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ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SKILL ACQUISITION NEEDS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN KADUNA, NIGERIA

By

BALOGUN ABDULRASAQ OLATUNJI, *Ph.D*
balogunabdulrasaqolatunji@gmail.com
08066326137

JIMOH MOHAMMED IDRIS,

OKAFOR PRISCILIA IFEOMA, *Ph.D*

IYEKOLO ALEXANDER OLUSHOLA, *Ph.D*

&

AZIZ, ISIAKA
Department of Social Sciences Education,
University of Ilorin,
Ilorin, Nigeria.

Abstract

This study was a survey of educational and skill aquisition needs of internally displaced persons in Kaduna, Nigeria. The population for the study comprised all internally displaced persons in Kaduna State. Researcher purposively sample 200 internally displaced person seeking asylum in Mando Hajj camp in Kaduna, Nigeria. Researcher designed questionnaire was used to elicit information from respondents. The finding of the study reveals that many of sampled respondents demanded for free cost of education at all levels, issuance of enrolment documents to facilitate the enrolment of school age children. The study also reveals that displaced persons need to acquire skills in various vocations so as to enable them cater for their needs and give up restiveness. The study therefore recommended that government should make education free for the displaced school age persons and also establish vocational training school in the displaced persons camp.

Keywords: *education, needs, internally displaced persons, skill acquisition.*

Introduction

Nigeria continued to be plagued by political upheaval all in the name of ethno-religious conflict, Boko Haram insurgency, terrorism, kidnapping, communal conflict, gender based violence and many more. These have made people of different religious and ethnic backgrounds to move out of their place of habitual residence to seek for protection in a safer destination. Those who moved out of their place of habitual residence and sought for refugee in a safer area are called displaced persons. Technically Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), are persons or group of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights, natural or human-made disasters (United Nation, 2010). These people are technically referred to as being internally displaced persons because they have not crossed an internationally recognized state border (United Nation Development Programme, 2011).

The menace of insecurity has been the cankerworm that has eaten deep in the Nigeria polity most especially in the Northern and Niger Delta areas. The issue of insecurity permeates all aspects of human endeavors and serves as a fundamental problem to any society's growth and development. More so, it is tied to every society's social, political, economic and cultural growth. People in the region hardly sleep with their two eyes closed all in the fear of not being secured and expectation of future danger. Sustained efforts by Nigeria government to avert these challenges have met with only limited success and the menace still in alarming rate which can stall national development.

The religious leaders, mosques and churches were not left out in series of attack. In the recent time, the Emir of Kano-Alhaji Ado Bayero and his entourage were attacked by the gunmen which resulted to the death of his driver and two other innocent souls. Faceless gunmen in Maiduguri also ambushed Ibadan Traders and killed many of them with no tangible reasons. This is unfair! In the Eastern part of the country, the mother of Dr. Okonjo Iweala was also kidnapped but she later gained freedom due to the intervention of federal might. Imagine what could be the faith of a common man lacking such power and the voices!

Similarly, secondary school students in Yobe State writing their final year examination were gunned down in the cold blood by the claimed BokoHaram members. So much noise was made by both the State and Federal governments, promising that the masterminds will soon be fished out. Sometimes ago, Police Headquarters in Abuja was raised by fire by the sect members resulting to the lost of lives and wanton destruction of properties. If these prominent personalities and the security agents responsible for the protection of lives and properties are not safe, I wonder who is safe. The negligence and inability of the government involved in providing adequate measure of security has led to all manner of social ills, including violent crimes armed robbery, ritual killings, child trafficking, kidnapping, terrorism, militancy, religious sectarianism and other vices.

In Nigeria, internal displacement is caused by communal violence, armed conflict, natural disaster, resources allocation conflicts, forcible evictions and ethno religious crisis (Egwu, 2011). Most of these crises are triggered by indiscriminate urge for political, economic and social advantages in a country characterized with poverty, low levels of education and a huge alienated youthful population. More specifically, the National Emergency and Management Agency (2009) reported that bloody clashes between the army and militia in the Niger Delta, in 2009, led to the displacement of thousands of people. It further reported that in several central and northern states, the outbreaks of violence over electoral issues or the crises among communities that are divided along religious lines have triggered large scale death, destruction of properties and displacement in Nigeria. Many people that are displaced by these incidences are said to have sought or still seeking refuge in police or army barracks, hospitals, mosques and churches (Daramola and Daramola, 2011).

In February 2009, between 4,500 and 5,000 people were displaced following the sectar violence in the city of Bauchi (IRIN, 2009 and This Day, 28 February 2009). Many victims of this cri found shelter in schools or army barracks or fled to the neighbouring Jos, as violence spread throughou Bauchi which subsequently led to more deaths and destruction (Punch, 23 February 2009).

More so, the conflict between an Islamic group and the Nigerian army in July 2009, which start in Bauchi and quickly spread to neighbouring Borno, Yobe and Kano States, led to more displace persons. Between 3,500 and 4,000 people are reportedly displaced as a result of violence across the fou states. Specifically, many of the people displaced from this crisis are said to be victims of the heavy arti fight in Maiduguri, the capital city of Borno State (ICRC, 2009). Though the Nigeria Red Cross repo (2009) stated that most of the IDPs in Maiduguri had returned home but around 160 people whos homes had been destroyed during the violence are still wallowing in sociological and psychological traum (IRIN, 2009).

The ethnic crisis in Kaduna in 2001 made families more displaced. The crisis broke up when the state government announced plans to implement Shari'a law. Shari 'a law in this case is the Islamic law governing the principles and practices of Muslims. The Christian minority's protest on February 21, 2000 leads to several days of violent confrontations among youths and security agencies (Punch, February 2 2000). IDMC (2009) estimated the number of persons killed in the uproar to range from 1,000 to 1,500. As a result of the crisis, many churches and mosques were burnt. Many non-indigene Christians in the north that feared that the violence could continued, returned to their homelands in the southeast. In the light of this, over 63,000 people were displaced within Kaduna and its surroundings. This excludes thousand of others that fled to their places of origin or fled to live with relatives elsewhere. It is estimated that up to 75% of those displaced were women and children (NRC, 2010). In November 2002, more than 30,000 people were displaced during four days religious riots in the northern city of Kaduna (NRC, 2002).

This violence erupted following the Muslim protest against the 16th-November published article in the ThisDay Daily Newspaper (2009, February 28). The article was about a pageant context titled *Miss World*. The violence erupted following the article wrote in the entertainment sections of one Nigerian newspaper, a journalist wrote a religiously insensitive analogy about the Miss World candidate and the Prophet Mohammad. With the underlying tensions in the area, it took a few words to spark violence Muslims rioted attacking Christians, leaving hundreds of casualties thousands of people displaced (Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World, 2002 November 21). Attack in Attakar in Kaura Local Government Area of Kaduna State by Fulani Herdsmen result to the death of 19 and 10,000 persons displaced (Christian Today, 2013 April 13).

At the end of violence that broke out after the presidential elections in northern Nigeria, there were thousands of people in various camps in different parts of Kaduna. This is substantiated by the report given by Inspector General of Police in Abuja at an event to review the general elections. He said that no fewer than 520 persons died in Kaduna and Niger State (The Nation January 11, 2012). Of this figure, 518 died in Kaduna alone, while about 22,141 persons became internally displaced. According to Human Rights Watch, an estimated 800 people (women and children inclusive) were killed and properties worth billions of Naira were destroyed (Daily Trust Thursday, 21 July 2011). The estimated 38,97 displaced people were lodged in 15 camps in the state by Nigeria Red Cross (NRC), out of which over 90% were women and children. In cases where women and children were spread, they were likely to be subjected to all forms of humiliations.

The table below depicts States, Camps, causes of displacement, date, and number of people

Table One: Showing States Displaced Camps, Causes of Displacement, Date and Number.

S/N	States	Camps	Causes of Displacement	Date	Number of People Displaced
1	Kaduna	Jama'a (IDP) Camp. Kafanchan	Post election Violence	24TH April,2011	215
2	Kaduna	Hajji Camp(IDP) Mando, Kaduna	Post election Violence	24TH April,2011	4,250
3	Kaduna	NYSC (NAF BASE) Mando, Kaduna	Post election Violence	24TH April,2011	820
4	Kaduna	FOMWAN Hospital, Kaduna	Post election Violence	24TH April,2011	38
5	Kaduna	44 Rference Hospital (IDP) Camp, Kaduna	Post election Violence	24TH April,2011	76
6	Kaduna	Kagarko L.G Area	Post election Violence	24TH April,2011	364
7	Kaduna	Dankande Police Barrack/Toll Gate	Post election Violence	26th April, 2011	720
8	Kaduna	NAF BASE, Kaduna	Post election Volence	26th April, 2011	76
9	Kaduna	Igbo Community, Kafancha	Post election Volence	27th Aprill, 2011	325
10	Kaduna	Waziri Aliyu Primary School (IDP Camp) Kafancha	Post election Volence	28th April,2011	3,100
11	Kaduna	I.D.P Camp, Emir's Palace Bimin Gwari	Post election Volence	28th April,2011	460
12	Kaduna	Marraban Jos	Post election Volence	29th April,2011	4,280
13	Kaduna	Hajj Camp (IDP) Mando	Post election Volence	30th April, 2011	4,250
14	Kaduna	Hajj Camps	Post election Volence	7th May,2011	76
15	Kaduna	Ladduga Camp (IDP) Kachia L.G.A	Post election Volence	23rd May,2011	4,628
16	Kaduna	Jere Town, Kagarko L.G.A	Post election Volence	25th May,2011	1,050
17	Kaduna	K.B Village	Post election Volence	25th May,2011	752
18	Kaduna	P.Z Fire Out Break, Zaria	Post election Volence	26th May,2011	845
19	Kaduna	Ladaga	Post election Volence	23rd May,2011	4,628
20	Kaduna	Army Workshop, Kaduna	Post election Volence	23rd May,2011	670
21	Kaduna	Atakad Primary School	Attack by Fulani Herdsmen	2nd April 2013	10,000
22	Kano	Rehabilitation Centers	14 Rehabilitation centers	31st Jan.,2011	2,853
23	Kano	Faggae	Flood disaster	27th June,2011	276
24	Kano	Computer Center Faggae	Flood disaster	27th June,2011	101
25	Kano	Muhtariya Islamiya Faggae	Flood disaster	27th June,2011	101
26	Kano	Sani Mai Kwaru Islamiya	Flood disaster	27th June,2011	1,250
27	Plateau	Irigwe in Basa, Jong/Rob in Barkin Ladi, Bereh-Rite in Barkin Ladi & Dabwak in Jos	Community clash	4th March,2011	494 displacec, 116 injured and 97 los of lives
28	Plateau	Jos LGA	Religious crisis	2nd Feb,2011	494
29	Plateau	Jos East LGA	Political Crisis	May,2011	2,738
30	Rivers	Abua/Odua LGA	Rain/thunder storm and flood	23rd June, 2011	2,208 displaced, destruction of 309 houses, properties & economic trees
31	Taraba	Bali, Wukari and Zanzal LGAs	Cholera Outbreak	28th March,2011	207

Source: IDMC R and R Table (2012), NEMA and KADUNA SEMA (2013)

The above table indicates that Kaduna State has the highest number of internally displaced persons th other States.

Statement of the Problem

Natural disaster, economic impoverishment, environmental crisis, ethnic tension, political violence and conflict are unwanted situations that can have effects on all aspects of national development. Effects of these social problems could lead to emotional tension and could further cause further crises in any society. As functionalist theorists claim, a problem in an aspect of the society cannot be ignored as such problem may tend to eventually spread to other aspects of society. Definitely, the problem of internal displacement of a single member of society could affect other near or distant member of the society. As Terry & Daniel (2003) put it, the issues of refuge and asylum seeking are compound problem that have capacity of making environment unsafe for even the very people that may believe they live within secure environment. It has been emphasized that internal displacement makes a number of people to flee their residential comfort to seek protection in safer areas. No doubt, those who are displaced, face different challenges much of which goes against the fundamental human rights (Social and Economic Rights Actions Center, 2011).

Unfortunately, most of the affected internally displaced persons are women and children. James (1998) opined that among an estimated 30 million internally displaced human beings, eighty percent (80%) of them are children and women, who have been forced to flee their homes and communities because of armed conflict, violence, systematic violations of human rights, or natural disasters. Children and women are said to be more affected by conflict, strife, human right abuses or disaster resulting to internal displacement because of their fragile and social dependence attributes. Basically, unresolved educational needs could cause social crises for entire society. Education is the pivotal for change in any society. For a nation to develop, it must give highest priorities to and invest in education. Similarly, for peace and stability to reign in a particular country, basic needs of its citizens must be met. This is contrary to the situation of IDPs in Nigeria most especially Kaduna State. IDPs as the case may be suffer neglect in almost all aspects of life. The researcher deems it fit to assess educational and skill needed by IDPs to be fully integrated into the community in order to live meaningful and happier life.

Research Questions

i. What are the educational needs of internally displaced persons in Kaduna, Nigeria?
ii. What are the skill acquisition needs of internally displaced persons in Kaduna, Nigeria?

Methodology

The study was a survey of educational and skill acquisition needs of internally displaced persons located in Kaduna, Nigeria. The population for the study comprises of all internally displaced persons in Kaduna State while the target population comprises of IDPs seeking refugee in Mando Hajj camp Kaduna. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 200 displaced persons as sample respondents. This was done with the assistance of the officers managing the affairs of displaced persons in the said camp (National Emmergency Management Agency and Red Cross Society of Nigeria). Questionnaire was used to collect information from sampled respondents. Frequency count and percentage was used to answer the research questions formulated.

Results and Discussion of Findings

Key: *HN: Highly needed*
N: Needed
SN: Somewhat Needed
NN: Not needed

Table Two: Perceived Educational Need of Internally Displaced Persons

S/N	Questionnaire Items	HN		N		SN		NN	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	Education should be cost free at all levels for displaced persons.	150	75	48	24	1	0.5	1	0.5
2	Provision of education materials such as uniform, text books, lockers e.t.c.	110	55	68	34	14	7	8	4
3	Issuance of replacement enrolment documents to facilitate school enrolment for displaced persons.	147	73.5	38	19	7	3.5	8	4
4	Inclusion of conflict resolution skills, gender training and human right education in the curriculum.	125	62.5	73	36.5	1	0.5	1	0.5
5	Re-admission programme for drop-out displaced children.	127	63.5	18	9	30	15	25	12.5

Majority of sampled respondents expressed their dire need of educational facilities which will enable them to have access to basic things in life and could possibly allow them to have equal opportunity with other non displaced children. Among the pressing needs as expressed by the displaced persons were free education at all levels, issuance of replacement of enrolment documents that would facilitate their school enrolment, re- admission programme for drop-out displaced children who can not meet up, may be as a result of the death of the parents, caregivers or guardian. Also, they expressed their pressing need for the provision of educational materials such as uniform, lockers by the host communities or government. Lastly, they urge the government to include conflict resolution skills, gender training and human rights education in the curriculum. The finding is in agreement with the assertion of Michael (2005) who noted that education is particularly important at times of conflict, while all around may be in chaos, schooling can represent normalcy. Indeed, education plays an enormous constructive role in healing war-torn communities, offering uprooted children a sense of protection, stability, normality and routine (United Nation, 2005). The finding also supported by the observation of Nicola and Triplehorn (2010) who stated that education can provide a protective function for children in situations of emergencies. They said further that education providing protection for children and there is evidence that, without this safety net, children would be trafficked, falls into situations of abuse, debt bondage and may experience the worst form of child labour.

Table Three: Perceived Skill Acquisition Needs

S/N	Questionnaire Items	HN		N		SN		NN	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	Learning carpentry and furniture skill.	100	50	55	27.5	35	17.5	10	5
2	Training in farming.	25	12.5	30	15	40	20	105	52.5
3	Learning fashion designing skill.	107	53.5	65	32.5	20	10	8	4
4	Training in operating kiosk for petty trade.	100	50	30	15	35	17.5	35	17.5
5	Acquiring skill in operating restaurant.	85	42.5	60	30	35	17.5	20	10
6	Learning Mechanical skill.	75	37.5	60	30	57	28.5	8	4
7	Acquiring electrical skill.	58	29	40	20	18	9	84	42
8	Learning hair dressing skill.	26	13	20	10	71	35.5	83	41.5
9	Learning skill in repairing of G.S.M. handset.	37	18.5	53	26.5	66	33	44	22
10	Acquiring skill in buying and selling of spare parts.	80	40	11	55.5	109	54.5	0	0

It was observed from table above that many of the displaced persons need the means to sustain their livelihood. This signifies that they were ready and really wish to acquire basic skills which will enable to meet up with challenges of life and finding lasting solution to their problems.

Conclusion

It has been observed that internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have been largely neglected instead of being protected by the international community. In violence prone communities such as Kaduna, displaced children are often denied educational opportunities. Yet, education is increasingly been referred to a social corrective instrument that play significant role in militating against conflict. Many of the displaced persons interested in training in different vocations of their choice so as to enable them regain their livelihood.

Recommendations

1. Government should design special education program for the displaced persons so as to make them have equal opportunities with non-displaced persons.
2. Government should make education free for displaced school age children at all levels.
3. Government should establish vocational training schools in the displaced persons camp, as this will help to ameliorate their suffering.
4. Government should facilitate the enrolment of school age children by the issuance of replacement enrolment documents.

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