

Prospects of Teaching Social Studies Education for Social Reforms and National Security in Ondo State

Ogunfunmilakin, Bright Ifedayo Ph.D

Abstract

The study assessed the prospects of teaching social studies education for social reforms and national security in Ondo State. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. Population comprises all higher institutions of learning in Ondo State. Simple random sampling technique was used to select five (5) higher institutions of learning in Ondo State in which thirty (30) students were randomly selected from each of the chosen institutions to make a total of one hundred and fifty (150) as sample for study. Two (2) research questions were raised and answered in this study. Reliability of the instrument was determined using Cronbach Alpha and data collected was analyzed using simple percentage, mean and standard deviation statistical tools. Findings revealed that, Social Studies places premium on development and inculcation on right attitude, values, feelings and national consciousness on the youth. Youths that are adequately informed, educated and have acquired basic social skills in the society cannot be a security threat to the national existence. Instead, they become, through the help of social studies education, access to security solution in the country. The country cannot be adequately secured if there is political instability, economic failures and religious and ethnic disharmony in the country. It is therefore recommended that citizens should develop a sense of patriotism that is to put the country above any selfish interest capable of destroying peace and harmony in the country. The teaching of Social Studies education in all our schools should facilitate new culture of politics which makes for tolerance, and political accommodation among the political class. This would enhance the survival of democracy in the country.

Keywords: prospects, integration, social reforms, national security, political class

Introduction

Education is designed purposely to assist individuals to develop their skills and abilities so as to fulfill their potential and to lead productive satisfying lives (Encyclopaedia Americana, 2001). In the preliterate societies, education focused on hunting, cooking, following stars, and obeying the gods. The power to teach then rested with parents, elders or priests. Illiterate adults had learnt from folklore, ballads, and sermons. Education at that time focuses on the transmission of essential skills and the orally preserved traditions of the tribe or

community. Teaching was not a specialist function until the early civilizations in which teaching was accompanied with more complexes and regulated social organization (Encyclopaedia Americana, 2001). The purpose of education in modern times is wider in scope than in preliterate societies. Education now shapes politics, culture, family, economy among others. As the society is dynamic, and constantly changing and growing, education must follow suit. In fact, changes most often are effected through the educational system of a country.

Nigeria according to Alfrey (2010), as a nation, is beset with the problem of insecurity in the recent past. There has been an upsurge of criminal activities such as kidnapping, reigning cases of broad day-light, robberies, hired assassinations, political sponsored killings, looting of government treasuries by those in government, fraudulent banking activities etc. All these have contributed to the security problem being witnessed in Nigeria. The resultant effect of this state of insecurity is that, the country is left to drift about, suffering from a lot of brain drains of intellectuals to other more peaceful and secured countries (Encyclopaedia Americana, 2001).

Section 14 (1) of chapter 2, of the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria captures the importance of security when it states that security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of Government. Seen this way, security is a social contract between the state and its citizens, in which the former is expected to protect, defend and provide for the latter in the public area. Various people such as Okiro (2008) and Odah (2009) have all observed the unpalatable state of security of the Nigeria Nation which is highly lamentable. In addition, there are the destructive demonstrations of militancy in the Niger Delta region of the country.

Yusuf and Onifade (2009) noted that violence has been observed in the Niger Delta region, where upward of one hundred thousand barrels of oil per day is stolen costing the country about one billion dollars loss of revenue. The foreign oil workers are being kidnapped on daily basis, setting fire to offshore oil. Installations and bombing of pipelines, Okiro (2008) noted that the militants or the fighters are angry with the oil companies because they feel that oil companies are exploit the regions resources without adequate returns to the Community. Based on the prevailing situation as observed above this paper attempts to capture the concepts of social studies education security and examine the role of social studies education in ensuring national security and thereafter recommendations will be made in order to bring about peace and security.

Social Studies according to Adewuya (2002). cover a broad area of study dealing with man. It is a subject that is closely related to the social science

subjects like sociology, Geography, Economics, Government, Political Science and History. Its area of focus is therefore very wide. As an emerging subject, social studies was introduced into the school curriculum like other subjects (especially the social science subjects) had firmly taken root and were well known. Consequently, the social scientists and other interested educationist and scholars have been in the forefront of the development of the subject across the world. In view of this, social studies have attracted a multitude of definitions from those who helped to propagate the subject.

According to Adaralegbe (2010) Social Studies is a study of how man influences and is in turn influenced by his physical, social, political, religion, economic, psychological, cultural, scientific and technological environments. In addition, Okobiah (2014) states that Social Studies is an interdisciplinary approach to the study of human beings in group interrelations with both their social & physical environment. Security can be said to be the activities involved in the protection of life, properties and territorial integrity of a community against threat, mishap and other forms of destructive tendencies either from within or from outside the community. However, Babangida (2012) viewed national security as the physical protection and defense of our citizens and our territorial integrity of which it is a part but also the promotion of the economic well being and prosperity of Nigerians in a safe and secured environment that promote the attainment of our national interests and those of our foreign partners.

Otto and Ukpere (2012) opined that security means protection from hidden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life in homes, offices or communities. Security must be related to the presence of peace, safety, happiness and the protection of human and physical resources or the absence of crisis, threats to human injury among others. National security has been defined to include not only safety devices implored by government for the safety of lives and property in the country but it also includes developmental strategies put forward to actualize effective social, political, economic, technological reforms that will bring about improvement in the quality of the people. To this extent social studies can play a vital or pivotal role in ensuring that the nation attains her national security. A starting point perhaps is the reality that majority of Nigerians are poor and are ravaged by hunger and starvation, religious disunity, ethnicity and political divides.

Social Studies as a discipline is geared towards ensuring god citizenship in Nigeria A cursory look at the Social Studies curriculum at each level- primary, secondary and tertiary will convince people that the subject is tailored towards ensuring good citizenship education in Nigeria. Social Studies as a discipline afford the pupils, students, and teacher in particular and members of the public

in general, the opportunity to know about the positive aspects of our socio-economic and political aspects, factors promoting Unity and Solidarity among the numerous ethnic groups making up Nigeria.

Akinlaye (2017) stated that social studies would offer medication and provide for need reforms or changes in society as well as catering for its survival by removing barriers between groups and classes, within society as a result of birth, occupation, language, race and religion and even between generation and tribes man and countrymen and also the schooled and unschooled, the literate and the illiterate, he concluded that social studies education would help to promote peace, co-operation, security and national pride. It is a common knowledge that our society (Nigeria) today is being plagued by social vices or evils like excessive profiteering, embezzlement, thrift, statism, arms struggles by the youths and other irresponsible behaviors.

Social Studies can help greatly to educate the youths on the importance of peace and security in our dear nation. Social Studies as a discipline if properly programmed and effectively taught, should help to solve social problems that are facing developing countries like ours (Nigeria) where the old norms are fast losing their grips and no effective substitutes to replace them. No nation is self sufficient or can produce all her needs. It is therefore, necessary to understand the relationships existing between one society and another. Various topics concerning safety and national security are designed to produce good citizens that will promote national and international security. It inculcate in students international understanding by emphasizing the essential oneness of the human race to realize the growing interdependence of nation and people.

Social Studies according to Adediran & Sobola,(2021) places many values on the affective domain in its attempt to promote good citizenship Education in Nigeria. In Nigeria, in social studies, for instance, the affective domain deals with the evaluation of the attitude and values that are developed or behavioral changes that is noticeable in the pupils after a course of study. The affective domain examines the behavioral changes in pupils like respect for elders and other constituted authorities such as parents' government etc, love of industry, dignity of labour and other positive attitudes and values. The psychomotor domain in social studies emphasizes the development of skills, both in theory and in practice, in its attempt at ensuring good citizenship education in Nigeria. In fact, the inter-play of cognitive and affective domain has an effect on the performance of certain skill. These skills include, the skills of sifting information, interpretation, identification recognition, asking and answering questions, manipulation etc. these skills are necessary for safety and national security.

This statement agrees with the assertion of Akinlaye (2017) when he

stated that social studies involves pupils in purposeful activities based upon observation and investigation of their immediate surroundings including their physical and social environment.

Objectives of the study

The main objective of this study is to assess the prospects of teaching Social Studies education for social reforms and national security in Ogun State.

Research Questions

- What are the prospects of teaching Social Studies education for social reforms and national security in Ondo State?
- What are the role of Social Studies in ensuring social reform and national security in Ondo,Nigeria?

Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. Population comprises all higher institutions of learning in Ondo State. Simple random sampling technique was used to select five(5) higher institutions of learning in Ondo State in which thirty (30) students were randomly selected from each of the chosen institutions to make a total of one hundred and fifty(150) as sample for study. Two (2) research questions were raised and answered in this study. A self-developed questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. The questionnaire contained items on the main title of study. A self-developed questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. The questionnaire contained items on the main title of the study. To ensure the validity of the instrument, the researcher gave the draft of the questionnaire to the experts to restructure the instrument in line with the research questions. To determine the reliability of the instrument, a pilot test was conducted and the scores were tabulated and the Pearson product moment correlation coefficient formula was applied and a correlation coefficient of 0.72 was obtained. On the basis of the corrections done on the questionnaire items, and the test-retest reliability coefficient computed, the instrument was judged adequate, valid and reliable for the purpose of gathering relevant data for the study. Data collected was analyzed using simple percentage, mean and standard deviation statistical tools.

Presentation of Data Analysis and Results Discussion

Research Question 1: What are the prospects of teaching Social Studies education for social reforms and national security in Ondo State?

	Items	Yes		No		Mean (\bar{x})	S.D
		Freq (N)	Percent %	Freq (N)	Percent %		
	Social Studies places much values on the affective domain for social reforms.	108	72	42	28	3.8	.79
	Social Studies evaluation of the attitude and values that are developed for national unity	81	54	69	46	3.5	.77
	Social Studies common knowledge that our society that fight against social vices	77	51.3	73	48.6	3.4	.75
	Social Studies can help greatly to educate the youths on the importance of peace and security in our dear nation.	90	60	60	40	3.5	.77
Overall Total		Mean (\bar{x}) = 3.57 and STD = 0.79					

Table 1 above shows the prospects of teaching Social Studies education for social reforms and national security in Ondo State. This findings indicate that Social Studies places much values on the affective domain for social reforms ($\bar{x} = 3.8$, $SD = 0.79$), Social Studies evaluation of the attitude and values that are developed for national unity ($\bar{x} = 3.5$, $SD = 0.77$), Social Studies common knowledge that our society that fight against social vices ($\bar{x} = 3.4$, $SD = 0.75$) and Social Studies can help greatly to educate the youths on the importance of peace and security in our dear nation. ($\bar{x} = 3.5$, $SD = 0.77$) This reveals that the mean and standard deviation of the items listed above is very high ($\bar{x} = 3.57$, $SD = 0.79$) showing the prospects of teaching Social Studies education for social reforms and national security in Ondo State. The result is in line with the findings of Imobigheeta (2002) who said Social Studies places much values on the affective domain in its attempt to promote good citizenship Education in Nigeria. In Nigeria, Social Studies, for instance, the affective domain deals with the evaluation of the attitude and values that are developed or behavioral

changes that is noticeable in the pupils after a course of study. The affective domain examines the behavioral changes in pupils like respect for elders and other constituted authorities such as parents' government etc, love of industry, dignity of labour and other positive attitudes and values.

Research Question 2: What are the role of Social Studies in ensuring social reform and national security in Ondo?

	Items	Yes		No		Mean (\bar{x})	S.D
		Freq (N)	Percent %	Freq (N)	Percent %		
	Teaching of Social Studies will enhance desirable attitude, patriotism	101	67.3	49	32.7	3.7	.77
	Teaching of Social Studies produce good citizens who will identify themselves with the country as their own	107	71.3	43	28.7	3.9	.78
	Teaching of social studies work for peace and harmony for the progress of the country	98	65.3	52	34.7	3.8	.77
	Teaching of Social Studies serves as medication and provide for need reforms or changes in society	85	56.7	65	43.3	3.5	.76
Overall Total		Mean (\bar{x}) = 3.57 and STD = 0.77					

Table 1 above shows the role of social studies in ensuring social reform and national security in Ondo State, Nigeria. This findings indicate teaching of social studies will enhance desirable attitude, patriotism ($\bar{x} = 3.7$, $SD = 0.77$), teaching of social studies produce good citizens who will identify themselves with the country as their own ($\bar{x} = 3.9$, $SD = 0.78$), teaching of social studies work for peace and harmony for the progress of the country ($\bar{x} = 3.8$, $SD = 0.77$), and teaching of Social Studies serves as medication and provide for need reforms or changes in society ($\bar{x} = 3.5$, $SD = 0.77$). This shows the role of Social Studies in ensuring social reform and national security in Nigeria. These findings agree with the finding of Akinlaye (2017) stated that Social Studies would offer medication and provide for need reforms or changes in society as well as catering for its survival

by removing barriers between groups and classes, within society as a result of birth, occupation, language, race and religion and even between generation and tribes man and countrymen and also the schooled and unschooled, the literate and the illiterate, he concluded that Social Studies education would help to promote peace, co-operation, security and national pride. It is a common knowledge that our society (Nigeria) today is being plagued by social vices or evils like excessive profiteering, embezzlement, thrift, statism, arms struggles by the youths and other irresponsible behaviours.

Conclusion

From the findings, it is clear that social studies places premium on development and inculcation of right attitude, values, feelings and national consciousness on the youth. Youths that are adequately informed, educated and have acquired basic social skills in the society, cannot be a security threat to the national existence instead, they become, through the help of Social Studies education, access to security solution in the country. As earlier highlighted in this paper security varies and as such there are political, social, economic, and safety related security. A country cannot be adequately secured if there is political instability, economic failures and religious and ethnic disharmony in the country. Therefore, in order to be socially, politically and technologically secured, the youth and indeed the members of the public through the help of Social Studies education are given the right education, social skills, values and attitudes that will promote national integration, unity and security.

Recommendations

From the foregoing discussion, the following recommendations were made to prevent occurrence of conflicts and insurgency and also ensuring social reform and national security in Nigeria. These include that:

- 1. The citizens should develop a sense of patriotism that is to put the country above any selfish interest capable of destroying peace and harmony in the country.
- 2. The teaching of social studies education in all our schools should facilitate new culture of politics which make for tolerance, and political accommodation among the political class. This would enhance the survival of democracy in the country.
- 3. Citizens should pay their taxes regularly to enable the government generate the needed revenue to finance national security
- 4. Workshop, seminars and conferences should be organized for

security agents which comprises of the police, military and intelligence agencies on how to maintain and combat various crimes in the country.

- 5. There should be need to adopt a more people oriented programmes in the country by our political leaders instead of selfish tendencies of our political leaders.
- 6. There is need to evolve a new culture of politics which make for tolerance and political accommodation amongst the political class. The survival of democracy in Nigeria is hinged on this. This can be done through the teaching of social studies education in all our schools.
- 7. Social Studies Education teaching should be used to bring about an improved quality of governance in the country. Through social studies education, the increasing irresponsibility of the political class and political leadership in Nigeria can be addressed. Topics like electoral law, political competition, political tolerance and consensus building can be introduce in social studies education. This will solve the problem of political instability and insecurity in the country.

REFERENCES

- Adediran, A.A & Sobola, Isaac (2021) Value education as instrument for character formation towards academic attainment of secondary schools students in Ogun State. *Nigerian Journal of Social Studies*, 24(1) 154-163
- Adewuya, S.A (2002). Principles and concept of Social Studies. Ado Ekiti. Yemi Prints
- Alfrey, C. (2010). Juvenile delinquency & family structure: implications for marriage and relationship education. Retrieved April 20th, 2010 from <http://www.healthymarriageinfo.org/docs/juvenile%20delinquency.pdf>
- Adaralegbe, A. (2015) Preparing the primary school Social Studies teachers. *West African Journal of Education*. 75(1) 23-38
- Akinlaye F.A (2017). Essential of Social Studies Education. Nigeria: Pumark Publishers Limited.
- Encyclopaedia Americana (2001) USA: Grolier Inc
- Imobighe T.A. (1990). "Doctrines for and threats to internal security" in EKOKO, A.E and Vogt, M.A (eds) *Nigerian Defence Policy; Issues and Problems*. Lagos: Malthouse press Ltd.
- Odah J.O (2009). Good governance as a pre-requisite for the realization of vision 2029 and seven point agenda. A paper presented at a lecture of senior Executive Course No.31 (2009) of the National institute Kuru on 26 June, 2009.
- Okiro, M.M (2008). Security and safety management. A Keynote address presented at a two day seminar organized by hfc consulting, lagos on Wednesday 15th October 2008.

Yusuf Abdulraheem (2009), Social Studies curriculum and security component of the Nigerian government seven-point agenda. A multicultural perspective. Being a text of the paper presented at the 25th Annual National conference of the social studies Association of Nigeria (SOSAN) held from 17-20 Nov. at Micheal Otedolu College of Primary Education, Lagos.