

EDUCATION AND THE CALL FOR STATE POLICE IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This paper is focused on the role of education in the clamour for state police in Nigeria. Education had been described as the process of facilitating the acquisition of knowledge, skills, morals, beliefs, and attitudes with a view to build a developed society. The state is a community of individual that is politically organized to safeguard lives and property of the individual. The Nigeria police is created by an Act of Parliament to execute duties that will promote peace and security as provided in the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria. While the above is the case as provided in the Constitution, the Nigeria police in the performance of the above role is bedeviled with nepotism, ethnicity, corruption, institutional weaknesses such as inadequate manpower, insufficient education and training, inadequate equipment and poor conditions of service, poor public relations, extra-judicial killings among others. These weaknesses have given rise to the quest in recent time in the country for the creation of state and regional police. The focus of this paper is to use available secondary data to analyze the need for adequate education in the clamour for state police. Based on its findings some suggestions are made including the fact that education should constitute the cornerstone of the things that should be given to promote the purpose for the clamour for the creation such that the creation would minimize the y use of violence resulting in a more result-oriented police force in the country as its in other developed climes for it is believed that education will help state police officers identify global best practices in policing and security management.

Key Words: *Education, State, Police*

Introduction

The paper adopts the structural functionalism as its theoretical framework. Structural functionalism is a doctrine of society that assumes that all parts of society are interrelated, interdependent and interconnected like parts of living organisms or a system. An examination of the parts must be a relation to each other. Simply put, functionalist posits that society is a function of interdependent, interrelated and interconnected. To understand any part, that part must be in relation to society as a whole. In essence, parts of society are examined to understand their contributions to the maintenance of the social system. Functionalist asserts that behaviour is structured on the relationship among people in society. Relationship among members of a society are organized and guided by means of rules, (Jaja 2007). The functionalist also theorizes that the major social institutions of society such as family, legal, economic, educational, religious, health, political, and military institutions constitutes the social structure of society. This is because each of these social institutions has interconnected roles. As a result, each social institution, as part of society performs some special function.

From the ideas of Herbert Spencer, society is seen as functioning like the human body. If so, society like man must be in need of certain fundamental wants to preserve it. These were referred as functional prerequisites. Parson (1951) cited by Asuka (2013) had identified these functional imperatives of society as adaptation, goal attainment, integration and pattern maintenance. Functionalists seen from the above is that since society is a system, it must create a means of integrating itself against the dangers of disintegration.

From the functionalist view a break down in any aspect of government institution such as the Nigeria police would simply mean bad governance, social insecurity giving rise to a situation where there will be partial collapse or breakdown of law and order. In other words, ineffectiveness of the police, corruption, extra-judicial killing, lack of training and quality education,. This has led to the quest for establishment of state police as substitutes for Nigeria police as a functional body to ensure safety of lives and property being the major function of any responsible government anywhere in the world.

What is Education?

That education remains an important vehicle for national and sustainable development of any given society cannot be disputed. The relationship between education, security and development is indispensable such that education is a key driver of development, (Mailiki & Rachel, 2019). It is the springboard by which any society can be transformed in its socio-economic, political and security activities with a view to ensure rapid development. Education, therefore, remains the bedrock of all human sectors. It is directed towards self-realization, better human relationship, individual and national efficiency, effective citizenship, national consciousness, national unity, socio-cultural, economic, political, scientific, and technological progress, (Paulley & Silon (2019).

Education as the process of facilitating learning or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, morals, beliefs, and attitudes has its ultimate purpose to build a developed society. It is, in fact one of the key factors that had influenced the advancement and progress of people and society. In addition to providing knowledge and learning, education enriches culture, spirit, values, and everything that characterizes us as human beings. Uche (2020) had argued that the 21st-century education is focused on personalization, equality, collaboration, communication, security and community relationships. These are necessary for a rapidly changing global economy. Thus, education is the most powerful transformation tool that exists in human society to allow for the promotion of human rights and sustainable development. Thus, as an instrument of social change in our national life, there can be no meaningful social change without education. This implies that education comes prior to social change. Many reforms are initiated within the social space become ineffective without the contribution of education. Education, therefore, is needed for the actualization of any plan.

The state is a community of individual that is politically organized to safeguard life and property of the individuals. Policing and social security are fundamental values of United Nations due to the relative peace and social order it produces, (UN, 2007)). The Nigeria police as it is was created by an Act of Parliament to execute peace and security among others as defined in the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as amended.

Many Nigerians had in recent time had cried out for the establishment of State Police as a panacea to the incessant crime and crime-related issues in the country. This is due to high rate of kidnapping of school children, National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) members and relations of elites, bombing of public institutions including schools, corruption, injustice, abuse of human rights, electoral violence, Fulani herdsmen saga, armed banditry, etc. The Nigeria police is one of agency of government constitutionally empowered to maintain internal security law, and order, protection of life and property, apprehension of offenders among other functions in the country (Police Act, section 4, Alemika, 2018).

However, scholars have observed with keen interest that Federal Government of Nigeria lacks the political will to protect life and property, encourage business activities by providing the enabling environment, provide safe haven for educational services amongst other. Therefore, it becomes imperative to establish State Police that would complement function of the Nigeria Police in Nigeria being controlled by the Federal Government of Nigeria. This call has generated a lot of debate in several quarters in the country. It is on this basis that this paper is set to examine some weaknesses of the Nigeria Police as it is constituted and to establish the role education could play in the in addressing some of the challenges facing the present setup in the yet to be accepted state police as a solution to enhance quality policing for national development in the country.

Many social analysts and governors have brazenly campaigned for the creation of state police that will engender adequate security and enhance social wellbeing of Nigerians. This was borne out of the fact that the nation's level of insecurity is extremely high such that killing, abduction, injustice, oppression, abuse of human right etc. are the order of the day. Udejaja (2021) maintained that Governor Okezie Ikpeazu of Abia State has canvassed decentralization of the nation's security architecture through the creation of state police to tackle their peculiar challenges. According to News Agency of Nigeria (NAN, 2021), Senator Datong Dalyop Gyang, Senator representing Plateau North Senatorial District decried the rising spate of killings and wanton destruction of farmlands and other property in the country. He said, the creation of state police will help to address myriad of security challenges facing the country. The same sentiments were expressed by the Governor of Ondo State, Rotimi Akeredolu (SAN) when he asserted that "we are of firm belief that the police central command be brought so near the federating units for effective monitoring. We have been relentless in advocating for the establishment, therefore, of state police and we will continue to call for it". In addition, traditional rulers and various stakeholders had also made similar calls on this national security impasse. It is against this backdrop that this paper intends to x-ray the use of education as a platform to actualize the creation of state police as practiced in advance Western democratic nations such as America, Canada, UK, and Australia just to mention but few.

In Nigeria, the National Policy on Education (Federal Republic of Nigeria; 2014) provided the country's educational aims to be based on five cardinal principles of building

- a. a free democratic society;
- b. a just and egalitarian society;
- c. a united, strong and self-reliant nation;

- d. a great and dynamic economy; and
- e. a land of bright and full opportunities for all citizens.

Based on the above national goals, the following have been evolved as the aims of Nigeria's education. The

- a. inculcation of national consciousness and national unity;
- b. inculcation of right type of values and attitude for the individuals and Nigerian society;
- c. training of the mind in the understanding of the world around; and
- d. acquisition of appropriate skills, abilities, and competencies as equipment of the individual to live in and contribute to the development of his society.

Almond (2004) define the state as a community of persons, more or less numerous, occupying a definite territory, possessing an organized government and enjoying independence from external control. Some of its fundamental features include population, government, territory, and geography. Sociologically, Weber in Gerth & Mills (1948) cited by Haralambos (2013) defines the state as a human community that (successfully) claims the monopoly of the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory. Haralambos (2013) asserts that the state is among other things, an institutional order that aims to prevent social chaos and make social order. He described the state as more institution- an idea based on shared expectations about the ordering of social life, a set of organizations and a set of practice. These practices include security. The essence of the state is to establish a constitutional government through its various agencies to promote the good of the state maintained by the police among other security agencies (Paul-Eboh, 2005). The police is an agency of the state that is saddled with the fundamental and germane responsibility of protecting life and property, apprehension of offenders and maintenance of peace, law and order.

The state through its government is to ensure social security by deploying her military personnel to all parts of the society. UNDP (1994) had argued that states should provide the fundamentals of security which are holistic and inherent in human nature. Their emphasis was on economic security which include (basic income, food security; physical and economic security); health security (protection from disease and unhealthy lifestyle); environmental security (providing an enabling physical environment); community security (protection of safe membership); political security (living in a society that honors basic human rights); and finally personal security (being free from personal violence). These would go a long way to promote social stability, political processes, and stimulate the economy.

State police in advance nations is also known as provincial police, municipal police or regional police. State police is a type of sub-national territorial police force found in nations such as North America, South Asia, Argentina, Brazil, Australia and Germany. They have jurisdiction and may cooperate in law enforcement activities with national police where such either exist. It is police organized and maintained by a state as distinguished from those of a lower sub-division (such as a city or county) of the state government. It is a police force under state authority rather than under the authority of a city or county in the state, (Wood, Rosay, Postle and Tepas, 2011).

In advance Western democratic societies, state police have statewide authority to conduct law enforcement activities and criminal investigations with a view to bring all agencies and institutions under a state level department of public safety. This is due to their level of **education**. Some characteristics of state police include general management by the Mayor of City or County, adequate funding, while employment is based on persons who have comprehensive knowledge of the environment and punishing them for misdeed is the exclusive right of the Mayor, whereas in terms of accountability; each police officer gives report when there is gross misconduct, (Howard, 2003).

A critical examination of western democratic as found such countries as Britain, Canada, China just to mention but few reveals that state policing is functional and a powerful strong institution. Britain has experienced high political culture. The Cabinet Office (2008) has agreed that terrorism, global instability, conflicts, failed and fragile states, transnational organized crime, nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and civil emergencies driven by climate change, competition for energy, poverty, inequality and poor governance of other states and globalization had been a consistent external influence on British governance and security, thereby making her Metropolitan police to remain proactive. Yet, it has designed an approach to national security which is clearly grounded in a set of **core values**. They include human rights, the rule of law, legitimate and accountable government, justice, freedom, tolerance, and opportunity for all. These values define and constitute the British political system. They form the basis of British security, as well as its well-being and prosperity of its citizens.

In Canada, the political culture is the same as the first priority of the Government of Canada is to protect the safety and security of Canadians both at home and abroad. Public Safety Canada spearheads this effort by coordinating the activities of Federal Departments and State Agencies saddled with the responsibility of protecting Canadians and their communities, businesses and interests. Public Safety is also responsible for developing policies and providing advice to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness (Ron, 2013).

China's state/ central police refers to an ideal situation in which the original legitimate authority of state governance, political institutions such as the legislature and political parties are further granted the responsibility of promoting and improving top-down legitimacy, authority and autonomy to solve public problems. The concept of state governance in the context of China's modernization of its state governance and security, as Xu Xianglin suggested, emphasizes the role of the state in the transitional society and takes the social demand emphasized by the government concept of state police, while the increasing demands for democracy, rule of law, fairness and justice, security and a better environment are included as the current society requirements, which has been clarified in the Report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, (Zhili & Juan, 2020). This has gone a long way in promoting strong and dynamic society that present education as an instrument for societal development.

The Nigeria police is faced with myriad of problems some of which include nepotism, ethnicity, corruption, institutional weaknesses such as inadequate manpower, insufficient education and training, inadequate equipment and poor conditions of service of the average policeman and poor public relation, etc. Persistent kidnapping, corruption, abduction, extra judicial killings, Fulani herdsmen among others are visible variables of Nigeria police ineptitude and incapability that requires proper education to overcome and the possible formation of state police that will adhere to democratic values (Alemika, 2018; Iwarimie-Jaja (2012; Agwanwo, 2009, 2015).

The Nigeria Police Force is widely perceived by the public as the most corrupt and violent institution in Nigeria in a way that is not evidently insincere. In light of the generalization of police corruption and deviance, it is surprising that various works have addressed this sustained problem that most directly affects the aggrieved Nigerian thereby requesting the establishment of state police. Of 127 countries measured in 2016 by World Internal Security and Police Index, Nigeria's police force ranks as worst and most corrupt, just below DR Congo, Kenya and Uganda to make up the bottom four, (Kazeem, 2017). This is not a good testimony for the image of the police as a law enforcement agency. It is the thinking of these authors that these nrgative attachments would be erased through quality education made available to the personnel of the force as the clamour for state police is raging in the country.

However, when running for office in 2014, President Buhari promised to tackle security among others during his presidential campaign. Yet, insecurity is on the increase as government appears to lack the political will to adequately address it. Some state governors, like Governor Bello Matawalle of Zamfara State advocates for engaging in dialogue with the terrorists and other armed bandit groups by offering amnesty for disarmament. Governor Nasir el-Rufai of Kaduna State on the other hand had rejected dialogue with such groups and insisted on subduing the armed groups. Yet Governor Aminu Masari of Katsina State, had advocated for a combination of coercion and dialogue to persuade criminals and other armed groups to disarm. None of these approaches has yet achieved the desired results and the situation demands a lot more meaningful engagement by the Federal Government of Nigeria (Olowojolu, Rasak, Ake, Ogundele & Afolayan, 2019). While all these governors had been advocating different strategies in fighting the menace, no governor had actually look into the issue of educating the police to be proactive in confronting this challenge and how these ardent criminals can be reduced using the benefits of qualitative and functional education.

The Nexus Between Education and Creation of State Police

In recent times, insecurity has enveloped the length and breadth of the country, while both citizens and government appear helpless. From the North West, where bandits are having a field day, giving citizens sleepless nights, the North-East, is the hotbed of terror attacks. The North-Central, South-East, South-South and South-West, are places where killer herdsmen are on rampage, it has been same tale of woes for traumatized Nigerians. Frustrated by the security situation and police inept attitude towards these social doldrums, state governors have resorted to setting up vigilance groups in their respective states and regional security outfits such as *Ebube-Agu* in South East and *Amotekun* in South West as part of efforts in tackling insecurity in their states and regions.

Constitutionally, the concept of state police is alien to Nigeria due to its form of federal system of government being practiced in the country. Protection of life and property had been an exclusive legislative list function which only the federal government can legislate upon. This has been the practice in the country until recently when the centre can no longer hold adequate security. This justifies the call for the creation of state police by meaning Nigerians as change is the only permanent thing in life. For this creation to fulfill its mandate there is the need to properly educate citizens at all level of what role the police is meant to do in the management of the security crises in the country. Education it should be noted transcend all areas of human life. It helps people to know among other things the need to adhere to rules and regulations, strengthening of social institutions, discharge of duties in accordance with existing laws, non-political interference from any elected political office holder, duties of traditional rulers, religious leader etc, (Udeaja, 2021).

Several persons such as traditional rulers, political office holders as well as academics among others have expressed the need for the creation of state police. **The former Deputy Senate President, Senator Ike Ekweremadu**, in expressing the need according to Gordi (2021) states that, Nigeria cannot be playing by the rules of a unitary system of government while hiding under the cloak of federalism. Speaking on the place of education for the proper functioning of the proposed state police, **Senator Ike Ekweremadu** asserted that

*Nigeria is the only federation I know in the world that operates unitary police and it is not surprising that it has never worked and it will never work. We must allow state police that is properly educated, abreast with the **modus vivendi** of policing that match global best practices, which will coexist with the federal police as we have them in other federal states*

Chinedu (2021) asserts that the moves by governors to seek alternatives in decentralized security outfits is mainly because they do not have a say in the policing of their states as the 1999 Nigerian Constitution provides a factor which he identifies as 'the key factor that inhibits the efficiency of police' in Nigeria. A bill currently being considered by the National Assembly seeks to address that by amending the 1999 Constitution and creating state police that will operate under the control of the governors with institutions in place to regulate their performance. Chinedu (2021) maintained that until the police, leaders at all levels and citizens are adequately educated on the sanctity of life, justice, fairness, and equity in a pluralistic society like Nigeria, love as well as transparency and provision of democratic values on the part of government, insecurity will persistently be prevailing in the society.

The Niger State Governor, Alhaji Abubakar Sani Bello, according to Thisday Newspaper (2020), had argued that it is high time states in Nigeria have their police in view of the increasing population of the country. The governor said: 'state police is an idea, whose time has come because Nigerian population has increased tremendously'. He also made a strong case for the incorporation of vigilante into the country's security architecture to fight insecurity, but insisted that members of the vigilante "must be properly trained, **educated** and of impeccable characters. Bello went further to state that traditional and religious leaders have tremendous

roles to play in the fight to contain insecurity across the country because the religious leaders and traditional rulers in the country have immense influence over worshippers and their subjects. In tackling kidnapping and banditry, the role of traditional rulers and religious leaders in the society cannot be over-emphasized. Traditional rulers and religious leaders should be supported to effectively check their domains and subjects.

The society need to be adequately informed the relevance of education for the viability and sustenance of every other aspect of human endeavour, state police inclusive. Existence of state police with functional education as a necessity will instill universal values of fairness, honesty, transparency, accountability, dialogue, morality, discipline, etc. Thus, government at all levels must think and act within society's standard to promote sound, virile, and peaceful society.

Conclusion

Education as an instrument for national development is undeniable. The Nigeria police have been variously described as incompetent, ill-trained, uneducated and lacking the needed security apparatus to maintain peaceful coexistence. Besides national police, state police had been in place in some developed nations such as United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, etc. which imbibe certain core values that affect human life positively. However, recently, the rate of killing, kidnapping, corruption and other criminal activities in the Nigeria police has given rise to the clamor for the formation of state police that will support the activities of the Nigeria police in combating crimes in the country. Bu to get the best of this, it is the informed opinion of these writers that proper education can be used to sensitize police and the people by the government is *sine qua non* to the achievement peace and tranquility in the society. In the light of the foregoing, it is suggested that

- a. police officers should be given education with a view to be more result-oriented in modern policing;
- b. education will help state police officers identify global best practices in policing and security management;
- c. state police officers with adequate education will inject universal values such as accountability, honesty, love, fairness, dialogue and justice;
- d. quality education will enable officers to better relate to members of the community;
- e. education will provide the direction for proactive security service (tracking and preventing crime through intelligence gathering).

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