OMANARP INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE.

THE ROLE OF LIBRARIES ON INSECURITY AND INFORMATION POLICY IN NIGERIA: THE WAY FORWARD

[1] ENWEANI, Uchechukwu V.,Ph.D. (CLN) [2] IKEAGWUANI, Jovita Amarachi (CLN)

[1]Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU) Email: ucenweani@gmail.com
[2]E- Librarian Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU) jovitaikeagwuani@gmail.com
Mobile Phone: 08064694418

ABSTRACT

This Paper Examined The Role of Libraries on Insecurity and Information Policy In Nigeria: The Way Forward. Library and education are inseparable words because education could be achieved through any libraries especially academic library. Thus, library orientation is the connection of books to users. The library be the most important place where information are disseminated on daily basis, the role libraries and Librarian that provide the information cannot be overemphasized. The role of education and library is two sided coin, there is no way you separate the two concepts in the modern society. Terrorism and militant insurgency around the world has assumed an alarming issue. Insecurity is at the verge of being the identity of Nigeria as no single day passes without cases of acts of insecurity. More worrisome is the fact that the Nigerian government seems to be incapable of curtailing this menace or doesn't want to stop it for undisclosed reasons. This paper focuses on the role of Library as tools for promoting literacy to tackle insecurity in Nigeria, the researchers' highlights what literacy means and levels of insecurity in our country. Why, we need to promote literacy to tackle insecurity and briefly discuss the role of library on promoting literacy. The nexus between security and insecurity was discussed, information policy in the context of librarianship. Some of the major incidents of violent attacks from 2009 to 2021 were highlighted and the way forward and concluded that government has to appreciate the important of libraries as an agent of 'information which disseminate information that are inevitable tools for promoting literacy as it sustains the nation.

.

ENWEANI et al 2024

OMANARP INTER. J. Lib & Info Science. Vol.1, Pp.120

Introduction

Insecurity around the world has assumed an alarming dimension: Library been the most important place where information are disseminated on daily basis, the role libraries and Librarian that provide the information cannot be overemphasized. The role of education and library is two sided coins, there is no way you separate the two concepts in the modern society. Terrorism or Insecurity occurred due to information wrongly received by the society. Terrorism and militant insurgency around the world has assumed an alarming dimension. Insecurity is at the verge of being the identity of Nigeria as no single day passes without cases of acts of insecurity. More worrisome is the fact that the Nigerian government seems to be incapable of curtailing this menace or doesn't want to stop it for undisclosed reasons.

This paper joins others earlier written by scholars in different areas to challenge the leadership of the country to live up to its responsibilities by providing it with the causes and effects of insecurity and proffers solutions to it. The paper adds to the others' solutions to the problem, the need to emphasize and take very seriously the information science programs as this equips our teaming youths with the skills that enable them to be self-employed at graduation. Equally important is the clarion call for the restructuring of the country in such a way that all parts of the country will co-habit harmoniously and thus keep insecurity at hand with the concept of information policy in mind. Any country without Information policy to guide the society means that country plans to fail. Therefore this paper addressed the following concepts and other areas: Information, Policy, Information policy in context of Librarianship, and finally the concepts of Security and Insecurity.

Information policy is any written or unwritten law, regulation, rule or practice that affects the creation, acquisition, organization, dissemination or evaluation of information. From the primary or secondary sources of information, there is single information policy for insecurity in Nigeria.

Information on the other hand refers to some meaningful message transmitted from source to users. In this process information may be stored in information products and services organized for the purpose of providing a memory in numerical, textual, sound and image forms. Information is invaluable at all times and in all circumstances, especially to national development. Information can be communicated through interpersonal channels. Relatedly, information service has a social connotation in that it is responsible for the organizing, storing and dissemination of ideas. It is impossible, that without the transmission of thought or information for the human civilization to have survived and achieved what it has today in terms of culture, language, speech, science and technology and social organization (Adomi, 2008). Historically, the use of language which followed logically predated the written word. Graphics were some of the mechanical facet of communication. Today we are very much familiar with 'recording' and the impact of information communication technology (ICT) on information activities. Thus, it could be said that the development of civilization as we know it today is largely due to man's ability to exchange information and ideas.

A policy is a conscious scheme or plan of action that is intended to guide decision making in order to attain set objectives as well as expected outcomes. A policy is a set of principles which guide decision making (Htwe, 2007). A policy is deliberate plan of action intended to guide decision and to achieve rational outcome (s). The term may apply to government, private sector organizations, groups and individuals (Wikipedia, 2019). Policy provides a framework against which proposals r activities can be tested and progress measured (Spasoff, 1999; cited by Htwe, 2007). A policy which is a set of principles and strategies which guide a course of action for the achievement of a given goal may be developed at the organizational or institutional level (Micro policies) or at the national, regional or international level (micro policies). Polices are embedded in the so called

ENWEANI et al 2024

OMANARP INTER. J. Lib & Info Science. Vol.1, Pp.121

policy instrument. These can be the following kinds of legal instruments (constitution, parliamentary acts. Laws, regulations, international treaties etc.), professional instrument (code of conduct, professional ethics, service guidelines, etc.) and cultural instruments (customs, beliefs, traditions, social values, etc.). Policy statement usually, but not always, formalized set forth the goal, a vision, a direction, organizational values and norms or other kind of guiding principles which a group, enterprise or nation intends to follow or adhere to in the pursuit of its everyday endeavours (Olatokun, 2005). The goals of any policy may vary widely according to the organisation and in the context in which they are made. Broadly, policies are instituted in order to avoid some negative effect that has been noticed in the organisation, or to seek some positive benefit. Given the above scenario, the concept of policy is defined differently by different people. However a typical policy has the following attributes—a scope, a mechanism; an action.

Information policy in the context of Librarianship is any written or unwritten law, regulation, rule or practice that affects the creation, acquisition, organization, dissemination or evaluation of information. According to Montviloff, (1990) cited in Adomi (2008) information policy provide guidance for the design of a strategy and programme for the development and use of information resources.

An information policy can be formulated at the institutional, national, international or regional level. Information policy, in its broadest sense, is the set of rules, formal or informal, that directly restricts, encourage or otherwise shape flow of information. Information is the basic coin of librarianship, so information policy which is roughly defined as the wide array of miles and policies that govern the handling of information is central to librarian's work. Laws regarding copyright, access to government information, personal privacy, freedom of speech and the like set the information "rules of the road" for our society and thus influence the operating policies,

services, and even the fundamental mission of libraries. Librarians must obey, and in some cases, even enforce information policies (Weingarten, 1996 in cited in Adomi, 2008). Some information policies can be enforced in the library. Libraries are instruments of information policy in that they serve various public purposes regarding information. They provide access to the information, archiving, organization, education and literacy and so on.

Libraries are critical information providers and part of their function is to make policies. The policies that they adopt on selection, organization and dissemination of the information they possess, determine to a great extent, their effectiveness. Thus, the concept of information society cannot be played especially in its efforts in which a society can access, share and utilize available information will greatly determine their economic wellbeing (Wikipedia (2019). Sometimes, information policy is associated with government regulations which focus on such areas as telecommunications, copyright, intellectual property and information technologies for public, educational and industrial uses. In this paper, the researchers focuses on issues of Insecurity causes and effect to the society.

Security VS Insecurity: There are so many definitions and explanations of the word 'security' by so many scholars lending support to each other. Omede (2012) considers security as a dynamic situation that includes the capacity of the State/Country to ward off any threats to its deep rooted values and interests. For Akin (2008); Achumba, (2013); Onifade C. (2013), security is seen as the condition that is present as a result of putting in place ways for the protection of persons, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions.

It has to do with a situation where people within a given space natural or otherwise can move about without any threats both real and imagined to their lives or properties. A situation where people can sleep at night with their two eyes firmly closed.

Security of lives and properties are really the fundamental reason for the existence of a government in the first place as attested by the various social contract theorists (Hobbes, Locke and Montesquieu). Prevention of aggressions to the individual both from within and without and securing for him the leverage to optimize his potentialities towards economic and social development is part of the content of security.

Therefore, the researchers defined, Security as a situation that enables a person or nation realizes its potentials freely and smoothly. While Insecurity is simply the very opposite of what we have as security. Insecurity

just as security is seen also in diverse ways. Some people would take it to mean absence of safety or presence of danger; hazard; uncertainty; want of confidence; doubtful; inadequately guarded or protected; lacking stability; troubled; lack of protection and unsafe (Achumba 2013). Therefore, insecurity can make one to lose confidence, be afraid, unsettled, oppressed, lose focus, and be devastated and lose one's humanness.

Highlights of some of the major incidents of violent attacks caused by insecurity since 2009 till date:

1. Following an apparent altercation with the police forces in July 2009, 14 Boko Haram members were shot in a joint military and police operation. The military suppressed the group's reprisal revolts in six northern states, with the attack leaving over 800 dead, the majority of which were sect members and civilians. Attacks continued, culminating in the 30 July, 2009 execution of Yusuf in custody.

2. From August 2011–June 2012 Boko Haram violence significantly escalated, with the suicide bombing of a UN building, and several attacks on security facilities, banks, and churches, resulting in high numbers of civilian causalities. More than four hundred and twenty-five (425) were killed, over three hundred (300) persons injured. UN Building in Abuja was razed down.

In October 2012, Adamawa, Kano, Kaduna, Kogi, Bauchi, Plateau, Yobe, Abuja, Sokoto and Katsina killed over 1,047; many sustained injury. Human Rights Watch released a report accusing Boko Haram's "widespread and systematic murder and persecution" as likely amounting to "crimes against the human race." 2013- 2015 May 2013 and from June to October 2013 several confrontations among Boko Haram and state forces resulted in hundreds of deaths.

3. Over 270 Chibok girls were abducted in Borno State; some women in Adamawa were kidnapped; over 200 persons were killed and many injured. The cumulative death excise varies according to sources, ranging from 7,500 deaths in 2014 according to the Nigerian Social Violence Project (John Hopkins University Africa Program) to 18,000 according to the Nigeria Security Tracker (Council on Foreign Relations).

4. On 25 August 2021 up to 30 people were killed in a midnight attack at Yelwa Zangan behind the University of Jos, Nigeria. Source Compiled from Nigerian Newspapers and adopted from Ogege, 2013, Ndubisi-Okolo &Anigbuogu, 2019, newsletters, internet Global Terrorism Index) In the Northwest and parts of the South, inter-communal violence continued as herderallied armed groups, vigilantes, and criminal gangs killed hundreds of civilians, kidnapped people for ransom, and raided cattle.

5. World-report, 2021) .As a symbol, the 2021 kidnapping of Mohammed Amodu, a "notorious kidnapper" and third in command of a kidnapping syndicate, indicates that Nigeria's security challenges could remain largely unchanged in 2021. (Ruth Olurounbi, 2021)

The role of libraries through literacy advocacy to tackle insecurity:

Throughout history, libraries have played pivotal roles in the dissemination of information, encompassing the processes of acquisition, organization, storage, distribution, and preservation. According to Abdulsalam, Buhari, Babarinde, and Adisa, (2023), among the multifaceted roles libraries undertake two stands out as particularly crucial for contemporary society.

Firstly, the library serves as a space where information seekers can freely access information

ENWEANI et al 2024

OMANARP INTER. J. Lib & Info Science. Vol.1, Pp.123

without constraints—a role focused on access. Secondly, libraries globally engage in efforts to archive, safeguard, and sustain ongoing access to information and the world's cultural heritage for the long term—a preservative role. These two fundamental roles distinguish libraries from other institutions and symbolize their significance in achieving peace and security worldwide. Access to information not only ensures well-informed decision-making and actions but also the preservation of cultural heritage fosters amicability, collaboration, and peaceful coexistence among citizens(Abdulsalam, Buhari, Babarinde, & Adisa, 2023) Since there is a link between literacy and violence, what is happening in northern Nigeria, where a larger percentage of the people cannot read or write, it makes it very easy for them to be indoctrinated accepting to be agents of death through suicide bombing. Hence their literacy level speaks why the youth in that region took to violence to protest their displeasure. Likewise in the South-South where kidnapping of oil workers, Foreigners and bombing of oil installations. If all our youth are literate and cultivate the habit of reading they will be exposed to be men and women of repute, disciplined and highly cultured. There is a contrary situation in the South West where majority are illiterate, perhaps, of the free education policy by Chief Obafemi Awolowo in the 50's Successive authority also replicate the policy by keeping the literacy level on the high side. One may reasonably submit that, that was why people in south west do not take to violence to protest any form of displeasure. The increase in work population brings about promoting literacy for the population to know more about human development and their environment. Therefore, there is a need for library services for the growing literate for them to be more knowledgeable because we are in the period of information explosion. It is evident that knowledge is not static, it is more sophisticated, and it is expanding with the discovery of new fields of knowledge. Igwe, (2005) stated that one way of transforming the society (teaching and learning) is to properly harness and integrate the efficiency of promoting literacy through information and communication technology into the society, since information is dispensable to the society.

Library as Tools for Promoting Literacy

The basic philosophy of the library is that it encourages learning and a place where learning materials are stored for use, (popoola 1990). Therefore, a good library must have abundant and varied collection of books, periodical, tape recorders, graphics like charts, maps, posters, graphs, globes, filmstrips to be shown to the population. Library also as tools for promoting serves through communication network centres which transfer knowledge from a host to the user. That was why Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, on December 2010 launched a programme tagged "Bring back to book Initiative" "The effort was geared toward bring back the culture of reading and increasing the level of literacy in Nigeria" Literacy serves as the first exposure of human to the world of information as it creates appropriate international relationship that links everybody and through library, thus, creates a forum for the exchange of ideas. It encourages continuing education and also mobilizes professional's consciousness by making professionals aware of current publications.

Library promotes literacy by providing learning materials that will facilitate the development of mutual awareness and appreciation among all racial and cultural groups. Libraries reflect fully the reality of religion and cultural diversity of a community. Library must acquire materials which foster positive feeling and attitudes towards the cultural diversity. Library has great role to play in promoting literacy, it helps an individual to learn how to live with one another after read in a about other people's culture. Library also help the populace to be literate and when the society is literate, ignorance is relatively reduced and people will not be push to war, because it is assumed they know the implication of war. Library enlighten user through publicity, book review, book fairs, observation of book weeks, library weeks and other celebrations on what goes on around them. While Uwasomba (2012) admitted that there is a link between literacy and peace literate

ENWEANI et al 2024

OMANARP INTER. J. Lib & Info Science. Vol.1, Pp.124

person is by every implication a man or woman of culture and civilized conduct. Library play a key role in creating a literature environment as it helps to promote literacy by offering relevant and attractive reading materials for all ages. Libraries embrace the social responsibility to offer services that bridge social, political and economic barriers. It traditionally make effort to extend services to marginalized people, by providing unlimited access to information through public libraries, which are located in the community.

A literate society is likely to develop very fast because citizen can easily have an understanding of government programmes. They can express their opinion, thereby participating in governance to create a peaceful society which is a prerequisite to development. The library also performs its social responsibility to people by providing them information related to existing job vacancies in the society. The libraries help to break information barriers and empowered and the nation develop through economic transaction and improved social relation among the people.

The way forward

The way out in Nigeria to solve the problem of insecurity is by government pushing growth with its information policies. The creation that we are addressing here involves:

i.   There is a need to establishment Community Policing within each divisional police headquarters for effective management of insecurity.

ii. There is a need to create an economy with appropriate social, economic, and physical infrastructure for business and industrial growth.

iii. There is a need for our security apparatus to ultimately improve the training of security officers, sufficient training in modern security methodologies, the provision of state-of-the-art equipment and appropriate remuneration, good service conditions, and convenient after-service arrangements.

iv. The government should boost people's living standards by establishing more centers of

entrepreneurship across the nation, most notably in the North and North East.

v.   The government should create more job opportunities for the youth; this will make them abstain from committing all such crimes.

vi. Politicians who use thugs should be barred from politics for life.

vii. vii. Governments should promote good governance, openness, accountability through the use of print and digital media, and inform the public through conferences, seminars, and NGOs.

viii. vii. Library advocacy on information about security and crimes should be carry by libraries.

Conclusion

Insecurity in Nigeria poses a threat to life and property, hampers business activity, and discourages local and foreign investors, all of which hampers and morons a country's social and economic growth and development. Since the nation gained political independence in 1960, we have been experiencing rising insecurity in Nigeria. Recently, the rising insecurity has assumed a dangerous dimension that even threatens the Nigerian state's business life. Removing such challenges should be Nigeria's number one priority at all levels because the nation cannot achieve any significant development despite insecurity and terrorism. Governments need to be proactive in resolving security issues and threats by modern methods of intelligence gathering and sharing intelligence, preparation, logistics, encouragement, and the implementation of advanced technology to address security challenges. Information policy in telecommunications, copyright, intellectual property and information technologies for public, educational and especially security must be implemented.

REFERENCES

Abdulsalam, J.A., Buhari, G.I, Babarinde, B.A & Adisa, A.O. (2023). Curbing insecurity in Nigeria: The role of libraries, Journal of Library Services and Technologies, 5(3), 17-25, Retrieved from DOI: http://doi.org/10.47524/jlst.v5i3.18

Achumba, I. C. (2013). Security Challenges in Nigeria and the Implications for Business Activities and

ENWEANI et al 2024

OMANARP INTER. J. Lib & Info Science. Vol.1, Pp.125

Sustainable Development, Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development, Vol. 4, 2. 56-87.

Adomi, E.E (2008). Library and information service policies. Benin City: Osasu printing press.

Akin Ibidapo-Obe (2008). The Utility of Close-Circuit Television (CCTV) in Intelligence Gathering by Security Operatives in Nigeria. Proceedings of Conference on Intelligent security, Lagos.

Akin Ibidapo-Obe (2008). The Utility of Close-Circuit Television (CCTV) in Intelligence Gathering by Security Operatives in Nigeria. Proceedings of Conference on Intelligent security, Lagos.

Alabi, G.A. (2003) Case Study Effectiveness of Informatics Policy Instruments in Africa: Nigeria. African Information Society Initiative-ICT Policy.

Burger, R.H. (1993). Information policy: A Framework for Evaluation and Policy Research, Norwood, N.J. Ablex.

Daniel, I. A. (2011). "Intelligence Information and Policing in Nigeria: Issues and Way Forward". The Journal of International Social Research 4 (17), 474-484.

Egbewole, W. O. (2013). "Security Challenges: The Role of the Nigerian Woman". Being the Keynote Address presented to the Annual Conference of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Kwara State Branch on 19th March, 2013. Farrell, R. (2012). "Boko Haram: Understanding the Threa"t. New York: Consultancy Africa Intelligence's Conflict and terrorism Units.

Htwe, M. (2007). Formulation, implementation and evaluation of health research. Retrieved May, 7, 2019 from http://www.searo.who.inten/section1234/section_1310

Igwe (2005). In Bamidele, S.S. and Bamigboye, .D. Impact of Education in Trust Fund intervention in ICT Development among Academic libraries in Kwara and Oyo State Nigeria. Middlebelt journal of library and information science vol. 10. No 1.

Maru Aminu, Hamza A. Pate and Ali D. Haruna (2015). The Impact of Insecurity and Poverty on Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria. International Journal of Humanities Social Sciences and Education (IJHSSE) Vol. 2(2) 32-48

Nwagboso, C. I. (2012). Security Challenges and Economy of the Nigerian State (2007- 2011)". American International Journal of Contemporary Research 2(6) 244-258.

Ogah, D., Fanimo, D., Shadare, W., Ebosele, Y., Okere, R., Adepetun, A., (Lagos) and Lawrence, F(2011) Expatriates, Some Semi-Skilled, Take Over Even Menial Jobs from Nigerians". Retrieved from http://www.guardiannewsngr.com/index.php?

Ogunleye, G. O., Adewale, O. S., Alese B. K. and Ogunde, A. O. (2011). "A ComputerBased Security Framework for Crime Prevention in Nigeria". Being a Paper Presented at the 10th International Conference of the Nigeria Computer Society Held from July 25th -29th.

Ojukwu, C. (1989). Because I am Involved, Spectrum Book Ltd, Ibadan- Nigeria. Olatokun, W.M. (2005) national information technology policies: issues and framework. in Tiamiyu M.A (Ed).Information science concepts models and applications. (pp. 147 – 167). Ibadan: African regional centre for information science.

Omede, J. (2012). Reformatting Nigerian Secondary and Post-Secondary education to meet unemployment and security challenges in Nigeria in the 21st century. Research Journal in Organizational Psychology and Educational studies (RJOPES). Available at http://www.emergingresource.org.

Omoyibo, K. U. and Akpomera, E. (2012). "Insecurity Mantra: The Paradox of Nigerian Growth and Development". European Scientific Journal 8(15), 132-142.

Onifade Comfort, Imhonopi David &Urim Ugochukwu Moses (2013). Addressing the Insecurity Challenge in Nigeria: The Imperative of Moral Values and Virtue Ethics. Global Journal of human social science Political Science Volume 13 Issue 2 Version 1.0

Onifade, C. (2013). Addressing the Insecurity Challenge in Nigeria: The Imperative of Moral Values and Virtue Ethics, Global Journal Of Human Social Science Political Science, Vol.13 Issue 2.

Onifade, C. et al. (2013). Addressing the Insecurity Challenge in Nigeria: The Imperative of Moral Values and Virtue Ethics, Global Journal Of Human Social Science Political Science, Vol.13 Issue 2.

Onifade, G. O., & Onifade, F. N. (2011). Staffing patterns of state colleges of education libraries in Nigeria. Library Philosophy and Practice, 1.

Opusunju Michael Isaac, AkyuzMurat and Ibrahim Yusuf Ohida (2019). Insecurity and BusinessPerformance:The Operation Management Challenge in Ikot Ekpene, Akwa

ENWEANI et al 2024

OMANARP INTER. J. Lib & Info Science. Vol.1, Pp.126

Ibom State of Nigeria. American Journal of Environmental and Resource Economics Vol 4(4):132-138

Ozoh Joan Nwamaka and Dinwobi Kelechi Stephen (2018). Insecurity and Sustainable Development inNigeria (in Context of Terrorism) Asian Journal of Economics, Business and Accounting 7(2):1-10

Popoopla, M.O. (1990). Toward students responsibility of learning ie role of libraries in the promotion of independence study. Education Today vol. 4. No. 1.

Ruth Olurounbi, (2021). Nigeria: Will insecurity, kidnapping and crime get worse in 2021. https://www.theafricareport.com.

Spasoff, R.A(1999). Epidemiologic methods for health policy. Oxford University Press term paper (n.d).Term paper on public administration, policy formulation and implementation. Retrieved May, 21, 2019 from http://www.termpapergenie.com/publicadministration.com.html

Wali, O. (n.d.). Security Challenges in Nigeria: The Way Forward". Retrieved April 28, 2013, from http://okeywalifornbapresident.com.ng/security-challenges-in-nigeria/

Weingarten, F.W (1996). Technological change and the evaluation of information policy. Retrieved May, 17, 2019, from http://www.unc.edu/unclng/weingarten.html

Wikipedia (2019) .Policy. Retrieved January, 22, 2023 from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/policy

William, P. D. (2008). "Security Studies: An Introduction". New York: Routledge.