Literacy: A Panacea to Social Issues In Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This paper dealt with literacy as a panacea for social issues/problems in Nigeria. The paper analyzed the identified social issues in Nigeria such as poverty and all its types, unemployment and its type, social and spatial justice, tribalism and sectionalism, insecurity, social inequality, gender inequality, ethnic inequality, class inequality, corruption, causes and challenges. It was the suggestion of the authors that, education at all levels should be made free and compulsory to ensure that these social issues are tackled and dealt with from the minds of Nigeria children.

Keywords: Literacy, panacea, social issues

1. INTRODUCTION

Illiteracy, has in many decades, been described as a major cause of social vices in Nigeria. Illiteracy has dragged this country backward in different dimensions. Nigeria has been plagued with problems such as, child-marriage, mismanagement of public funds, misinterpretation of the constitution, wrong and illiterate leaders, child and adult mortality, genital mutilation, corruption etc. The list is endless; all of these and much more are brain child of illiteracy. This is why the authors of this paper advocate strongly the enforcement of literacy in Nigeria as a panacea for social issues or problems. Simply, literacy is the ability to read, write and understand. Accordingly, the Electronic Dictionary (Seiko 1999) identified literacy to have thirteen synonyms: reading ability, reading proficiency, learning, book learning, education, culture, knowledge, scholarship, erudition, learnedness, enlightenment, articulateness and articulation. These words point to the learning reading and writing skills. One is said to be enlightened or literate when one is proficient in reading and has learnt to write. That is, a person is functional in his/her culture when the person is properly educated.

Functionality is the ability to transfer knowledge gained from scholarship to solve one's societal problems. This is why literacy is one of the life coping skills as one has to be literate to be able to communicate effectively with people within and outside one's social environment. Accordingly, the Federal Government of Nigeria FGN (2004:10) "appreciates the importance of language as a means of promoting social interaction and national cohesion and preserving cultures".

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In addition to appreciating the importance of literacy through educational process, and as a means of preserving the peoples" culture, the Government considers it to be in the interest of national unity, progress and for personal accountability that each child should be encourage to acquire education in Nigeria. Literacy involves the ability to read the written language at a reasonable rate with good comprehension (Eskey, 1970 in Nada, 2001). Reading is the third of the language skills and it is an activity with a purpose. It is important to note that there will be no interaction or information gained, without the ability to read and write. Reading is indeed an interactive process where the reader brings meaning to the text based on his/her experimental background and interpretation of the text based on his/her prior knowledge. Reading is the interaction between the text and the reader.

2. SOCIAL ISSUES IN NIGERIA

The tempo of social change has permeated all known facets of human endeavour from the pre-colonial era up till date in Nigeria. For instance, processes such as technological advancement, industrialization, urbanization and even coupled with the speed of westernization had championed these changes. At some point in history, common social problems ranges from child labour, tribalism, inflation, and sectionalism to insecurity. Also, in other points in history, issues such as social unrest, social and spatial justice, unemployment and issues based on ethnical dimension among others constituted social problems. These social problems or issues have become areas of primary concern in developing nations like Nigeria.

The concept of social problems and social issues are used in this work as synonyms. Social problems are therefore as old as human civilization and have existed in every human society hence, social issues or problems are inseparable attributes of human society. This is because things can never work out always in everybody's favour or desire. Though, many take their personal problems to be social issues, it is important to distinguish the difference between a "personal trouble"- that is, a problem that affects one person, and a "social issue", a problem that affects a large population. The later is our primary concern in this work.

Schilt and Westbrook (2009) warned against accepting definitions of social problem provided by those in power reason being that the powerful can define social reality in a way that manipulates public opinion. We will however look at some definitions of social problems here. By definition, social problems are issues that affect majority of the population in a given environment. A social problem is a social condition that harms the vast or seems to harm majority of the people that constitute a particular social setting. Also, a social problem is some aspect of the society that people are concerned about and would likely change through collective actions.

According to Russ (2012), social problems are a societal induced condition that harms any segment of the population. The source further stressed that social problems are also related to acts and conditions that violate the norms and values found in society. To Horton and Leslie cited in Okpechi (2014), social problem is a social condition affecting a significant number of people in ways considered undesirable about which can be done through collective social action. For a social problem to come into being, vast majority of people have to become upset about some objective condition. This involves a shift in outlook, a questioning of something that had been taken for granted. These therefore create disharmony and maladjustment in the social system.

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3. SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN NIGERIA

Itemized below and followed with elucidations are typical social problems in Nigeria

1.   Poverty
2.   Unemployment
3.   Social and Spatial Justice
4.   Tribalism and Sectionalism
5.   Insecurity
6.   Social inequality
7.   Gender inequality
8.   Ethnic inequality
9.   Class inequality
10.   Corruption

3.1 Poverty as a social problem:

The concept of poverty and material deprivation is a critical one in contemporary social discussion. According to Ekweoba (2012), poverty is defined as not having access to basic necessities of life-food, portable water supply, shelter, and clothing as well as having no means or even hope of survival. Similarly, Russ (2012) sees poverty as a situation whereby the poor earns too little income, consuming too little to attain a standard living that is socially acceptable. It can be seen as a condition that is said to exist when the people lack means to satisfy their needs. Also, people can be said to be in poverty when they are deprived of income and other resources needed to obtain the condition of good life-the diets, materials goods, amenities, standards and services-that enable them to play the roles, meet the obligations and participate in the relationships and customs of their society.

To Pinker (1999), poverty has social and cultural ramification which go beyond the inadequate income simply because poverty has a causal link with many other forms of deprivation including inadequate access to health care, housing, educational services and employment opportunities. This is because poverty in Nigeria may be linked to the web of a spider. The spider begins in the middle and is then supported by the various links of its web. Using this analogy, the spider in the middle is the poverty in Nigeria and the web are the offspring which includes child labour, ageing, divorce, prostitution, social unrest, corruption, urbanization among other forms of social problems. Poverty as earlier stressed has economic, social and political ramifications. As a multidimensional phenomenon, poverty if defined and measured in multitude of ways, given the explicit nature of the issues, the best introduction to poverty measurement is through the multifaceted nature of the phenomenon. The poor are materially deprived, socially alienated and politically excommunicated. Basically, poverty has been conceptualized in the following ways:

a.   Lack of target for basic needs/goods and
b.   Lack of or impaired access to productive resources.

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Poverty as lack of access to basic needs/goods in essentially as lack of access to basic needs/goods is essentially economic or consumption oriented. Thus the poor are conceived as those individuals or household in a particular society, incapable of purchasing a specified basket of basic goods and services. Basic goods as used here include; food, shelter, water, health care, access to productive resources include education, working skills and tools, political and civil rights to participate in decisions concerning socioeconomic conditions (Ajakaiye & Adeyeye, 2001 in Gbosi, 2004). It is generally agreed that in conceptualizing poverty, low income or low consumptions is its symptom.

Poverty is indeed a global problem. To this effect the United Nations declared 1996 the international year of eradicating poverty and 1997-2006 a decade of poverty eradication. In pursuance of this target, government in both developed and developing countries became increasing aware of poverty problems and several development efforts to alleviate poverty therefore have been embarked upon worldwide. However, there is still high incidence of poverty in Nigeria today. Ekweoba (2012) posits that poverty in Nigeria has many indices. This discussion about poverty may have actually been over flogged yet it is still being addressed and treated locally and internationally. Nigeria is a country of over 186 million people therefore the dimension of mass poverty in Nigeria in both dreadful and shocking. Many citizens of Nigeria cannot afford to live a decent life. Several millions of Nigerians do not have the usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions. Only a few people are comfortable.

3.1.1 Types of poverty

Situational poverty is often referred to as conjectural poverty. It generally caused by a sudden crisis or loss and is often temporary. Events causing situational poverty include environmental disasters, divorce, or severe health problems.

Generational poverty occurs in families where at least two generations have been born into poverty. Families living in this type of poverty are not equipped with the tools to move out of their situations. However, this type of poverty can be overcome through social mobility like education.

Absolute poverty, which is rare in the developed countries but common in the third world countries, involves a scarcity of such necessities as shelter, running water, and food. Families who live in absolute poverty tend to focus on day-to-day survival. In a nutshell, when an individual's consumption pattern is below world standard, such a person is suffering from absolute poverty.

Relative poverty refers to the economic status of a family whose income is insufficient to meet its society's average standard of living. This type of poverty may arise from neglect and deprivation.

Urban poverty occurs in metropolitan areas with populations of at least 50,000 people. The urban poor deal with a complex aggregate of chronic and acute stressors (including crowding, violence, and noise) and are dependent on often-inadequate large-city services.

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Rural poverty occurs in non-metropolitan areas with population below 50,000. In rural areas, there are more single-guardian households, and families often have less access to services, support for disabilities, and quality education opportunities. Programmes to encourage transition from welfare to work are problematic in remote rural areas, where job opportunities are few (Whitener, Gibbs, & Kusmin, 2003). The rural poverty rate is growing and has exceeded the urban rate every year since data collection began in the 1960s. The difference between the two poverty rates has averaged about 5 percent for the last 30 years, with urban rates near 10-15 percent and rural rates near 15-20 percent (Jolliffe, 2004).

3.2 Unemployment as a social problem.
Though some scholars see unemployment as an economic problem rather than a social problem, to the authors, unemployment is a social problem in Nigerian environment due to the fact that literally millions of employable people are currently unemployed and that situation can be remedied by collective effort or action. Since Society is a social system, and unemployment is the largest determining factor in a society's collective quality of life which affects everyone, it is absolutely a social problem.

When large numbers of people are unemployed as the case with Nigeria, it has widespread economic and social effects. Hunger and homelessness are considered related social problems. If you can't feed your family, or pay your rent, you need help as a result of unemployment, then it is a personal issue but when a vast majority of the population is affected, it is no longer a personal issue rather a social issue or problem. In advanced nations, social service agencies are set up to provide help and relief for people in this situation; unemployment is therefore a social problem.

Unemployment in Nigeria is a social problem because it is an issue that affects a large number of employable Nigerians and has the potential to be alleviated by efforts from a coalition of individuals. The employable people are crying to be employed, but unemployment persists and continues to be on the increase. About 60 percent of youths in Nigeria are unemployed and some underemployed. Even with the little effort, corruption has taken over collective sense of fighting unemployment, job racketeering is the order of the day, people who look for what to eat are cruelly asked to buy employment forms for positions that appointment letters have been issued already.

3.2.1   Types of Unemployment

Cyclical Unemployment
Cyclical or demand deficient unemployment occurs when the economy is in need of low workforce. This form of unemployment is most commonly known as cyclical unemployment since unemployment moves with the trade cycle. The Nigeria experience is a good example of the all round or cyclical unemployment. This type of unemployment occurs due to economic disequilibrium. Again, when the economy passes through recession, demand for labour contracts and the surplus is released as the unemployed labour force.

Seasonal Unemployment
There are certain kinds of unemployment that tend to concentrate in a particular time of the year and arc known as seasonal unemployment. Seasonal unemployment is most common in industries like tourism, hotel, catering and fruit picking. In the city of Calabar for instance, during the annual Christmas festival, many youths are temporarily engaged in tourism industries and then disengaged immediately after the festival period.

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Structural Unemployment

Structural unemployment arises when the qualification of a person is not sufficient to meet his job responsibilities. In other words, structural unemployment arises when the marginal revenue product of a person falls short of the minimum wage that can be paid for the concerned job. The minimum wage is set by law or by negotiations in the Union. Structural unemployment can also accompany a situation of zero minimum wages. The extent to which structural unemployment takes place depends on a number of parameters. Along with the mobility of labour, structural unemployment also depends on the growth rate of an economy as well as the structure of an industry.

Frictional Unemployment

Sometimes, people with lower order jobs tend to seek for higher order ones by resigning from their jobs. Frictional unemployment occurs when a person who is out of one job is searching for another. It generally requires some time before a person can get the next job. During this time he is frictionally unemployed. The problem of frictional unemployment is minimized with the development of efficient labour markets. The time period of shifting from one job to another is almost nil. However, imperfect information may aggravate the problem of frictional unemployment. The more developed an economy is, the higher the probability of getting a job faster and the lower the probability of frictional unemployment.

Classical Unemployment

This type of unemployment problem arises when the wages rise above the equilibrium full employment level. In such a situation the wages are not flexible downwards which will imply that unemployment would persist for long. Such wages may be set by manipulations in the trade union.

3.3 Social and Spatial Justice as social problem

Spatial justice: this links together social justice with space. The organization of space is a crucial dimension of human societies and reflects social facts and influences social relations (Rooth, 2007). Consequently, both justice and injustice become visible in space. Therefore, the analysis of the interactions between space and society is necessary to understand social injustices and to formulate territorial policies aiming at tackling them. It is at this juncture that the concept of spatial justice has been developed.

The term 'social justice' implies fairness and mutual obligation in society; that we are responsible for one another, and that we should ensure that all have equal chances to succeed in life. To Rawls (2003), social justice is about assuring the protection of equal access to liberties, rights, and opportunities, as well as taking care of the least advantaged members of society. Thus, whether something is just or unjust depends on whether it promotes or hinders equality of access to civil liberties, human rights, opportunities for healthy and fulfilling lives, as well as whether it allocates a fair share of benefits to the least advantaged members of society.

To Miller (2003), social justice deals with the distribution of good (advantages) and bad (disadvantages) in society, and more specifically with how these things should be distributed within the society. Further, social justice is concerned with the ways that resources are allocated to people by social institutions. In societies wherein life chances are not distributed equally, this implies redistribution of opportunities, although the shape that such redistribution should take remains contested. Rawls' conception of social justice is developed around the idea of a social contract, whereby people freely enter into an agreement to follow certain rules for the betterment of everyone, without considering the implications of these rules for their own selfish gain.

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The most influential thinker on social justice has been John Rawls. Rawls (1971) argues for a balance between social equality and individual freedom. However, social equality and individual freedom are frequently seen as in tension, and debate continues as to how, and to what extent, they can be balanced.

3.4 Tribalism and Sectionalism as a social problem
One of Nigeria's greatest problems is tribalism. It is owing to the deep rooted culture and celebration of tribalism that successive administrations have not been able to effectively fight corruption in the country. Tribalism promotes national poverty. It compels citizens to be lazy. In a tribal-induced bureaucracy, even people that sow nothing can reap bountifully simply because their tribesperson is in power. This is clearly against natural principle. The more we promote tribal agenda above constitutional provisions, the closer we get to the source of our disintegration.

Erstwhile Governor, Gabriel Suswam of Benue State in This Day of 23rd June, 2012 lamented that sectionalism and tribalism had been the bane of the nation's democratic growth, advising that Nigerians should discard such primordial sentiments when choosing their leaders. The question then is, when will Nigerians choose their leaders based on their track records and achievements? We fail to know that the introduction of sectionalism and tribalism by some political elites is sabotaging the country's polity thereby hindering growth and development. This sectional politics embedded by these political actors pose a serious threat to the socio-political atmosphere of the country and if serious measures are not taken to address the current trend, it would affect the country's unity and even development hence, constituting social unrest.

3.5 Insecurity as a social problem
Discussing the issue, problems and challenges of insecurity in Nigeria has in recent times become a frontline in national discourse and a daily prayer point of most religious faithful. This is because when security is mentioned, we are talking about food security, financial security, personal security, national security, etc. However, the concept of insecurity is used to explain the state of being subject to danger or injury. It is a feeling of unease or nervousness that may be triggered by perceiving of oneself to be vulnerable. When this cut across the political, economic and social life of majority of the people in a society, it becomes a social problem. This situation is often triggered by incompatible interests based on competition for resources, which in most cases are assumed to be scarce, intolerance, interest among others.

Emile Durkheim once agued in his popular book "The rules of sociological method" that crime (insecurity) is an inevitable and normal aspect of social life. To him, insecurity is the original condition of all human society hence crime is an integral part of all healthy societies. Similarly, the transformatory theory addresses the reactions of individuals, groups, culture, institutions and societies to change. To the structuralists, insecurity is built into the particular ways societies are structured and organized.

The theory looks at social problems like political and economic exclusion, injustice, poverty, disease, exploitation, inequality, unemployment, etc, as source of insecurity (Faleti, 2006). The tenet of structuralism is that insecurity occurs because of the exploitation and unjust nature of human societies, domination of one class by another, etc. Adherents to this theory like Fredrick Engels and Karl Marx maintained that the exploitation of the proletariats or lower class, under capitalism creates conflict and insecurity in the social system (Isong & Edward, 2004).

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To cope with insecurity as a social problem in Nigeria, job creation, poverty alleviation, good governance, etc. should become the primary focus of those that pilot the affairs of the nation. Some have said the root causes of the menace (especially Boko Haram activities) include weak moral condition, poverty, dirty polities/poor governance and fanaticism. Whatever is the cause, the solution lies in a strong union by all tiers of government

3.6 Social inequality as a social problem
Social inequality: Refers to relational processes in society that have the effect of limiting or harming a group's social status, social class, and social circle. Social inequality can manifest in form of gender inequality, class inequality, racial inequality, etc.

Gender inequality
One of the major forms of social inequality comes in the form of gender. Gender identity refers to persons' internal acceptance of sex, gender, or sexual categorizations as descriptive of themselves (Russ, 2012). The emphasis on gender inequality is born out of the deepening division in the roles assigned to men and women, particularly in the economic, political and educational spheres. Women are said to be underrepresented in political activities and decision making processes in most African countries with Nigeria inclusive. In recent times,   gender discrimination especially concerning the status of women has been a topical issue and has attracted serious discussion not only within academic and activist communities, but within the political circle.

The structure of masculinity ultimately contribute to the vast amounts   of gendere violence, marginalization and suppression that women, queer, transgender, gender variant and gender non-conforming persons face. Some scholars suggest that women's underrepresentation in political systems speaks the idea that formal citizenship does not always imply full social membership. Recently, there was a conventional stand by political elites that women should be given 30% of political offices in Nigeria as an effort towards balancing gender disparities. This effort seeks to identify and remedy widespread, institutionalized barriers to access for women in Nigerian politics.

Ethnic inequality
Ethnic inequality is the result of hierarchical social distinctions between ethnic groups within a society, and often established based on characteristics such as skin colour and other physical characteristics or an individual's place of origin or culture. It is common in a pluralistic society where unequal treatment and opportunities between ethnic groups is usually considered because some groups are seen to be superior to others. Ethnics inequality can also result in diminished opportunities for members of marginalized groups, which in turn can lead to cycles of poverty and political marginalization. This can manifest through discriminatory hiring practices job sites; in some cases, employers have been shown to prefer hiring potential employees based on perceived ethnicity of a candidate's given name -even if all they have to go by in their decision are resumes featuring identical qualifications (Rooth, 2007).

Part of these sorts of discriminatory practices stem from stereotypism and ethnocentrism, which is when people form assumptions about the tendencies and characteristics of certain social groups, often including ethnic groups, and typically rooted in assumptions about biology, cognitive capabilities, or even inherent, moral failings (Dubow, 1995). There are certain stereotypes that have been attached to specific races, and children belonging to them, suffer from low self-esteem. These types of institutional barriers to full and equal social participation have far-reaching effects within marginalized communities, including reduced economic opportunity and output, reduced educational outcomes and opportunities and reduced levels of overall health. When quite a number of people are affected, it becomes a social problem and can trigger other social unrest.

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Class inequality

The German social thinker, Karl Marx, once wrote that in all stratified societies, there exist a ruling class and a subject class. To him, the history of every hitherto society is the history of class struggle. The concept of social class is used by Marxists to denote social stratification that propagates class inequality. In general, social class can be defined as a large category of similarly ranked people located in a hierarchy and distinguished from other large categories in the hierarchy by such traits as occupation, education, income and wealth. The measure of inequality between social classes depends on the definition used. For Marx as earlier pointed out, two major social classes with significant inequalities existed: the working or subject class (proletariat) and the capitalists. or ruling class (bourgeoisie).

This simple division represents opposing social interests of its members, capital gain for the capitalists and survival for the labourers, creating inequality and social conflict. Marx associated oppression and exploitation with it. Such inequalities include differences in income, wealth, access to education, pension levels, social status, socio-economic safety. Today, this class struggle has become an issue of great concern by social thinkers and crusaders of equality opportunities are determined by individual's financial and social means which are related to wealth, status and availability of public support for low income groups.

Their unequal distribution provides more opportunities to the ones that already have a higher socioeconomic status. In other words, the ruling class remains socially relevant while the subject class is left in a disadvantage status- hence, creating a gulf and disparities between the classes.

3.7 Corruption as a social problem

Corruption is the abuse or misuse of power or position of trust for personal or group benefits. It is a form of dishonesty and illegal behaviour exhibited especially by people in authority for their personal gain that includes vices like bribery, fraud, and other related offences. Corruption is a social problem that has interested many scholars. Bello-Imam (2005) once asserted that corruption in Africa is a problem of routine deviation from established standards and norms by public officials and parties with whom they interact. Because of its wide spread in Nigeria, Gbenga (2008) asserted that corruption is contagious. It has become the cheapest mean of creating wealth and even mostly practiced by the elite class.

Corruption in Nigeria is systematic, and to address the problem, a systematic approach is needed that needs collective effort and action- It is a social menace that has cut across every facet of the social system and affecting a vast majority of the Nigerian society. Corruption and corrupt practices can be said to be the most severe headache of Nigeria as a country. In the index of Transparency International, Nigeria was ranked 144th out of the 146 countries, beating Bangladesh and Haiti to last position despite her anti-corruption agencies and crusades. It is on this note that corruption is seen as a social issue. To curb and eventually eradicate corruption, children, youths, and adults must be given the power to distinguish right from wrong. All schools should return to the teaching of moral education to empower children with the spirit of stewardship while adults live exemplary lives, reflecting truth, kindness, dignity of labour and integrity.

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4. CAUSES OF CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA

What follos is a list of some causes of corruption in Nigeria

- ❖ Weak Government institutions and unnecessary official bureaucracy.
- ❖ Poor wages and incentives of workers
- ❖ Poor moral and value orientation, institutionalization of corrupt anti corruption agencies
- ❖ Quest for political power by the political elites
- ❖ Statistical advantage of those who acceptance corruption as normal
- ❖ Poverty and unemployment pluralism
- ❖ Creation of artificial scarcity

4.1 Challenges in the fight against corruption in Nigeria:

1. Insincerity of Government
2. Pre bargaining lobbying and negotiation of highly placed officials for their position.
3. Low deterrent-the punitive measures for corrupt practices need to be strengthened.
4. Lack of virile political and social movements to tackle corruption.
5. Lack of access to public information
6. Low public participation in governance
7. Corrupt electoral system
8. Nepotism
9. Systemic disorder
10. Weak government institutions

5. LITERACY AS A SOLUTION TO SOCIAL ISSUES/PROBLEMS IN NIGERIA

Literacy energizes interaction, information and the transmission of ideas, knowledge and skills which is the back bone of social studies. The absence of literacy will mean a crack and a break in solving social problems in our social environment. Literacy is a link to social wellbeing of the citizens in any society, Nigeria is not an exception. Literacy is one known solution to the problem of poverty, unemployment, social and special justice, tribalism, insecurity, social inequality, gender inequality, ethics inequality, class inequality and corruption in any nation. Literacy liberates and refines people, make them self reliant and self-employed.

Employment is a crucial issue in Nigeria today. One of the causes of unemployment is illiteracy. This is why literacy is strongly advocated by stakeholder and educational planners to train employable school leaders and/or graduate to reduce the rate of unemployment in Nigeria (FGN, 2004). Literacy has a role to play in social justice. Justice as interpreted by law is an aspect of human right. Every citizen has the right to fair justice but unfortunately, only the learned have access to justice in Nigeria. Literacy remains a tool for justice and the hope of the poor and venerable in the country. Tribalism and sectionalism are cruel instruments in the hands of few and powerful partial-literates in this country. The case of Nigeria is "Monkey de work baboon de chop" South-South of Nigeria is a practical example of victims of sectionalism and tribalism. The wealth of this nation is located in the South-South region but development is being carried out in the northern part of Nigeria with so much impunity. Insecurity in Nigeria has one solution which is literacy. Boko Heram, the south-south militants and the scolombo children scattered everywhere in this country, are social menaces that constitute threat to life and security. Literacy is the panacea that will and can quench all of these problems. The government at all levels should be responsible for the education of these vulnerable Children to ensure that appropriate and adequate education is made free and compulsory to curb with the challenges of illiteracy (FGN, 2006).

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7. CONCLUSION

An attempt has been made to touch on the topic and the sub-themes, such as, literacy, the various social issues, the role of literacy or solutions to the social problems in Nigeria. These ragging issues cannot be over emphasized, that Nigeria as a country in its underdeveloped nature is faced seriously with social issues /problems. Her citizens have a large population of illiterates and live unpredictable lives without knowledge of the society they live in. A nation over taken by poverty, terrorism, unemployment, inequality, corruption among other pride of hers that form the frontlines of national dailies. Due to lack of adequate literacy, the country remains a toddler, struggling to find a push out of these menaces. Nigeria, in time past used to be the refuge home, vanguard of peace keeping corps to warring nations, has been taken by surprise, by the unfolding nefarious attitude of visionless illiterates who have succeeded in turning the country into a prison yard of stagnation. These authors therefore advocates for a free and compulsory education at all levels of education to tackle social issues from the minds of the Nigerian child. Also, a social problem is some aspect of the society that people are concerned about and would likely change through collective actions.

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