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Contents

The Impact of Terrorism on Education:
The North-Eastern Nigerian Experience

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Abstract

In recent times, the wave of terrorism is sweeping through the globe in a terrifying manner with terrific frequency. The revival in terrorists' activities in recent times in the Middle-east and its spread to countries like the United States of America, Britain and some countries in Africa like Nigeria and Cameroon where terrorism was not known before portends a major threat to global security. Terrorism is inimical to human security, political and socioeconomic development of which education is one. Anchored on the system theory, with heavy reliance on secondary data, the study examines the impact of terrorism on education using North-Eastern Nigeria as a focal point of study. The study finds that terrorists' activities which for now are concentrated in the North-eastern part of Nigeria are gradually spreading to other parts of the country and beyond. Because the brand of terrorism in Nigeria is opposed to western education, especially girls' education, schools have become one of the targets of attack and kidnapping of school girls one of the modus operandi of the terrorists, leading to temporary closure of schools in the affected area. The study therefore advocates for multiple approaches in tackling terrorism headlong.

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Introduction

Terrorism is fast becoming a wild fire sweeping through the globe in an amazing dimension. Before recent times, terrorism is assumed to be a phenomenon common to the Middle East. However, the experience of the United States in 2001 and some instances of terror attack on Britain and some countries in Africa authenticate the fact that terrorism is spreading to countries where it was not known before. Nigeria is presently having its share of terrorism. In fact, since 2009, terrorist activities under the sect named Boko Haram have become a major security threat to Nigeria. The sect known as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad (people committed to the propagation of the Prophet's teachings and Jihad) is poised to Islamise Nigeria by force with all weapons in its arsenal which is quite taking a heavy toll on human casualties. It is chagrin to discover that terrorist activities which was initially confined to Bornu Sate is spreading to other states in the northeast like Adamawa, Kano among others and even spreading to north central like Kaduna, Abuja, Plateau State to mention just a few. The philosophy of this terrorist group is that western education, culture and modern science are forbidden. The group is making strident drive for Islam in its purest form. In order to achieve its goals, the group has been engaging in mindless destruction initially of government properties, public places, bombing of churches and occasionally mosques, shooting sporadically innocent and defenceless citizens. However, of recent the group seems to have focused on it main target which are schools in order to do away with Western education on one side while entrenching Islam in its purest form on the other side (Ekereke, 2013; Eke, 2013; Joshua and Chidozie, Forthcoming).

So many schools have been torched, with some students, teachers and lecturers killed. Of particular note is the Chibok School were Boko Haram abducted about two hundred and seventy six (276) girls which initially they wanted to use to bargain for the release of some of their commanders arrested by the government but of recent the leader of the group claimed he had sold them off. This development has paralysed education system in the northeast with implication for temporary closure of many schools in the region. It is important to note that school enrolment as far as Western education is concerned is low in the northeast as emphasis has always been on Islamic education. The current disturbing scenario is exacerbating the already worsen state of education in the area. While there are so many studies on Boko Haram terrorist activities in Nigeria, there seems not to be sufficient studies examining the impact of Boko Haram terrorist group on education. For instance, Oyeniyi (2010) in his analysis of terrorism in Nigeria focuses on agitation by groups for political, ethnic, religious interests of their people

among others. Okoro (2010) examines terrorism by analyzing the various explanations of terrorism and surmised that there is a link between globalisation and terrorism and concluded that terrorism will not end unless globalization ends. In his own case, Forest (2012) focuses on the history, causes and incident of terrorism in Nigeria. Adagba et al (2012) also focus mostly on the casualties recorded from Boko Haram activities. It is against this background that this paper examines the impact of terrorism on education system of the north-eastern Nigeria. The discussion in this paper is scaled down in this order. Following the above introduction is the literature review and theoretical framework. The next section focuses on a historical overview of terrorism in Nigeria; while the penultimate section discusses the impact of terrorism on education in north-eastern Nigeria. The last section is on conclusion and recommendations.

Literature Review on Terrorism

According to Chafe (1994) the primary requirement for discussing a thing is to first understand the actual thing being talked about. Thus, in order to have a proper understanding of the concept of terrorism before discussing it will necessitate taking a historical excursion into the origin of the concept. Gupta (2008) traced the origin of the concept to a plot hatched in 1605 by a group of provincial English Catholics to kill King James 1 of England, his family, and most of the protestant aristocracy. The plotters tried to smuggle barrels of gunpowder into the vaults underneath the Parliament House. The conspirators planned to blow it up when the King was going to be in the House for a meeting. The plotters had also perpetrated plan to abduct the royal children, and incite a revolt in the midlands. For want of words to describe the enormity of the conspiracy left Edward Coke, the Chief Justice of Common Pleas, to term it as "the reign of terror" (la Terreur) following the French Revolution, which gave birth to the term "terrorism".

Since then, terrorism as a concept has been defined in several ways. Some of these definitions are documented by Whittaker (2002, 10, 22-23). For instance, the author argues that in the eyes of a responsible authority, nationally or locally it is seen as the premeditated threat or use of violence by sub-national groups or clandestine individuals intended to intimidate and coerce governments, to promote political, religious or ideological outcomes, and to inculcate fear among the public at large. In essence, it is an unlawful act that goes beyond the bounds of legitimate protest. Other definitions of the concept as documented by the author include:

Terrorism is the use of threat, for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological course of action which involves serious violence against any person or property. It is also the calculated use of.violence or the

threat of violence to inculcate fear, intended to coerce or intimidate governments or societies as to the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious or ideological. It is also the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives. The deliberate, systematic murder, maiming and menacing of the innocent to inspire fear in order to gain political ends.

Gurr (1989) explicates terrorism as the use of unexpected violence to intimidate or coerce people in the pursuit of political or social objectives. To Martin (2003), terrorism is designed to have far-reaching psychological repercussions beyond the immediate victim or target; conducted by an organization with an identifiable chain of command or conspiratorial structure (whose members wear no uniform or identify insignia); and perpetrated by a sub-national group or non-state entity.

From the various definitions above, the following can be gleaned as the distinctive features of terrorism. It is an illegal use of force, with political, religious or ideological motives, acting with the intention of creating atmosphere of fear using unconventional methods by a sub-national group. Martin (2003) gave a threefold classification of terrorism: state terrorism, dissident terrorism and religious terrorism. State terrorism is terrorism committed by government against perceived enemies. State terrorism can be directed externally against adversaries in the international or internally against domestic enemies. Dissident terrorism is committed by non-state movements, and groups against government, ethno-national groups, religious groups, and other perceived enemies. Religious terrorism is motivated by an absolute belief that violence can be perpetrated for the greater glory of faith. Other types of terrorism explicated by Abolurin (2011) which Richardson did not mention include International terrorism. International terrorism takes place all over the world. It is practised in a foreign country by terrorists who are not native to that country. International terrorism became American domestic news in 1993. Terrorism has been a concern to the international community since 1937 when the League of Nations elaborated the convention for the prevention and punishment of terrorism. The international community since 1963 has however, elaborated universal legal instruments related to prevention and suppression of international terrorism.

Other ones mentioned by Abolurin added to this list is cyber terrorism. Cyber terrorism involves the use of information technology to attack civilians and draw attention to their cause. It can also be described as a computer crime targeting computer networks without necessarily affecting real world infrastructures, lives or property. Cyber terrorists use information

technology such as computer systems or telecommunications to perpetrate their act. For instance, cyber terrorists could disable networked emergency systems, totally disrupting its services, by means of what is referred to as computer virus. A large chunk of information could be lost through that process and it may be impossible to recover such.

Richardson (2006) opines that terrorism is an attractive strategy for small organizations that want to attract attention, provoke the government, intimidate opponents, appeal for sympathy, impress an audience, or maintain the adherence of the faithful. He stated further that what terrorists groups have in common is that they are weaker than their enemies and that they are prepared deliberately to murder non-combatants in furtherance of their objectives. However, terrorist groups differ from one another in important ways. They differ in the nature of their ideology and in the specificity of their political objectives. They differ in their relationship to religion and to the communities from which they derive support. They also differ in the trajectory of their violence. Going down the memory lane reveals that most terrorist groups were domestic, and other started locally and went global. Of recent, global conflicts seems to have inspired local groups to terrorism.

Kegley (2003:4) contends that like terrorism in the past, today's terrorism stems from multiple causes whose roots are deep. Notwithstanding, what is different in today's new age of terrorism are: Global, in the sense that distance is no longer a barrier to terrorism; lethal, because new terrorists have shifted their tactics from theatrical violent acts seeking to alarm for publicity to purposeful destruction of a target populated entirely by civilian non-combatants, to kill as many as possible for the purpose of undermining an enemy's entire society and culture; novel, in the sheer size, destructiveness and professionally coordinated planning; pursued by fanatical extremists, to annihilate through maximal bloodshed rather than to convince or persuade, by carrying out crimes against humanity by suicidal methods that requires the terrorists to sacrifice their own lives, in acts that cannot be deterred or prevented through negotiated compromise; predicated on the realpolitik principle that the power to destroy is equal to the power to change and control; reliant on the most advanced technology of modern civilization seen as posing a threat to the terrorists' sacred tradition; orchestrated by transnational non-state organizations through global conspiratorial networks of unprecedented levels of communication and coordination among others.

Theoretical Framework

This study is built on the systems theory. The theory was formulated by Ludwig von Bertalanffy and grew out of Bertalanffy's view of organism. The theory attempts to view the world/society in terms of irreducibly integrated systems like an organism. Von Bertalanffy believed that all things, whether

living or non-living, could be regarded as systems. It focuses attention on the whole system and also gives cognizance to the relationships among its integral parts. On the basis of this, he drew a comparison between living organism and social organizations (Laszlo and Krippner, 1998:47-74). Systems theory proposes that there is similarity between the organization of the human body and the social organizations (Fremont, and Rosenzweig, 1972:447-465). The theory posits that just as the human body functions in unity to ensure the survival of the whole body, individuals, organizations and various agencies depend on each other for the survival of individual unit and the society at large.

The impacts of terrorism in Nigeria are best understood within the framework of this theory. This is because of the underlying tenets of the theory. The presumption is that there exist a linkage between terrorism, education and other aspects/institutions of the Nigerian society. In this context a system according to Anderson, Carter and Lowe (1999:4), is "an organized whole made up of components that interact in a way distinct from their interaction with other entities and which endures over some period of time". Furthermore, it is a configuration of parts connected and joined together by a web of relationships" (Anthony, 2014:487).

One of the underlying assumptions of the system theory is that anything that affects a part affects the whole and vice versa. Nigeria as a country is a political system and anything that affects a state has implication on the entire country.

Studies by Eme and Ibietan (2012), Oladunjoye and Omemu (2013), Soriwei, et al (2014) show that since the accentuation of Boko Haram in Maiduguri, other northern states like Kano, Kaduna, Bornu, Yobe, Niger, Kastina, Bauchi and Abuja amongst others have been affected and there are threats that it may still spread further if the government fails to take a decisive step to curb the spread. Several public places like mosque, churches, and markets have been attacked, innocent citizens shot, some women and young girls have been abducted. In addition, the activities of the group already have negative effects on the economic life of Nigerians and the national income of the country. Also, educational institutions have come under the attack of the group, leading to the closure of schools in various parts of the northern region. The theory therefore aids the understanding of the effects the terrorist group has on education in north-eastern Nigeria which is capable of spreading to other parts of the country.

Terrorism in Nigeria

The increasing torrent of terrorism in Nigeria and the dimension it has taken in recent times has threatened Nigeria's statehood as the state of security in

Nigeria has deteriorated drastically. The surge of terrorism and religious fundamentalism in the Fourth Republic has led to the loss of lives and properties with implication of scaring investors away. This has exacerbated fear, and anxiety amongst the citizens. The contemporary issue of terrorism is rooted in the failure of the Nigerian state to provide effective leadership which has dragged Nigeria into becoming a failed state. Leadership failure has led to the failure of the institutions and capacity of government to deliver. This failure manifest in the form of disconnect between the people and the government, ethno-religious conflict, corruption, inefficient utilization of resources, poor security management, infrastructural challenges, inequality in the sharing of resources, illiteracy and unemployment amongst others (Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim, 2013; Hashim, Patte and Cohen, 2012: 1-6). According to Ogundiya and Amzat (2008:174) causes of terrorism in Nigeria can be subsumed under four broad classifications which are psychological factors, political, economic and socio-cultural factors.

There is a strong sentiment that poverty is caused by neglect and corruption on the part of government which are now taking a heavy toll on security in the country (Eme and Ibietan, 2012:12). Standard of living remain the same as it was 1970 about 100 millions of Nigeria live below 1 $ per day (Campbell and Bunche, 2011: 4). According to a UN report, the deepening circle of poverty in 12 of the poorest northern states is nearly twice that of the rest of the country. This provides a breeding ground for terrorism that has blown into a full-fledged dimension. The grievances and provocation arising from deprivation seems to have instigated anger against the system.

According to Madunagu (2005) state terrorism in Nigeria started as far back as colonial period. The same thing happened during the military rule. Examples of state terrorism under the military include the killing of a veteran journalist- Dele Giwa, Kudirat Abiola among others (Ogundiya and Amzat, 2008:178). However, in the post colonial democratic era, two regions seem to have stood out as breeding grounds for terrorism; the Niger Delta and the northern part of Nigeria most specifically the northeast region. Terrorism perpetuated by the Niger Delta militants and the Boko Haram have been directed at the state but they have taken different dimensions and had different aims.

Niger Delta is the centre of Nigeria's economy. A huge part of Nigeria's income comes from the oil wealth of the region. The Niger Delta consists of six states of Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Rivers. The Niger Delta militants comprises of groups like the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC), the Egbesu Boys, the Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force (NDVF) led by Asari Dokunbo, the Isoko National Youth Movement (INYM), the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND, Niger Delta

Vigilante (NDV), Niger Delta Liberation Force (NDLF), Movement for the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) (Abimbola and Adesote, 2012:15).

The most active group in 2010 was MEND (GT1, 2012). The goals of the militants include localising the control of Nigeria's oil and to get reparation from the Nigerian government for the pollution of their environment. Basically, the essence of these various groups was to ensure that the challenges of poverty, unemployment, economic deprivation and marginalisation, environmental degradation, lack of corporate social responsibility on the part of the oil companies in the region, lack of infrastructure prevalent in the Niger Delta region were addressed. Thus, these factors were the prime causes of terrorism in the Niger Delta (Zumve, et al 2013:122-140).

Terrorism in the Niger Delta is quite different from that of the Boko Haram. At the beginning of their operation, the strategies used were petition, litigation, protest and mass mobilisation. Latter in 1998, the strategies changed to violence armed resistances, vandalization against the state and transnational oil companies, vandalization of buildings and pipelines, hostage taking, ambush, arson, hijacking, oil-theft and kidnapping of oil expatriates working in the Niger Delta. Most times, renowned personalities or their family members were the targets of kidnappers. Hardly did the kidnappers or hostage takers kill victims. Huge ransoms are paid to release victims (Adeyemi, 2010: 1-16; Abimbola and Adesote, 2012:15). On 12/5/2006, MEND used explosives to blow up an oil pipeline killing 200 in atlas creek island, Nigeria. It was the worst incident of terrorism by the group recorded between 2002 and 2011 (GT1, 2012). The second main terrorist group and most recent is the Boko Haram group.

The actual date the Boko Haram sect was founded is controversial. Some literatures mention that it was formed between 2001 and 2002. Madike (2011) traced it back to 1995 by Lawan Abubakar with the name Sahaba before leaving for studies in Saudi Arabia after which Yusuf assumed leadership (Anyadike, 2013:12-23). However, there is a wider consensus that it was founded in 2002 by Utaz Mohammed Yusuf in Maiduguri. The tenacity of its operations increased during the present administration of Goodluck Jonathan.

The group is a Nigerian militant group with the ultimate goal of imposing Islam on all the states in the country beginning from the northern region. The name of the set summarises their political agenda that western ideology, education and culture is sin and wishes to establish a system that strictly implements Sharia law through preaching the rejection of secularism. Furthermore, it seeks to crush every opposition to the expansion of the influence of the Muslim faith. The group attributed the decadence in the

society to the "secular and godless" nature of the Nigerian state (Eme and Ibietan, 2012:17). According to (Anyadike, 2013:21), the group argued that since westernization has bred corruption and other ills, there was need to create a theocratic state that is governed by Sharia law which will override the laws made by men. Anyadike (2013) and Zumve, Inagyoroko and Akuva (2013) submit that Sharia is run on hard line Islamic principles with the aim of building a more perfect society that is free of corruption and other societal ills. Having declared war against the state, the group now embarked on raising and mobilising jihadists that will fight this course through indoctrination that current system of western education and democratic system are unnecessary evil and as such must be uprooted through violence. He taught that a major strategy to establishing an Islamic state where Orthodox Islam will be practised was by attacking all institutions of government including security agencies like the police, military and other uniformed personnel (Nwabueze and Ebeze, 2013:19).

Despite the clash and series of bloody riots between the sect and security forces in 2004, the Nigerian government was not sensitive to addressing the issue and curbing terrorism which was then at it minimal stage. By 2009, group had expanded their chains of operation to various northern states; there was increase in number of followers recruited from various works of life including war refugees from Chad (Eme and Ibietan, 2012:17). It was alleged also that the sect was able to get funding and supports from admirers of their ideology like the Salafist, wealthy Nigerians (Alao, Atere and Alao, 2012: 1-15). The sect in 2009 launched an attack on a police station in Bauchi leading to a face-off between the police and the sect that claimed the lives of about 700 people including their leader, Mohammad Yusuf. His death rather than weaken the group fired up their morale and fervency for more terror against the state (Hashim, Patte, and Cohen, 2012:1-6; Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim, 2013:57).

The sect has changed the face of terrorism in Nigeria as it has introduced another dimension to terrorism in Nigeria. Before crisis were resource based like conflict, communal crisis in Jos and the kidnapping of mostly foreign expatriates and wealthy Nigerians for ransom (Zumve, Inagyoroko and Akuva, 2013). The emergence of Boko Haram is the height of the security challenge in the country. The group uses lethal weapons and employed brutal tactics. It operation has grown in scale and sophistication and established links with other established terrorist groups with like minds and belief like Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) outside Nigeria. It was also alleged that Boko Haram got training from AQIM al-Qaeda in Islamic Magreb (AQIM) an Algerian Salafist group on combat and how to use improvised explosive devices (IEDs) (Abimbola and Adesote, 2012:11). Their Modus

operandi is modelled after the Taliban in Afghanistan. It was alleged that some members of the group were trained in Lebanon, Pakistan, Iraq, Mauritania among others.

The sect restricted their attack to places in the northeast of Nigeria like Kano, Kaduna, Bauchi, Bornu, Yobe, Jigawa and occasionally in north-central like Kogi and FCT. In their attacks the sect focuses on security formations of the state like the bombing of the police headquarters in Abuja in 2011. The office of the immigration service was not spared. Individuals including Muslims that criticise activities of the group risk been assassinated. The group at times target public places for attack most especially on public holidays and celebration days like Christmas and Sallah (GTI, 2012). Other targets of attacks include churches, Mosque, banks, prisons, schools, newspaper houses like the This Day newspaper in Abuja and markets sometimes during opening hours. In 2012, 12 schools were burnt in Maiduguri at night forcefully depriving about 10,000 pupil schooling and education. The group attacked the United Nation (UN) building in 2011 claiming it was the centre where global evils were decided. The activities of the group became a global concern since it attacked the UN headquarters in Abuja in 2011 (Hashim, Patte and Cohen, 2012: 1-6; Anyadike, 2013:12-23; Nwabueze and Ebeze, 2013; Zumve, Inagyoroko and Akuva, 2013). The group carries out its operations via various means like planting of bombs indiscriminately were there will be high casualties. At times the group perpetrate this evil act through suicide bomber or loading vehicles with explosive only to detonate same in places where people are many.

According to GTI (2012:15), the worst terrorist attacks over the period 2002-2011 in Nigeria occurred in Maiduguri on the 27the of July 2009. The fatalities were 304 the number of injured was unknown. In 2011, Boko Haram struck 115 times and killed nothing less than 550 people, while 250 people were killed within the first 3 weeks of 2011. The number of fatalities in Nigeria steadily increased in the past few years. According to a UN (2013) report about 16, 000 policemen soldiers and civilians have been killed (Onimisi, 2014: 80-85).

Activities of the sect affect various facet of the society and have numerous implications such as internal displacement, forced migration, food scarcity, economic setbacks, humanitarian issues, battered image and increased illiteracy due to the closure of schools and refusal of parents to allow their wards to go school because of fear of insecurity. Unlike the victims of the MEND that were expatriates and wealthy individuals, the groups mostly affected by Boko Haram terrorist activities are the lower middle income group. The next section explicates impact of Boko Haram on north-eastern Nigeria education.

Boko Haram and Education in North-Eastern Nigeria

Activities of Boko Haram have been so virulent that Nigeria is now ranked 7th in the Global Terrorism index (Osundefender 2013). In fact, activities of the terrorist group have instilled fear and is still instilling fear in the hearts of average Nigerians as a result of mindless killings, destruction of government properties, bombing of churches and occasionally mosques, kidnapping, shooting innocent citizens and burning of schools and killing school children that characterise the group as stated before. It is important to stress that because western education is the major target of Boko Haram, education has been the worst hit in the orgy of violence perpetrated by the group. Despite the education imbalance between the north and the south in which the north is in a disadvantaged position, Boko Haram activities have further deepened the imbalance. Selected incidents of Boko Haram on schools are tabulated below.

S/N	Dates	Location	Nature of Attack	Casualties
1.	April 29, 2012	Bayero University, Kano	Boko Haram attacked worshippers at Bayero University, Kano.	13 worshippers; one senior non academic staff and two Professors were killed.
2.	July 6, 2013	Mamudo Government Secondary School, Yobe State.	Suspected Boko Haram attacked children and a school teacher	At least 41 children and one teacher were killed.
3.	29 September, 2013	Gujba College, Yobe State	Suspected Boko Haram attacked dormitory in the College of Agriculture in Gujba, Yobe State.	At least 54 students were killed.
4.	February 25, 2014	Federal Government Colege Buni Yadi, Yobe State	Islamic gunmen attacked students at a boarding school in Yobe.	At least 59 students were killed.
5.	March 12, 2014	Kumbotso Local Government Area Kano State	Boko Haram attacked pupils and teachers in primary schools	Several pupils and teachers were killed.
6.	April 14, 2014	Chibok, Bornu State	Boko Haram embarked on kidnapping	at least 276 girls in Chibok school were kidnapped

S/N	Dates	Location	Nature of Attack	Casualties
7.	June 25, 2014	Kano School of Hygiene	Bomb blast orchestrated by Boko Haram	At least 13 people were killed.
8.	September 2014	Kano	Gunmen believed to be Boko Haram attacked a teacher training school in Kano	At least i5 people were belived to have been killed.
9.	November 5, 2014	Because of intensity in the activities of Boko Haram in Gombe State, the government of the state ordered closure of all private and public schools	Suspected Boko Haram attacked Gombe state.	
10.	November 10, 2014	Potiskum Government Technical Science College.	A suicide bomber disguised in a	At least 47 school children and three

Compiled by the Authors

Having seen selected cases of Boko Haram attack on schools, the next discussion is on the implication of these attacks on the north-eastern Nigeria's education. OCHA (2014) noted that more than 900 schools have been destroyed and 176 teachers killed in north-eastern Nigeria. Incessant attack by Boko Haram has led to the temporal closure of some schools in the north-eastern Nigeria. It is on record that most secondary schools in Bornu states were girls were kidnapped have closed. A staggering over 10 million Nigerian youths are not in school. Instead of learning to read, young girls are married off in their teens, while out-of-school boys are recruited into terrorist ranks. It is believed that over 85 schools in north-eastern Nigeria have been closed down because of Boko Haram attack affecting over 120,000 students in an area that illiteracy level is already worst. This scenario has contributed to the dismal school enrólment in the area (Economist, 2014). It has also been documented that as a result of the repeated attack on schools by the Boko Haram group, some State Governors- Benue, Lagos, Ogun, Kogi, Anambra among others have evacuated their indigenes from the University of Maiduguri (All African News, 2014).

The situation poses great danger to the education of youths in the affected area. Extremism in the first instance is nurture on the soil of ignorance. One of the key reasons for the emergence of religious fundamentalism or fanaticism is lack of western education that cut across various cultures that nurture the seed of tolerance. It is therefore not a surprise that former British Prime

Minister Blair (2014) asserts that "the soil in which extremists plant the seeds of hate is the soil of ignorance of warped thinking producing warped minds and in particular of a distorted and false view of religion". In the north-eastern Nigeria, Islamic education is venerated above western education. The implication is inability to appreciate diversity, respect and tolerate people of other religion. Those that would have made the difference through western education are the ones now forced out of school. Except something urgent is done to redress the situation, the implication of this development is very grave for north-east in particular and Nigeria in general. There is therefore need to address this ugly development.

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the above it can be concluded that activities of Boko Haram have dealt a deadly blow on the already worsening situation of education in Nigeria's north-east. It is therefore necessary to do something very drastic to address the situation to avoid it from spreading further. Initially Boko Haram activities were restricted to Bornu state. With time it spread to Yobe, Adamawa, Plateau, Kano, Kaduna states and even to Abuja the Federal Capital and now threatening to extend to the southern part of the country. Therefore, the following recommendations are hereby made to remedy the situation; there is need for proper coordination of the Nigerian Military to be able to curb the gruesome activities of Boko Haram. Government should make it a priority to protect our schools by urging the military to react spontaneously to security reports that border on attack on schools or any parts of the country. Northern leaders should re-orientate their youths towards embracing western education as this is necessary to curb intolerance to people of different opinions and world view. There is need to revisit the family system in the north so as to firm up parental control on youths in order not to leave them at the mercy of Boko Haram recruiters.

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