, with Gross Domestic Product falling significantly, and lasting for periods of time. Penultimate, Nigeria has been in deteriorating financial state for years as her economy in the last few years has been going through some turbulence. A country that had recorded an average Gross Domestic Product growth of 6.5 per cent, one of the highest in the world less than a decade ago, is now projected to grow at about 2.3 per cent in 2016 and 2,8 per cent projection for 2022.

It is no longer a new thing that Nigeria's economy and security is experiencing total collapse and if nothing is done to check them something worse than what we are witnessing now may soon be on sight. (World Bank, 2011) In recent times, on the news, newspapers and social media, Nigeria has been

surviving on foreign loans and the economic hardship is hitting hard on the ordinary citizens. The recent scarcity and increase in the prices of the Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), can make things worse for Nigeria and Nigerians not to talk of the sudden increase in the cost of air fares nationwide which may equally add to the suffering of the people, now, that people prefer to travel by air as a result of the high wave of insecurity (Adams, 2022).

Dwindling Security is known as insecurity in Nigeria which seems to be significantly troubling the educational sector to the extent that there is frustration in students, teachers and government leading to educational deterioration. In most parts of the country, schooling comes with its fair share of challenges, but when students risk losing their freedom or lives at school, on the road, in the train or in buses then our tomorrow is under attack. Flashback to 2014 when 276 girls were abducted from Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok, Borno State. If anything, the frequency of these abductions now, in a way, cause nightmare. Nigerian are now in acceptance that education will never be safe, that schooling, is a risky venture that heralds the loss of life and freedom; really abnormal to rush around to raise millions in ransom for kidnapped children meaning ignorance is expensive more than education (Vanguard Newspaper Online April 14,2014)

Dwindling can be experienced as the curricular contents and delivery since the colonial period to the present are deeply seated in European cultures and are very strange to the traditional African culture. The striking ingredients that can make the curriculum work are conspicuously missing in the African context. Many curricular adjustments and innovations were merely ink and paper master-pieces, mere shadow and ghosts in execution. Many of these changes and innovations were never accompanied by concrete physical adjustments, constructions and changes in the school system. It may shock you to believe that the school-building, the teacher and the time-tables that operated in schools' sixty years ago are still the same set of instruments that are offered to operate in the new system of today.

Lack of learning materials because the publishers have challenge of fund to produce needed copies to cater for distribution to schools or that the schools too are short of funds to purchase or that the politicization of education in schools have made the administrators cancel a textbook in order to help some friends to push out their textbooks whether relevant or not just ready to collect kick back, there are not enough books available not just because of poverty, displacements could be due to war, lack of family income even if the school is free; the cost of transport, uniform and educational equipment may be too much to bear by parents so they prefer their children dropping out of school to start earning an income, lack of sanitation on the part of girls during their period may be due to culture or religion beliefs which equally affect their not been educated like the other gender or lack of sanitary pads since the money to use in purchasing such is scarce and also as a result of lack of quality education in schools ,lack of classrooms,extremism,natural disasters and climatic changes (Edem,2000).

### **Insecurity**

The state of security in the Nigerian context is near a grave experience, a country where the security of lives and property has deteriorated to a situation of anarchy, total lack of law and order, a precarious circumstance of survival of the fittest and the elimination of the unfit, reveals nothing other than horrible. Many factors can lead to insecurity in Nigeria among such are conflicts among political parties in the South-West, inter-ethnic conflicts in the northern part of the country, several internal silent coups, annulment of the most credible election in the history of Nigeria that is tagged June 12 with its bitterness still harboured by some Nigerian, unresolved murders of politicians like Aguiyi Ironsi, Moshood Abiola, Ladoke Akintola, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Ahmadu Bello, Babatunde Elegbede, Nigerian lawyer and politician the former governor of the old Oyo state Chief James Ajibola Ige, Marshall Harry ,Murtala Mohammed, Festus Okotie-Eboh, Odunayo Olagbaju, Olatoye Temitope Sugar, Funsho Williams, Journalist Dele Giwa, Kudirat Abiola, Pa Rewane, The state of not being secure or lack of protection. Some give the philosophical, sociological and political definitions of insecurity, as process by which activities that generate conflict or wars are increased and those that lead to development are reduced, both within specific societies and in the wider international community (Deleone, Mark and Green, 2004). Thus, somehow, insecurity is integrally linked to war between 2011 and 2021, Boko Haram was

responsible for thousands of deaths in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. Nigeria is the country mostly affected by the terrorist group's attacks. States in the North-East register the highest number of deaths. Borno is by far the most threatened state, in that, Boko Haram has caused over 34 thousand deaths in the area (Dokua-Sasu, 2022). According to Babalola (2013), development is concerned with the transformation of the individuals, households, communities, private as well as public institutions through building of human capacities to ensure that available resources are properly managed and directed towards societal and ecological improvements. In Nigeria, we are living witnesses to the past and present state of terror and insecurity, characterized by kidnappings, political thuggery, robbery, ethnic clashes, militancy and religious extremism.

Clearly, some of the causes of all these violent activities partly lie in illiteracy, unemployment, lack of education, political and economic exclusion, among others. However, there are indications that some of the conflicts in some parts of Nigeria are not just ordinary, they border on a quest for political supremacy, as adduced from the comments of spokespersons of the terrorist groups who have openly admitted that the Christians and the government are their target and that they are on jihad mission. Sadly, most of the citizens involved or being used in the perpetration of the violent activities include; street children, school drop-outs, frustrated persons with disabilities, unemployed youths and illiterate youths who have been brainwashed with distorted religious dogmas and philosophies by egotistical political and religious individuals (UNESCO, 2001). The Nigeria travel advice was that they should avoid non-essential travel to Nigeria due to the unpredictable security situation throughout the country and the significant risk of terrorism, crime, inter-communal clashes, armed attacks and kidnappings. Persistent armed conflict by and with Boko Haram is resulting in widespread displacements, food insecurity, and many victims of violence. Displacement away from infrastructure leads to poor sanitation, water-borne diseases and an increased risk of communicable diseases (UNESCO, 2005).

### **Economy**

The Nigerian economy is one of the largest in Africa. Since the late 1960s it has been based primarily on the petroleum industry. A series of world oil price increases from 1973 produced rapid economic growth in transportation, construction, manufacturing, and government services. And this led to a great influx of rural people into the larger urban centres, agricultural productions stagnated to such as palm oil, cotton and groundnuts were no longer significant export commodities as cassava and rice for domestic consumption this system worked well as long as revenue from petroleum remained constant, but since the late 1970s the agricultural sector has been in continuing crisis because of the fluctuating world oil market and country's rapid population growth. In the late 1990s the government began to privatize many state – run enterprises-especially in communications, power, and transportation- in order to enhance the quality of service and reduce dependence on the government having few remaining in government hands At the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Nigeria continued to face an unsteady revenue flow, which the government attempted to counter by borrowing from international sources, introducing various austerity measures, or doing both at the same time. As a result, an ever increasing share of the national budget was needed for debt repayment, which, with corruption dominating government operations, meant that very little of Nigeria's income was being spent on the people and their needs. The country benefitted from a 2005 debt-relief plan by which the majority of its debt to a group of creditor countries known as Paris Club, would be forgiven, once it had repaid a certain amount. Nigeria successfully met this condition in 2006, becoming the first African country to settle its debt with the group. Nigeria entered a recession in 2016, partly because of falling global oil prices, saw progress with recovery within the next couple of years. Nigeria's economy grew in 2021 at the fastest annual pace in eight years, relying more on the non-oil sector. Focus panelists see the Gross Domestic Product coming in at 2.8 per cent in 2022 which is up to 0.1 percentage points from last month's forecast, and 2.8 per cent in 2023, the National Bureau of Statistics said it with the growth beat the forecasts by the government (NBS, 2022).

It is time for business unusual by implementing some urgent policy priorities over the next 3 to 6 months in the following key areas such as eliminating the PMS subsidy while protecting the poor and vulnerable households from any inflationary impact; reducing inflation through a coordinated mix of exchange rate,

trade, monetary and fiscal policies; catalyzing private investment by enhancing foreign exchange management, easing trade restrictions, and fostering a better business environment, and addressing fiscal pressures through enhanced domestic revenue mobilization and reducing the reliance on Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) deficit financing. The oil price shock of late 2014 and its aftermath pushed the economy into recession and precipitated a major budgetary crisis at the national and state levels which brought to light the longer term trend of weak domestic revenue mobilization. Nigeria's weak revenue mobilization has major implications for growth and development, including for improving its dire social service delivery outcomes. The country needs to take concrete steps to break its oil dependency to improve its economic and social outcomes. Oil revenues are recovering with increasing oil prices, but distributions to the tiers of government are constrained by the unbudgeted fuel subsidy and other deductions. Nigeria has underinvested in human capital, physical capital remains critical and this does not really account for improvements in growth (World Bank, 2011).

### **How does Insecurity affect Tertiary Education?**

It impedes education when it shuts down schools, keeps children and teachers home, and prevents the government and NGOs from opening new schools. Parents are afraid to send their children to school, teachers are afraid to teach, education providers are forced to withdraw from insecure areas or are unable to expand to areas that desperately need them. Even when schools continue operating, students may not attend after a threat or an attack from the evil men.

Education becomes smaller when found in the midst of people that belief in culture and religion to the extent that they are not permitted to be educated, take for example, women that are moslem in the some parts of Nigeria are not allowed to be in school but at home, they say school is not for girls; weaker in the hands of those that do not cherish it, that is the ignorant, who have negative attitudes about education, that education is not important, that girls should not be educated, or that girls can be educated only by trusted female teachers, or be separated from boys, and behind school walls do not know the benefit, and even to those that know but just do not want to make use of it or bring about reduction in the number of teaching, non-teaching, support staffs and students as a result of setbacks experienced from the kidnappers, price hike in transport fare, salary not commensurable to work, large class size, workload, bad road and many others.

### **How does Economy affect Tertiary Education?**

The current global economic downturn threatens the progress of making significant and appreciable improvements in education thereby making economy to affect education in the following ways amongst others.

- ✓ Reducing the ability of individual households and governments to invest in education: The crisis could lead to expenditure cuts as incomes and domestic fiscal revenues drop sharply. On the demand side, school revenues from students and contributions from the community could decline as employment and family incomes fall, making schools more dependent on transfers from the government. There may be pressure for children and youths to help augment family incomes, resulting in more school absences or higher dropout rates-although this effect may be countered by the fact that the opportunity cost of schooling is also lower due to a shortage of jobs for youths. On the supply side, teacher salaries may be delayed more than usual, vacant teacher posts may remain unfilled, and allocations for school repairs and school inputs may be greatly reduced, with undesirable consequences on learning.
- ✓ School enrolment are at risk, especially in Nigeria and wherever poorer households exist: Although enrolments have risen in nearly all states in the past decade, large segments of their population have children who never enter school or attend school for only one or two years. Poverty, shortage of good schools, location, size and many reasons account for this. Even without economic downturn, children from poor homes and girls have the least education. Illness, loss of job, loss of teachers, or leaky roof is enough to stop schooling permanently

- ✓ Allowing enrolments and learning to deteriorate will weaken the country: The ability to be competitive when the global economy recovers for the states that are unable to maintain or build up skills level of their work force during the recession will be better dignified to take advantage of the opportunity that a recovery offers. Wealthy countries are responding to the crisis by using growth stimulus spending to promote skills development programs, taking advantage of the retrenchment in jobs to provide encouragements for laid off workers and youths to skill up for the future.
- ✓ Prioritizing efforts and investments: Priority should be given to education expenditures that have the highest expected returns, and protect the most vulnerable and disadvantaged parts of the population. Whenever cutbacks in education spending are necessary, government should consider carefully which types of education expenditures are the most critical to maintaining the health of the education system. Programs to protect the most disadvantaged students should be a priority too because possessing fewer resources, they are the most likely to leave school and the hardest to entice back.
- ✓ Demand and supply side by side programs can alleviate and cushion against the worse effects of the crisis: Scholarships can help prevent a large exodus from private schools to public schools of students who can no longer afford to pay fees and such large transfer without a corresponding increase in resources can overcrowd public schools, reducing their effectiveness, and may probably close down much –needed private schools in undeserved places.
- ✓ Teachers' salaries account for the bulk of education spending in all countries, and thus are vulnerable to cuts and extraordinary delays during the tight fiscal conditions. It tends to demoralize teachers, increase absenteeism, and erode the quality of instruction and learning. Ensuring that teachers are paid on time and that they are present in their classrooms is an important means for students to stay in school and learn.

Despite the risks it poses to educational progress, the economic downturn may offer some opportunities to improve the performance of education systems over the longer term. Adequate resources are essential for attaining education goals, but the efficiency with which these resources are used matters greatly. Stricter financial restrictions at all levels of the system provide the justification and possibly the political support for tightening the oversight of its budget and attaining processes, thus reducing resources leakages by implementing reforms that increase system efficiencies a country can offset some of the effects of diminished resources.

Promising initiatives also include measures to improve the quality of the teaching force and to increase the accountability of schools for student learning. When there is weak labour market, it may be easier to attract better candidates into the teacher force and also to compel current teachers to upgrade their skills. Teachers may be more willing to consider reforms that base part of their progression, promotion, or pay on measures of performance, rather than simply on factors like tenure and credentials that are at best weakly related to student outcomes. Training programs could be designed in a way that will allow workers to draw on them in times of need to support just-in-time skill upgrading or return to school.

During crisis there is greater support accorded to policy making even in good times, effective policies and programs are difficult to formulate, partly for lack of information about what works, what doesn't and why. Information need to be solid, timely and readily fed back to policy makers and stakeholders alike. There will be heterogeneity in the impact of the economic downturn on education, so identifying the nature and magnitude will matter in formulating an appropriate policy response. Ensure that knowledge and experience about programs are disseminated effectively as it could shorten the time to design good policies and programs, thereby helping to reduce the negative impact of economy on education for families, students, teachers and schools.

### **How to Manage Economy and Security?**

Management as the art of business organization and the science of use of resources to achieve investment objectives is conceptualized and crafted around people, the community and environment. Around people,

because it has to be people driven and service oriented; around the community because it has a location, and around the environment by reason of its operating space beyond the community. Management is tasks, discipline and also it is people looking beyond themselves and exercising further authority over the activities and performance of other people. A country cannot achieve development unless it first seeks to achieve human security, this is because human resources are essential to any country's development; but if the people are living in fear, then they cannot be productive or competent in any environment. Hence, the primary role of any state is to preserve the security of the people occupying its territory. Focus on protecting homeland security, freeing people from fear and pushing forward with development. Cease to place more emphasis on having quick money which has led many to criminal activity and by so creating high level of insecurity in society. Policy makers, law enforcers and other key stakeholders in judicial matters should examine and manage well the major causes of insecurity and sort out ways of relieving the reasons why people tend to commit the acts of insecurity through strengthening the rule of law and building strong legitimate institutions and governance that provide citizens security, justice and good jobs in order to break the cycle of insecurity and ensure adequate growth of economy.

### **CONCLUSION**

Dwindling economy and security put much pressure on school quality which then have negative and positive touch on education, the negative side had been thrashed to the best of my understanding while the positive side to it is that, the students who dropped may not enroll again but may overtake others in the sense that, they might have gone to learn some skills during the period they were out of school likewise for the teachers, a period of training and retraining period where additional online certificate is added. Not all homes will be affected to the same extent, as the dwindling economy and security do less harm to better educated workers who generally are able to adapt to the use of new technologies, and they are more than able to use information to find jobs or other sources of income during the recovery.

#### **Suggestions**

1. Government should provide adequate money to cater for education for all if it must be realizable.
2. Teachers need to learn how to teach their students using the internet facilities in order to snap away from physical class.
3. Stakeholders should try to provide vocational training to teachers and students so that they would be able to adapt well in changes that may likely come in form of pandemic.
4. Individuals should try to adequately manage the little resources at hand to protect the projection of the future.
5. Access to quality education must be commensurable to the knowledge possessed to tackle the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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