

THE ROLE TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING (TVET) IN COMBATING INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The paper discusses TVET's (technical, vocational education and training) function in Nigeria's fight against insecurity. TVET aids in the development or emergence of profitable or lawful business activity. The paper thus identifies and explores various approaches that TVET could be used to fight insecurity in Nigeria taking into account the aims of TVET in Nigeria. As a result, the examination of the idea of technical, vocational education and training is studied, along with the many kinds of such education and training, the necessity of such programs, Nigeria's insecurity, and its main reasons. A few recommendations are offered in the study's conclusion, including the need to change the academic curricula in tertiary institutions so that students can gain skills in a variety of subject areas. Additionally, the National Youth Service needs to be reorganized so that, along with their paramilitary education Corp members would be exposed to other occupations at the orientation camps.

Keywords: Insecurity, Vocation, Education, Training, Technical.

1. INTRODUCTION

Any country's economic and social progress depends on the contributions of its residents. Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) aids in promoting national development, especially the maintenance of security (Oguntuyi, 2013). Any type of education that prepares students for employment in a particular occupation or group of occupations is referred to as TVET. Nigerians are becoming more and more conscious of the need of technical and vocational education. The advancement in society's perspective and interest is the result of demands for changes in the content, structure, and delivery of

vocational and technical curriculum to reflect a current emphasis on technology. One method of addressing these issues is TVET. In order to foster the skills and entrepreneurial spirit needed to generate wealth and advance the country's economic development, TVET was formed in Nigeria (Tiamiyu & Babalola, 2013). Obidile (2014) claims that TVET is a training program that gives its graduates the abilities needed to be independent within or for a certain job. TVET is the kind of instruction that equips its receiver with the skills needed to begin and excel in a profession, according to Oladejo (2019).

TVET aids in the development or emergence of profitable or lawful business activity. Unfortunately, TVET does not appear to receive the required attention in Nigeria. This appears to be the cause of the rising rates of poverty and unemployment in the population, which have significantly impacted Nigeria's insecurity issues. This is because graduates from educational institutions lack the necessary skills to take advantage of Nigeria's plentiful natural resources.

The issue of education that is not practical, too theoretical and only focused on office jobs Ayodele (2006). Additionally, the government's programs do not prioritize TVET promotion. The degree of skill acquisition in Nigeria is significantly impacted by the current status of the infrastructure that the government currently provides. Poverty and unemployment are related to the high degree of insecurity as seen by cases of armed robbery, kidnapping, ritual killings, and prostitution. The necessity for preachers, teachers, and clerical staff in government offices served as the sole justification for education in the past, which is what led to the early construction of primary and secondary schools. Technical or vocational schools weren't founded before then. As a result, schooling evolved as a strategy for avoiding manual labor. As a result, the educational system came under fire for ignoring TVET, which may enable graduates to be skilled and independent for the development of a nation, while only being relevant to the unique needs of Nigerian students.

Thus, TVET is playing a bigger part in maintaining competitive levels that are acceptable for reducing insecurity in Nigeria. Nigeria faces a significant difficulty due to insecurity. The incapacity of the Nigerian government to solve the problems of unemployment, poverty, and unequal wealth distribution appears to be the cause of insecurity in Nigeria. Nigeria's high levels of insecurity have resulted in the loss of numerous lives, assets, and opportunities.

Insecurity in Nigeria can take many different forms, including suicide bombings, vandalism, terrorism, kidnapping, farmers' and herders' disputes, assassinations, armed robberies, violent crimes, ethno-religious conflicts, and environmental degradation.

Despite all the steps taken by the Nigerian government to address the insecurity issues, their results have not yet been clearly seen. When taking into account the aims and objectives of TVET, it has been shown that it might be utilized to improve people's productive abilities, assisting them in generating revenue and wealth to escape the insecurity that comes from unemployment and poverty.

In order to increase wealth and decrease insecurity, it is crucial to improve the productive capacity of pensioners, physically challenged people, school dropouts, and youth who are unemployed.

2. CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

Insecurity as a Concept

To help us comprehend the concept of insecurity, security as a concept must first be introduced. To Akin (2008), it means the state that has been achieved as a result of the development of policies for the defense of people, property, and information against aggressive actors. It is a state of affairs in which members of a community can go about their typical everyday activities without fear for their lives or their property. It includes all policies and procedures put in place to secure and defend the people and the assets of organizations, people, businesses, and the country against violence or sabotage (Ogunleye, Adewole, Alese, & Ogundele, 2011). Igbuzor (2011) asserts that it necessitates protection from terrible hazards and injury. However, security can also be defined as continuity and stability of livelihood (a stable and steady income), predictable daily life (knowing one's expectations), protection from violence and crime (safety), and being free from psychological harm (safety from emotional stress), all of which are brought on by the confidence that one is accepted, loved, wanted, and protected in one's neighborhood, community, or by people.

One of the problems in Nigeria is insecurity. It's possible that this is a result of the government's inability to deal with issues like poverty, unemployment, and unequal income distribution. The relative perception of people's feelings of economic, political, social, cultural, and psychological anxiety is described as insecurity by Adegbami (2013). The author claims that economic insecurity is the type of insecurity that causes people to become aware of other types of insecurity the most frequently. Economic insecurity, in his opinion, is the lack of employment opportunities, access to basic healthcare, clean drinking water, an education, opportunities to improve one's quality of life, and innovative public policies that address the immediate, medium-term, and long-term requirements of the various segments of the population. Insecurity is a feeling of dread or worry brought on by a lack of protection (Ali, 2013). Two definitions of insecurity were proposed by scholars. Let's begin by defining "insecurity" as the state of being exposed to risk or the possibility of danger, where danger is the condition of being vulnerable to harm or injury (Achumba, Ighomereho, and Akpan-Robaro, 2013). The condition of being exposed to risk or anxiety is the second definition of insecurity, where anxiety is a generalized unfavorable emotion experienced in anticipation of a negative consequence.

In this article, insecurity is referred to as a breach of peace and security that typically results in violence and the destruction of both people and property. Insecurity in Nigeria is defined as the presence of diseases, violent crime, political assassinations, kidnappings, ethno-religious disputes, civil war, terrorism, and environmental degradation (Oladeji & Folorunso, 2007).

The nation currently experiences an appalling and intolerable level of insecurity. In a situation where there is constant instability, no country can prosper socioeconomically. Nigeria's socioeconomic development has been slowed by insecurity, which has led to social unrest, population displacement, a general climate of mistrust, fear, and dehumanization, a worsening of hunger and poverty, discouragement of domestic and foreign investment, and emigration from areas where insecurity is a problem (Obarisiagbon & Akintoye, 2019).

How to increase the productive potential of unemployed youth, dropouts, physically challenged, marginalized groups, rural residents, and seniors remains a challenge. Utilizing TVET, it is necessary to address the amount of poverty and unemployment among young people, members of marginalized groups, and physically disabled people in order to lessen the detrimental socioeconomic effects on the nation.

Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is the process of learning techniques and abilities in a chosen career so that a person can support themselves financially. In a news release from 2004 on the National Policy on Education (NPE), the Federal Republic of Nigeria defined TVET as a training or retraining program that is delivered in classrooms or schools under public authority and supervision. A TVET education is one that emphasizes the teaching of skills and calls for the expert or skilled use of hands. In two different sorts of institutions that were initially founded in Nigeria, formal sector skills were taught. They are technical colleges and trade schools. TVET is a continual process that adapts worker training in order to acquire the least amount of knowledge necessary. According to Ugwuja (2010), TVET is a component of education created to enhance students' knowledge for careers in farming, home economics, industry, and business. TVET is a component of education that results in the acquisition of applied and practical skills, knowledge, and abilities (National Policy on Education FRN, 2004). TVET is a form of education designed to help people become self-sufficient by preparing them for employment as skilled or semi-skilled employees in a recognized occupation. Therefore, TVET equips a person with the abilities and knowledge needed to work, live, and learn in order to contribute to society as productive members of a global community (Nwogu and Nwanoruo, 2011).

Status of Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Nigeria

While TVET has continued to develop well in many countries, Nigeria has neglected this area of education. Consequently, the society lacks skilled workers and technicians: painters, auto mechanics, bricklayers, carpenters, laboratory technicians, pharmacy technicians, electricians, and vocational nurses etc. TVET in Nigeria has faced various challenges. Initially, it was wrongly perceived as the education of school dropouts or those who couldn't cope with the stress of formal schools setting, but had to be sent to trade centres.

The Need for TVET

According to Mitchell (2014), most communities require people with a variety of talents in order to be productive. While beauticians, dental hygienists, and medical assistants are crucial to quality of life, carpenters, repairmen, mechanics, and plumbers are typically viewed as fundamental to social order. Many governments fund TVET programs to encourage qualified individuals to enter such trades. As an illustration, consider the Amnesty Programme, in which the government sponsors and encourages young people from the Niger Delta region to pursue overseas vocational training in their areas of interest in order to help them become self-employed and stop their unrest.

Types of Technical and Vocational Education Training Programme

The administrative, business, plumbing, technology, hairstyling, agriculture, printing, car, laboratory, handcraft, librarian, and cosmetic industries are only a few of the opportunities available through TVET. These courses specifically cover typing, typing practice, computer operation, laboratory technician, desktop publishing, mechanic, librarian, plumbing, welding, air conditioning, refrigeration, beautician, tailoring, etc (Anusha, 2012). Because of this, TVET refers to any kind of formal training program that

prepares students for employment in a particular trade. Training typically lasts between one and two years, which is quite short. TVET programs are typically focused on a particular job, as opposed to college programs, which emphasize offering a broad and varied education.

3. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO SECURITY CHALLENGES

1. Unemployment: According to Adekunle, Akwara, Udaw and Enwechala, (2013), poverty is caused by unemployment and that insecurity is caused by poverty. In a country where a large percentage of the people are jobless, they would live in poverty, and that would in turn lead to insecurity of lives and property as the people's ability to engage themselves in the country's socio-economic processes would be greatly reduced. They would concentrate their energies to unconventional methods as crimes to make a living for themselves, and as they engage in this, they put lives and properties in danger and increase the cost of governance.

Okafor, (2011), stated that unemployment is with attendant, political, social-economic and psychological consequences in Nigeria. One of the social consequences on the Nigerians is the high rate of unemployment. According to Lamido (2013), unemployment results from youths' lack of orientation, a lack of social welfare policies, societal attitudes against TVET, and a lack of teaching resources. The high rates of terrorism in the north-west, armed robberies in the south-west, militancy in the south-south, north-east, and north-central regions, and abduction in the south-west region are examples of these. All of these have had a significant impact on Nigeria's security condition. Youths are drawn to crime and violence due to the high rate of unemployment among them (Adagba, Ugwu, & Eme., 2012). Insufficient action to address issues with unemployment, poverty, and unequal wealth distribution, according to Nwagbosa (2012), may endanger corporate profitability.

2. Poverty: Experts are increasingly coming to the conclusion that the most effective way to reduce poverty is to involve and empower the most vulnerable members of society by providing them with the means for economic choice and self-actualization. The outcome of development is greatly influenced by effective political ties and a productive, engaged populace that can lead to forceful, concerted action. This can undoubtedly lead to social justice, equity, accountability, transparency, and good governance, as well as more efficient and better focused public services. However, given the high rate of youth unemployment and the absence of active involvement in the labor market, Nigeria is currently experiencing linked socio-economic crises that have contributed to national insecurity, a worrying trend that no administration can ignore (Abdullahi, Hussainatu, and Yelwa, 2013).

3. Lack of Corporate Responsibility by Companies

Companies engage in corporate social responsibility in order to offset corporate social irresponsibility. Corporate and social irresponsibility are set of actions which increases external costs and/or promotes distributional conflicts (Kotchen & Moon, 2011). The emergence of terror groups in some parts of Nigeria is directly linked to the neglect of social responsibility by industries/companies to the host community as seen in the case of the Niger Delta Crisis.

4. Rural/urban Migration: The mass movement of unemployed youths from rural areas to cities is also among the causes of insecurity in the country (Onuoha, 2011). Nigeria is among the countries in the world with high rural/urban drift. Most of the urban centers in Nigeria have developed above their environmental capacities and existing infrastructure, and this has resulted to poor standard of living in urban areas in Nigeria (Adedeji&Eziyi, (2010). Most times, the youth are drawn into crime due to frustration.

5. Porous Borders: One of the main immediate causes of insecurity in Nigeria is the porous borders of the nation, where individual movements are mostly unrecorded. Nigeria's porous borders have major security repercussions for the nation. Weapons are easily smuggled into Nigeria from other nations due to the country's lax security system and porous borders. Criminal organizations and militant groups now have simple and direct access to weapons thanks to the growth of light and small weaponry and their availability (Hazen & Homer, 2007). According to estimates, Nigeria is home to more than 70% of the 8 million illegal weapons in West Africa (Edeko, 2011). Additionally, because of the openness of the borders, illegal immigrants from nearby countries like Benin, Chad, and Niger have been able to enter Nigeria (Adeola and Oluyemi, 2012). Some of the criminal activity that is carried out in Nigeria is carried out by these migrants.

4. THE CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

Health insecurity, such as illiteracy and infant mortality caused by ignorance and poverty led to the deaths of many Nigerians, mostly as a result of greed, selfishness, widespread and uninvestigated corruption, a lack of political will, and a lack of vision, according to Akintokumbo (2011). He also noted that lives were lost in Nigeria due to diseases and traffic accidents that could have been avoided if not for a lack of care and commitment by health insecurity. Internal unrest is a widespread issue, not just in Nigeria.

The UK, the US, and many other nations throughout the world deal with the difficulties of internal instability on a daily basis. Those nations' approaches to managing risks, level of readiness and knowledge, use of resources, effectiveness, and sense of unity and patriotism in the face of security threats set them apart from Nigeria. Without declaring war, foreign powers can nevertheless pose a threat to domestic security by supporting or engaging in terrorism or insurrection. Nigerians are learning from the current violence that the government's security system is ineffective at guaranteeing the safety and security of its citizens. As an illustration, consider the kidnapping of 280 Chibok girls in Borno State by Boko Haram, who also threatened to kill the girls if the government would not stop looking for them (Jimitota, Johnbosco & Ndahi, 2014).

Due to the situation's tendency to instill anxiety while also limiting their capacity for economic growth, this might have had a negative effect on the populace's sense of general security. Additionally, the state's ability to draw in international investors is hampered by instability. This may have had a negative impact on the populace's sense of overall security due to the situation's propensity to cause anxiety while also restricting their ability to experience economic prosperity. Additionally, the state's ability to draw in international investors is hampered by instability.

States like Bauchi and Enugu, which have significant tourism potential, would suffer on this front. It is undeniable that terrorism is the main source of instability in Nigeria today. Its supporters are typically found in religious extremism and intolerance, particularly in Muslim-dominated states. According to Onuoha (2011), terrorism is the deliberate use of violence or the threat of violence to cause death or fear, particularly against unarmed property, targets, or infrastructure in a state, with the goal of forcing those in authority to comply with the expectations and demands of the group or individuals responsible for such violent acts. Boko Haram is an anonymous organization operating in the country's North that engages in terrorism with an Islamic insurgency and a political undertone while taking into account the legitimate political, social, and economic complaints of the populace there.

5. THE ROLE TVET IN CURBING SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA

The assertion that the first step toward solving an issue is its identification. The Nigerian educational system must be improved in order to move vocational education ahead because of its influence on the security concerns facing any nation. TVET is of major importance to the making of developmental policies of Nations. TVET is an effective tool used by government of nations in addressing the crises of unemployment and insecurity due to the increasing number of unemployed youths. Therefore, it is crucial to think about how to properly restructure Nigeria's vocational and technical education (Uwaifo, 2001). Ayodele (2006) claims that illiteracy, poverty, unemployment and, most significantly, absence of jobs skills which can be acquired through TVET are the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. This shows that technical and vocational training are essential for preserving lives in Nigeria in the face of current security threats. This is accurate in that TVET can aid in developing a person's independence, autonomy, ambition, and capacity for self-sufficiency. Most importantly, applicants TVET can find work in numerous states and central government organizations, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and occasionally even in private firms. TVET empowers individuals to be self reliant. TVET equip individuals with the ability to work, learn and live a standard life. Vocational and Technical Education, according to Uwaifo and Victor (2009), has some effects on how people can make a living, including:

Economic Implication: TVET is created to satisfy the employment requirements of specific economic sectors. The training is carefully matched to the requirements of the profession in order to encourage the trainee's initial production performance. Trainees can start earning a living, developing into more helpful and productive individuals who will be assets rather than liabilities to society.

Psychological Implication: People without a job and those without hope can be brought together by TVET. On the other side, a nation with a shortage of laborers will experience the issue of unemployment, which results in poverty, which then results in insecurity.

Sociological Implication: The solution to many social problems is vocational education. A significant societal ailment, unemployment has many far effects including hooliganism, insecure housing, and other antisocial vices. By producing students that are easily hired, TVET aids in eradicating all of these.

Technological Implication: In the future, it is envisioned that TVET will adequately prepare students to be more productive in this technologically advanced era, to produce a generation of individuals who can think critically and independently, to uphold the dignity of labor, and to lead its populace into a flourishing economic stability. More workers with solid technical backgrounds who are tough enough to change Nigeria into a technologically advanced nation capable of meeting its immediate demand are what the world needs today and tomorrow. If we are ready and able to reevaluate the relevance of vocational programs in our educational system, a better future is attainable.

Self-Employment: Due to the high rate of secondary school dropouts in Nigeria today, developing one's career through TVET is important. Kids would require skills and knowledge so as to perform appropriately in the society as they could not fit into the academically centered curriculum. Second, graduates from our current educational systems almost always seek employment that is scarce in this nation at the moment. Vocational and technical education in secondary schools turns out to be the most effective panacea for luring most of the job searchers away from the jobless market. The teachers who will impart these abilities to pupils at the elementary, post-primary, and university levels must again be trained in order to do this (Uddin and Uwaifo, 2005).

6. CONCLUSION

The effective use of the energy present in our young people is crucial to Nigeria's security. The phrase "an idle hand is a devil's workshop" is well-known. There won't be a problem with poverty or unemployment if everyone has a job and is self-sufficient, which are the main causes of young people engaging in

questionable behavior or wreaking havoc on people, states, and other entities. TVET is a way of accomplishing it because it is all for the sole aim of developing survival skills. The appropriate technical knowledge, skills, and trained proficiency are provided to pupils as a result. The seductive promise made by terrorist youth leaders will no longer be valued by young people. Conditions that would inevitably and drastically reduce, if not completely eradicated, the youth-driven, intentional threat to Nigerian national security. It is Nigeria's remedy for its socioeconomic and security issues. The nation's industrialisation and security stability are both anchored by TVET. Because TVET is crucial to a country's advancement, security, political stability, and economic growth, it needs to be given more priority. All indications point to unemployment and poverty as social evils in Nigeria that threaten the security of the nation. Evidently, unemployment directly causes poverty, and poverty feeds instability. So it makes sense that both poverty and unemployment can cause problems with national security. The following illustrates how crucial TVET is to preserving lives in Nigeria during these periods of security challenges.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The entire academic program should be restructured in our institutions to allow students to gain skills in a variety of professions. Instead than pushing students into a certain field, educators should encourage them to develop abilities in their areas of interest. An adequate budget is needed for TVET. The government should be given the reins on this by locating or building a vocational center, or by providing the necessary equipment. Capitalists, NGOs, and religious organisations should stand ensure they take part in funds donations. For graduates of our higher education institutions, governments across levels must ensure they have a fund reserve for young entrepreneurs in small or medium scale businesses. The NYSC should be redesigned so that, in addition to their paramilitary training, corps members are exposed to various occupations at NYSC camps. They might be inspired to create Corpers Cooperative and pursue a practical career in addition to their major tasks during their service year.

While recognizing the government's efforts in the area of security, adequate measures must be put in place so as to tackle the numerous problems of security so that everyone will live in oneness.

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