



THE ROLE OF LEADERS IN CURBING MILITANCY AND YOUTH RESTIVENESS IN SOUTH-SOUTH REGION OF NIGERIA

Akor ERNEST

Department of Educational Management
Faculty of Education
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

A leader's most important role is to provide clear and compelling direction as well as ensuring that all followers understand, embrace, and work toward achieving those set objectives. This paper aims to examine the role of leaders in curbing militancy and youth restiveness in South-South Region of Nigeria. The role of the youth is simply to renew, refresh and maintain. Youth have a role to renew and refresh the current status of our society including leadership, innovations, skills etc. Youth are expected to advance the current technology, education, politics, peace of the country. However, inability of youths to take responsibility, poor governmental policies, lack of job opportunity, lack of infrastructural educational facilities and poor infrastructural facilities caused by poor leadership will lead to militancy and youth restiveness. The effects of youth restiveness in this paper includes: increasing crime, high level of unemployment, rebellious communal behavior and widespread insecurity/unsecured environment in the south-south region of Nigeria. Ways leaders can use to help discourage militancy in the region includes: sensitization, giving proper dues, increased security, favorable governmental policies, job opportunities, good standard of living and standards education system. The paper concludes that youth restiveness should not be taken likely as it has constituted fear, torments, insecurity and uncertainty in the lives of Nigerians. The restiveness of youth has promoted conflicts and has affected the peaceful coexistence of citizens as well as foreigners. Based on the conclusion, it was recommended that government should create job opportunities for its citizens and also engaging the youths in local productions of goods for peace, meaningful progress and development to be achieved in the South-South region of Nigeria.

Keywords: Leaders, Curbing, Militancy, Youth Restiveness, South-South Region, Nigeria.

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INTRODUCTION

In every society, youthfulness is very important. The roles of youths are very many as they include maintenance of law and order, preservation of societal culture, promoting knowledge, partaking in communal politics, developing projects, participating in cultural festivals, involving in local sports events, engaging themselves in traditional marriages as well as funerals amongst others. This plague of youth restiveness has been in existence for long, and permanent solution to it is yet to be found. This devastating occurrence of youth restiveness has also led to ethnic crisis and low productivity and will lead to instability in communities. Concentration here should be on the cause of youth restiveness, its effects and solutions. Youth's restiveness has led to the inactiveness of the youths to tackle problems, discharge responsibilities effectively and inability to meet goals of the society.

Elegbeleye (2005) identified one of the factors that can lead to youth restiveness as "perceived victimization arising from economic exploitation". In modern times, the inability of youth to exercise self-control to issues that has led to conflict and protest has been narrowed down to scarcity and unequal distribution of natural resources, non-recognition, marginalizing their society, having feelings of discontentment, non favourable government laws, lack of quality education and high rate of employment. Nsidibe et al. (2017) stated that restiveness orchestrated by youth has been on the increase in almost all communities in Nigeria, most especially in recent past. Since the inception of our nascent democracy, there has been a proliferation of unraveled violence, killing of innocent people and most recently the insurgency in North East, militancy in the (South-South) Niger Delta and marauding attack by Fulani's herdsmen across the country." There is usually a state of anarchy, destruction of lives and properties when youths are not satisfied. At this stage, the actions of the youths are regarded as criminal in nature because their expressions are usually violent and disrupt law and order as well as various activities in the societies. In most cases, it takes the use of force such as involving the police to keep the violence of the youths in check.

CONCEPTUAL CLARAFICATION

Concept of Militancy

Militancy for all intents and purposes has been an overused word in most conversations around the globe, and especially around the country, but most people don't even know exactly what the word means, so let's focus on that. According to Oxford languages, Militancy is the use of confrontational or violent methods in support of a political or social cause. Other sources like the free dictionary on the internet have described militancy as fighting or warring, or having a combative character, especially in the service of a cause (The Free Dictionary, 2021). In most climes, people have simply described militants as anti-military, considering the fact that they both use aggressive force and violence, with the difference being that one group is licensed by the government, while the other more often than not, end up fighting the government established military.

Militancy, has in most climes been used interchangeably with Insurgency, but is this correct? An insurgency is a violent, armed rebellion against authority when those taking part in the rebellion are not recognized as belligerents (lawful combatants). An insurgency can be fought via counter-insurgency warfare, and may also be opposed by measures to protect the population and by political and economic actions of various kinds, as well as propaganda aimed at undermining the insurgents' claims against the incumbent regime. As a concept, insurgency's nature is ambiguous. Not all rebellions are insurgencies. There have been many cases of non-

violent rebellions, using civil resistance, as in the People Power Revolution in the Philippines in the 1980s that ousted President Marcos. Where a revolt takes the form of armed rebellion, it may not be viewed as an insurgency if a state of belligerency exists between one or more sovereign states and rebel forces. For example, during the American Civil War, the Confederate States of America was not recognized as a sovereign state, but it was recognized as a belligerent power, and thus Confederate warships were given the same rights as United States warships in foreign ports.

When insurgency is used to describe a movement's unlawfulness by virtue of not being authorized by or in accordance with the law of the land, its use is neutral. However, when it is used by a state or another authority under threat, "insurgency" often also carries an implication that the rebels' cause is illegitimate, whereas those rising up will see the authority of the state as being illegitimate. Criticisms of widely held ideas and actions about insurgency started to occur in works of the 1960s; they are still common in recent studies. Sometimes there may be one or more simultaneous insurgencies (multipolar) occurring in a country. The Iraq insurgency is one example of a recognized government versus multiple groups of insurgents. Other historic insurgencies, such as the Russian Civil War, have been multipolar rather than a straightforward model made up of two sides. During the Angolan Civil War there were two main sides: MPLA and UNITA. At the same time, there was another separatist movement for the independence of the Cabinda region headed up by FLEC. Multipolarity extends the definition of insurgency to situations where there is no recognized authority, as in the Somali Civil War, especially the period from 1998 to 2006, where it broke into quasi-autonomous smaller states, fighting among one another in changing alliances (Wikipedia, 2021).

If there is a rebellion against the authority (for example the internationally recognized government of the country) and those taking part in the rebellion are not recognized as belligerents, the rebellion is an insurgency. However, not all rebellions are insurgencies, as a state of belligerency may exist between one or more sovereign states and rebel forces. For example, during the American Civil War, the Confederate States of America was not recognized as a sovereign state, but it was recognized as a belligerent power and so Confederate warships were given the same rights as US warships in foreign ports. When insurgency is used to describe a movement's unlawfulness by virtue of not being authorized by or in accordance with the law of the land, its use is neutral. However, when it is used by a state or another authority under threat, "insurgency" often also carries an implication that the rebels' cause is illegitimate, and those rising up will see the authority itself as being illegitimate.

The use of the term insurgency recognizes the political motivation of those who participate in an insurgency, but the term brigandry implies no political motivation. If an uprising has little support (for example, those who continue to resist towards the end of an armed conflict when most of their allies have surrendered), such a resistance may be described as brigandry and those who participate as brigands. The distinction on whether an uprising is an insurgency or a belligerency has not been as clearly codified as many other areas covered by the internationally accepted laws of war for two reasons. The first is that international law traditionally does not encroach on matters that are solely the internal affairs of a sovereign state, but recent developments such as the responsibility to protect, are starting to undermine the traditional approach. The second is that at the Hague Conference of 1899, there was disagreement between the Great Powers who considered francs-tireurs to be unlawful combatants subject to execution on capture, and smaller states, which maintained that they should be considered lawful combatants. The dispute resulted in a compromise wording being included in the Hague Conventions known as the Martens Clause from the diplomat who drafted the clause (Wikipedia, 2021).

The origin of these militant groups is also something that should be seriously looked into, as these groups don't just emanate from thin air. Different militant groups have different origin stories, from the streets of Northern Africa, in countries like Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya where disturbances which started as peaceful protests demanding political reforms and democratic governance, snowballed into grave political upheaval, where wild protests by aggrieved citizens crippled economic activity and toppled the governments in these places; to the creeks of Niger Delta in Nigeria, where militancy here is as a result of the youths seeking reforms in the country's oil sector and the development of the oil-rich Niger Delta, as well as a voice in the distribution of oil revenue (Onyiruba, 2016). Let us look at the current conflict in the Niger Delta.

According to Wikipedia, the current conflict in the Niger Delta first arose in the early 1990s over tensions between foreign oil corporations and a number of the Niger Delta's minority ethnic groups who feel they are being exploited, particularly the Ogoni and the Ijaw. Ethnic and political unrest continued throughout the 1990s despite the return to democracy and the election of the Obasanjo government in 1999. Struggle for oil wealth has fueled violence between ethnic groups, causing the militarization of nearly the entire region by ethnic militia groups, Nigerian military and police forces, notably the Nigerian Mobile Police. The violence has contributed to Nigeria's ongoing energy supply crisis by discouraging foreign investment in new power generation plants in the region. From 2004 on, violence also hit the oil industry with piracy and kidnappings. In 2009, a presidential amnesty program accompanied with support and training of ex-militants proved to be a success. Thus until 2011, victims of crimes were fearful of seeking justice for crimes committed against them because of a failure to prosecute those responsible for human rights abuses.

Nigeria, after nearly four decades of oil production, had by the early 1980s become almost completely economically dependent on petroleum extraction, which at the time generated 25% of its GDP. This portion has since risen to 60%, as of 2008. Despite the vast wealth created by petroleum, the benefits have been slow to trickle down to the majority of the population, who since the 1960s have increasingly been forced to abandon their traditional agricultural practices. Annual production of both cash and food crops dropped significantly in the later decades of 20th century. Cocoa production dropped by 43% for example; Nigeria was the world's largest cocoa exporter in 1960. Rubber production dropped by 29%, cotton by 65%, and groundnuts by 64%. While many skilled, well-paid Nigerians have been employed by oil corporations, the majority of Nigerians and most especially the people of the Niger Delta states and the far north have become poorer since the 1960s.

The Delta region has a steadily growing population estimated at more than 30 million people in 2005, and accounts for more than 23% of Nigeria's total population. The population density is also among the highest in the world, with 265 people per square kilometre, according to the Niger Delta Development Commission. This population is expanding at a rapid 3% per year and the oil capital, Port Harcourt, and other large towns are also growing quickly. Poverty and urbanization in Nigeria are growing, and official corruption is considered a fact of life. The resulting scenario is one in which urbanization does not bring accompanying economic growth to provide jobs.

Causes of Youth Restiveness in South-South Region of Nigeria

The Causes of Youth Restiveness are numerous. They include the following:

Inability of Youths to take Responsibility: It is disturbing that most youths do not want to take up responsibilities anymore. They always look for the easy way out which is usually unlawful and unprofitable. In the past, most youths were seen to be involved in farm work, trading, helping out in house chores and other decent task. Today, youths see themselves as high and

above such responsibilities, even when they do not have the required criteria for a white-collar job, they insist on being employed by industries located in the communities. Nowadays, it is difficult to find trust worthy honest, decent, responsible and hardworking youth who is focused and have their priorities right. Youths seem to see responsibility as too tasking and diminishing. Thereby, they refuse to execute such task with or without pay depending on the situation. Sometimes, they demand for unreasonable payment for the job they want to do. The values of the society have been misplaced.

The problem of incapability of performing task effectively or shying away from work could be as a result of improper home training, lack of discipline, defiance, laziness and lack of self-confidence Ofem and Ajayi (2008) have stated that “lack of humanitarian and social welfare, lack of good governance, corrupt practices of government officials, inadequate training programmes, unemployment, inadequate recreational facilities and lack of quality education amongst others the reasons for incessant youth restiveness”. The relentless youth restiveness in Nigeria can be attributed to the following:

Poor Governmental Policies: When a government policy is not favourable to a people, it tends to breed opposition from the masses because they feel oppressed and neglected. There is need for the government to study her masses and find out their pressing needs and ensure that it is meant. According to Oromareghake et al. (2013), “the escalating state of violence between the Niger Delta youth and the Nigeria Government is that of the politics of access to the oil fund” In the developed world like the United States of America, an adult of 18 years and above is given accommodation and allowances when he/she does not have a job. A similar act should be passed in Nigeria. This will reduce the youth restiveness as they will have means to take care of themselves until they have something meaningful to do. When appropriate laws are not made, there cannot be growth and development in the country. A bad policy divides the nation, breeds youth restiveness, increases criminality, destroys societal and government structures. There is need for government in preparing a country’s budget to equitably distribute her natural resources to avoid chaos. Bad government policies are associated with bad governance. Bad governance infringes on the masses’ fundamental human rights, promotes corruption, is not accountable to the masses, it is an irresponsible government and lacks proper transparency. In the tenure of a bad government, there is usually increase in crime rate, no freedom of speech, centralization of government is practiced, misappropriation of funds and mismanagement of resources amongst others. These attributes lead not only to the dissatisfaction of the youths but the masses in general.

Lack of Job Opportunity: In Nigeria today, the growing rate of unemployment is alarming. According to Onuba (2019), “the labour statistics report released by the National Bureau of Statistics showed that the number of Nigerians unemployed rose from 11.92 million in the first quarter of 2017 to 13.58 million and 15.99 million in the second and third quarters respectively”. Ozohu-Suleiman (2006) observed that “Nigerian youth are trapped by unemployment.” Most Nigerians are depending solely on either the government or oil companies for employment. Nigerians are failing in using their initiatives, skills resources and knowledge to start businesses and create job opportunities for the masses. The youths are also not taking the empowerment programmes seriously so that they can be self-employed. The dependency rate on government and few oil companies is raising a lot of agitations which is detrimental to the wellbeing of the nation. Zakaria (2006) strongly believes that the absence of job opportunities in developing countries is responsible for youth restiveness with disastrous consequences.

Government has not put in enough functional structure in place to provide jobs for the masses. There is the need for government to be involved in home made goods and ensuring that

there are local industries around the countries where youths can be employed while revenues will also be generated for the country. This will help engage the youths and curb idleness that would have ordinarily led to evil vices. The inability of the youths to have or create jobs makes them to be vulnerable to unreasonable politicians, religious fanatics and greedy individuals. They are used to carry unlawful activities with a stipend reward. Zakaria (2006) believes that “the rising tide of unemployment and the fear of a bleak future among the youth in African countries have made them vulnerable to the manipulations of agents provocateurs. Poor Standard of Living Poor standard of living contributes to youth restiveness. There is a common Nigeria proverb which states that “a hungry man is an angry man.

When people cannot meet their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, they are regarded as poor. Poverty is a poor standard of living condition. Aworawo (2000) agreed that there is a connection between poverty, unemployment, discrimination, and youth restiveness in relation to violence by youth towards the Nigeria government. The gap between the rich and the poor is usually large. The poor feels dejected, oppressed, dehumanized and segregated. Most youths, rather that partake in responsible jobs to get funds, they look for avenues to make quick monies. These make the youth to be involved in criminal activities that will bring funds to them and their families, no matter the consequences. Today, the cases of internet fraudsters (yahoo boys), deceitful activities (419), kidnapping and ritual activities are on the increase. All these lead to insecurity in the state.

Lack of Infrastructural Educational Facilities: Education plays a vital role in the growth, development and stability of a country. The basic knowledge for human development educationally and socially is acquired in an educational environment. The problem with the Nigeria educational system today is that they lack infrastructural facilities, lack equipment, lack quality teachers and do not follow the scheme of work especially in the rural areas. Most youths in the rural areas do not go to school because they cannot meet the financial obligation to attain educational qualifications; some affect those in the urban areas. This will not help the country. In government schools in Nigeria, payments are still made. Government should encourage all to attend school by ensuring that there is free Education at the primary and secondary levels. At the University level, the fees should be greatly reduced. The irony of these is that those that graduate still find it difficult to get jobs. This further encompasses the problems of their families and the youth. The government and the masses must work as one to ensure that investments in education are promoted in the country to cub this menace. Wordpress (2014), stated that the quality education has a direct bearing on national prestige, greatness, and cohesion. The knowledge and skill that young people acquire help determine their degree of patriotism and contribution to national integration and progress”. Population reference Bureau, 2006 stated that “Between 2000 and 2004, about 30 percent of Nigerian youth between 10 and 24 were not enrolled in secondary school (population Reference Bureau, 2006). “This could be as a result of unreasonable cost in acquiring Education. This situation is not healthy for Nigerians.

Poor Infrastructural Facilities: In general, Nigeria has poor infrastructural facilities. This lack of facilities occurred as a result of unequal distribution of the national resources, misappropriation of funds and mismanagement of funds. Nigerians lack educational facilities, clean water, roads, electricity, and medical facilities amongst others. The strive to get these facilities in place can also lead to youth restiveness.

Lack of Information: Information is vital in taking crucial and important decision. Wrong information can be very detrimental to decision making process as it will mislead all to making wrong decision. Therefore, part of the cause of the youth restiveness in the society is as a result

of wrong information delivered to the youth. These will make them to be aggressive and partake in violent protest as the case may be. The studies of Hidon and Ahiauzu (2005) in Niger Delta revealed that lack of communication and insufficient information flow can lead to youth restiveness. Therefore, leaders and members of the public should be careful with the type of information they share as information can build and also destroy. People should interact to share information. Lack of communication, inadequate and wrong information can lead to emergence of youth restiveness.

The Effects of Youth Restiveness

Youth restiveness is a problem to communities and the country at large. The way and manner through which youth try to achieve their goals by agitation have reduced societal progress and cripple productive level in the society. In the course of struggling to protect their interest through the use of youth restiveness, they create more problems for themselves. These acts push them to commit crimes that they could be apprehended for, thereby worsening their situations. The effects of youth restiveness are:

Increasing Crime: According to Schaefer (2005), crime is a violation of criminal law for which some governmental authority applies formal penalties. Laws divide crimes into various categories. Depending on the severity of the offense, the age of the offender, the potential punishment, and the court that holds jurisdiction over the case. Crime is dangerous to all aspect of society; be it political, social, economic, religious or educational. Crime prevents good relationships between countries, it leads to destruction of lives and properties, it dampens the spirit of both local and foreign investors to invest in the country, and this increases insecurity and leads to underdevelopment. Increased criminal activities have occurred from youth restiveness. The desire for youths to have better lives without having meaningful skills and educational knowledge to meet up has pushed them into criminality. Crime is a risk to societal safety.

High Level of Unemployment: The unemployment rate in Nigeria is increasing rather than decreasing. This is affecting the youths tremendously that they are willingly to partake in plans that are detrimental to themselves and the society. Kazeem (2017) stated that National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2016) pegs the unemployment rate at 14.2% in the last quarter of 2016, up from 13.9% in the preceding quarter. It's the ninth consecutive quarter that the unemployment rate has increase. Employment has faltered as businesses struggled amid Nigeria's first recession in two deceases. These companies' dependent on foreign transactions are also suffering due to a critical shortage of dollars. In May 2016, nearly a million people applied for ten thousand (10,000) listed positions in the Nigerian police force. Also in November 2016, the Federal Tax agency received 700,000 applications for 500 advertised positions. Majority of Nigerian youths within the median age of 21 are most affected. Fraudulent schemes have strived with millions looking to make quick buck in the absence of gainful employment.

Rebellious Communal Behavior: Rebellious communal behaviour by the youth is caused by incessant demands for their interest to be met. The Advocates for the advancement of Youth Development Initiatives (AAYDI) 2012, have stated that the activities of youth restiveness have affected the country negatively through low production of goods and services through disorder, by disrupting law and order in the society, e.g. militancy. Increased crime rates, increase in intra-ethnic and religious conflict, disturbing investors and other numerous criminal tendencies. The problems associated with rebellious communal behavior are marginalization, unemployment, exuberance, poverty and poor educational opportunities.

Youth restiveness has led to destruction of oneself because when they are caught by the Government law agencies, the punishment could be devastating. They could be sentenced to life imprisonment, they could be sentenced to death, it may lead to their imprisonment, and such activities can also lead to fight among the youth causing disability amongst others. The restiveness of youth affects social and economic activities negatively thereby leading to hardship. Vandalization of pipelines by youth affects societies negatively, especially it destroys vegetation. The spillage on the community's river destroys their water and fishes. Youth restiveness has led to loss of lives and poverty people now lives in fear as a result of youth insurgency.

Widespread Insecurity/Unsecured Environment: Although militants always feel their fight is justified, there remains an unavoidable fact that violence in an area does not do very well for the locals in the area. One of the major problems with an area immersed in violence is insecurity. The citizens live in constant fear of their lives which is a bad thing for their sanity, businesses and regular way of life. The illegal activities of the youths are as a result of uncertainty or anxiety. They lose self confidence in themselves. In the Niger-Delta, everyone seems to be cautious of their environment because of fear of being kidnapped, and also to escape from any violence that may likely arise. Oromareghake et al. (2013), the oil boom has increase violence in the Niger delta, which in 2006 resulted in the reduction of Nigeria's oil export by 25%.

The general insecurity caused by the activities of the restive youths and the security agencies costs the country treasury billions of naira each year. It should also be noted that in order to control unrest and boost production, the government has adopted strategies ranging from direct negotiation with the Militants to all-out Military assaults on them. However, these methods have not been successful". The youth are not relenting in the vandalization of pipelines. Oromareghake et al. (2013) stated that "securing the pipelines and other oil and gas assets in the country has become a heavy burden to the government". Until date, the government still spends a lot on security to protect the country's natural resources from youth restiveness, bunkering and smugglers activities. The problem of insecurity has driven away both foreign and local investors thereby increasing unemployment rate. This in turn, will encourage youths to partake in illegal activities thereby creating problems for the society. Poor Financial State Pettinger (2017) stated that "a low rate of economic growth can cause higher unemployment". When there is inflation, mismanagement of funds and misappropriation of funds in a country, there is bound to be financial crisis. When there is no proper circulation of funds in the society, there will be reduction in the demand for goods by the masses and industries will require few services. This will have adverse effect on the youths. If country experiences decline in her finances, some industries will be shut down, thereby making many workers to become jobless.

How to Discourage and Manage Youth Restiveness in the South-South Region of Nigeria

Having established that Militancy does more harm to the environment, and the citizens in the area, we now need to talk about how to handle the matter. In the matter of youth restiveness in the south-south region of Nigeria, usually referred to as the Niger-Delta, the main cause always boils down to the oil situation in the area, and you cannot totally talk about youth restiveness in the region without mentioning oil revenues and oil proceeds. As a leader in the Niger Delta region, some of the ways to help discourage militancy include:

Sensitization: Most times, a way to reduce restiveness is to sensitize the youths on the impacts of restiveness on the environment and in the area, as listed above, also, helping them understand that there are other ways to achieve things (even your rights) than violence.

Giving Proper Dues: Another way to curtail the youth restiveness, is to give them their proper dues. Simply put, listen to the requests of the youths and give them what is due them.

Increased Security: One thing that could serve as a deterrent is a strong show of force, by increasing security in certain areas. Most times, when these groups think of the insurmountable mountain that the security forces pose, they could have a rethink about their actions.

Favorable Governmental policies: A favorable government policy would give the people a sense of belonging. There is need for Nigeria's resources to be protected by policy guided solutions (Reje, 2013). It would eliminate youth restiveness and other related hostilities. The needs and interest of the masses will be met. This will further lead to the national growth and development of the country. Peace will then reign.

Job Opportunities: Having a job makes youths to have self-satisfaction. Government and members of the public are encouraged to engage investments that will help produce employment. Government needs to put enough functional structure in place to provide jobs for the masses. There is the need for government to be involved in home made goods and ensuring that, the local industries around the countries are established, where youths can be employed while revenues can also be generated for the country. The students employed execute their tasks with eagerness and passion. They ensure any task given to them is timely executed. Anasi (2010) also observed that "youths who are gainfully employed rarely participate in antisocial activities and that library also organize seminars and workshops on career development. These programmes provide career guidance and counselling and will help reduce the number of idle, frustrated youth who roam the stress aimlessly, and who might at the least provocation, takes recourse to violence". It is not surprising that libraries perform such functions as they do have academics working in the library.

Good Standard of Living: Good standard of living contributes to economic growth. When people can meet their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter, they are regarded as living well. Poverty and its related consequences should be curbed by government ensuring better living through functional structural programmes.

Standards Education System: The educational system in the countries should be improved. In Nigeria, there is need for good educational infrastructural facilities and the necessary materials for learning. Education at the primary and secondary levels should be free. Universities fees should be reduced to the barest minimum. These will encourage more people to attend schools and illiteracy will be reduced.

Improve Infrastructural Facilities: In general, Nigeria needs to improve her infrastructural facilities. Nigerians should have basic educational, clean water, roads, electricity, and medical facilities amongst others. The government should ensure that we have all these in place. **Adequate Information:** There should be proper dissemination of information so that the right decisions will be taken to improve the lives of all and the societies at large. Information has been likened to a stimulus that can condition a person to certain behaviour (Curras, 1987). Information has a way of prompting humans to behave negatively or positively. There should be proper medium through which the youths can be informed politically, economically, socially, educationally and medically for their overall wellbeing and that of the state. Onyekpe (2007), youth restiveness can be curbed by: Making the youth understand that the future is theirs to maintain and not to destroy. They should be made to know that the choices and decision they make will affect their future. The present youths should have a sense of history especially in the noble contributions of other youths to the development of Nigeria, in comparison with the ignorable role of many youths today. The awareness of them to embrace the rule of law and

democratic ideals is very essential. They should be liberated psychologically and mentally from the control of self-seeking business and political elites. Youths should be encouraged to raise issues relating to unresolved problems of nation should be mobilized against abuse of the system through sanction. Also, they should be sensitized towards seeking greater employment and educational opportunities as a means of redirecting their energy and ideas from anti-social activities to creative efforts.

Availability of Well-Furnished Libraries: The works of Omotayo (2005) and Echezoma (2007) have shown the relevance of the use of library in enhancing of public peace and communal unity. Encouraging youths to get useful information from libraries can control youth restiveness generally. The essence of libraries includes attaining, processing, preserving, and disseminating varied information. The duty of the library is to educate and enlighten the youth and the entire community. Anasi (2010) stated that libraries serve communities by “presenting them with factual information that will guide their actions and help make good conclusion that will promote peace. This will reduce the amount of youth violence, acrimony, and confrontation. Omotayo (2005) opined that “in war situations in enlightened societies, the use of libraries increases, as users flock to libraries to find information to guide them. Information that can promote peace, unity, progress, peaceful co-existence, and harmonious relationship among all the communities must therefore be available in libraries. Librarians, therefore, in promoting access to this information, act as agents of the promotion of communal peace and reconciliation. Libraries are positioned as hubs for formal and informal learning (Akpokighe & Ejovi, 2020).

CONCLUSION

Youth restiveness should not be taken lightly as it has constituted fear, torments, insecurity and uncertainty in the lives of Nigerians. The restiveness of youth has promoted conflicts and has affected the peaceful coexistence of citizens as well as foreigners. The development of the country has been crippled by destructions of properties. The involvement of youths in criminal activities has further enhanced conflict and insecurity. Poor governmental policies, lack of job opportunities, poor standard of living, inadequate education system, poor infrastructural facilities, lack of information among others have been identified in this work as reasons for youth restiveness. This problem has affected all in the society as the situation is disheartening. The attempt of government and non-governmental organization to handle this restiveness needs to be improved and new strategies to solve these obvious problems need to be analyzed and adopted for social peace to exist.

The authorities in the state should endeavor to provide lasting solutions to these problems by introducing futuristic and practical strategies that will help curb dissatisfaction, marginalization and discrimination of youth. The national interest and needs of youths and other members of the society in conformity with the laws of the country should be met. Also, the need to engage the youths in gainful employment and empowering youth effectively should be necessitated. This will help in proffering solutions to some of the problems being experienced in the society. Nevertheless, parents, guardians and teachers also should play significant roles in educating, enlightening, guiding, and protecting our youths. All members of the society and government should eradicate selfish desires and work towards attaining public peace. The idea of this study is to give the understanding that once the causes of an unpalatable situation like youth restiveness has been identified, analyzed and controlled, only then can peace, progress, development and growth have accomplished.

Recommendations

The study has analyzed the causes and effects of youth restiveness. Therefore, for peace, meaningful progress and development to be achieved in the South-South region of Nigeria, the following recommendations were modified from the studies of Akpokighe and Ejovi (2020) to curb youth restiveness:

- Government should create job opportunities for its citizens. In Nigeria, there is the need for government and citizens to engage in local productions of goods. This will lead to building of industries and attracting manpower.
- Effective and meaningful empowerment programmes should also be adopted in the state so that those that could not be employed by government, private and nongovernmental organizations can be self-employed. This attainment of free qualitative education in Nigeria will help improve the reasoning capacities of her citizens. In essence, there will be proper dissemination of information that will promote peace or ensure a state of tranquillity.
- The government of countries, Nigeria in particular should make favourable policies in the distribution of national resources. This will help eradicate marginalization, oppression, neglect and underdevelopment. Policies to prevent religious, political and ethnic crisis should be made and adhered to strictly.
- Generally, there should be proper implementation of law that will cater for the prevention of the cases and effect of youth restiveness.
- Lectures, workshops and seminars should be organized for the youths to educate, enlighten and expose them they will not be used by miscreant for selfish interest.
- The educated citizens should through interaction and socialization help to enlighten and influence the ideas of the uneducated ones in the society, rather than it being the other way round.
- Corruption in Nigeria should be curbed so that misappropriate and embezzlement of funds can be stopped. The government agencies such as the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), responsible for ensuring the prevention of misappropriation and embezzlement of funds in Nigeria should be properly equipped to encourage them in performing their task effectively. Monies meant for development will then be used appropriately. Such actions will encourage stability in the country.
- Government should work earnestly towards curbing poverty by directing their attention to adopting functional alleviation programmes that will help the masses to have good standard of living.
- The use of rewards and punishments by parents, academic and vocational institutions, government, private and nongovernment organizations can serve as checks to the attitudes and behaviour of youths.
- Government should endeavour that the composition of political parties and the processes involved in elections do not involve the use of hoodlums and thugs as youths are usually found within this group. Those seen as hoodlums and thugs should be rehabilitated. Any violence from such groups, her members should follow the due process of the law. There should be well established rehabilitation centres in the country to help redirect the youths and make them understand the standards expected of them as citizens.

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