INTEGRATED SCIENCE EDUCATION AS AN EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR RESOLVING SOME SECURITY PROBLEMS IN NIGERIA

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Abstract
Integrated Science education is the basic foundation upon which scientific and technologically literate persons in the society today. Good grounding in Integrated Science enables the learners to acquire certain basic process skills and possess the right type of values and attitudes necessary for peaceful coexistence and resolution of some security problems in the society. This paper discusses the concept of human security, some security problems in Nigeria and their possible causes. Highlight in this paper is also on how Integrated Science can help to resolve some of the security problems in Nigeria. The paper recommends among others that the teaching of Integrated Science at all levels (i.e. where it is being taught) should incorporate acquisition of entrepreneurial science thinking skills so as to enable our school leavers and graduates become self-employed and self-reliant and this will help them live good and normal life in the society.

Keywords: Integrated Science, Education, Security, Security Problems, Peaceful Coexistence.

INTRODUCTION
Integrated Science in the school curriculum has assumed a key role in producing scientifically and technologically literate persons in the society. Such literacy is identified to be the major goal of science instruction. The need for students to be equipped with entrepreneurial science thinking process/skills, problem-solving skills, and the right type of values and attitudes cannot be over emphasized especially in the present time of wide spread of societal problems such as poverty, corruption and unemployment among others that can easily stimulate security problems in the society. These skills, values and attitudes can be inculcated while doing project-based activities or by using an activity-based approach in teaching/training students of Integrated Science right from the Basic level (i.e. primary and junior secondary schools) up to the tertiary level as recommended.
by the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE, 2008). It is therefore necessary for teachers teaching Integrated Science at these levels to identify some life skills/process skills, values and attitudes as well as work towards utilizing such for entrepreneurship development and peaceful coexistence in order to improve the well-being and productivity of Nigerians.

Security, which is the bedrock for any nation’s meaningful socio-economic development is every body’s business/concern. Security is very important to the existence of living things; be it humans or animals and even plants; whose absence creates instability in the society and the environment. The term security is viewed/defined differently by different individuals. For instance, Dashe and Daniel (2013) viewed security as the absence of danger or threat. It is also the safety of a state and her citizens against criminal activities such as terrorism, theft and assassination among others. The South African White Paper on Defense 1996 in Nwokwu (n.d) defined security as an all-encompassing condition in which individuals live in freedom, peace and safety, participate fully in the process of governance, enjoy the protection of fundamental rights, have access to resources and basic necessities of life, and inhabit an environment which is not detrimental to their health and well-being. Francis (2006) stated that security is about survival and conditions of human existence, about peace, development, justice, whose absence create the condition for conflict and insecurity. Terriff (1991) in George-Genyi (2013) viewed security as the condition of feeling safe from harm or danger, the defense, protection and preservation of values and the absence of threats to acquire values. Put simply, security is about survival and the conditions of human existence. The Kampala Document on Security (1992:9) in George-Genyi (2013) states that:

_The concept of security goes beyond military consideration. It embraces economic, political and social dimension of individual, family, community, local and national life. The security of a nation must be constructed in terms of the security of the individual citizen to live in peace with access to basic necessities of life while fully participating in the affairs of his/her society in freedom and enjoying all fundamental human rights._

In relation to what the Document stated, Aligwara (2009) is of the view that security of the individual citizen is the most important thing. To him, security is for the citizen and not citizen for the security. Thus, for the citizens to live in peace, the basic necessities of life such as food, good health, job opportunities, justice, freedom and all other ingredients of life must be provided. In the context of this discussion, the author viewed security to involve all precautionary measures taken to keep something/somebody safe from crime,
attack or danger. In other words, anything that provides a sense of protection against loss, attack or harm can be considered as security.

From the aforementioned about security, it can be observed that no area/nation is totally free of security problems. These problems are not unique; rather they vary from place to place in a particular country and from nation to nation in the globe. Security problems in a country may range from low level civil disorder to high level violence involving lives and property. This seriously affects human resource development which is very essential to a country’s total development. Thus, for a country to achieve its developmental goals, it has to first of all strive to achieve human security; since development is a human enterprise. It is therefore the responsibility of any nation to ensure that her people live in a peaceful and secured environment before they could be productive and competent to move the nation forward. Naidoo (2000) in Otarigho, Rachael and Oviogbodu (2013) stated that one of the primary roles of the state is to provide peace and security for its citizens both within the nation-state and to ensure their protection against threats from outside. This paper therefore aims at discussing the role of Integrated Science in resolving some security problems in Nigeria.

Concept of Human Security

Human security is all about liberating human from physical and artificial hindrance such as war, poverty or political oppression, which prevents people from choosing freely and acting freely on what they have chosen. It is therefore the concept that bonds peace and development (Sato, 2004). Enu, and Ugwu (2011) stated that human security means protecting fundamental freedoms—freedom from doubt and freedom that ensures a degree of confidence and assurance among members of the state. According to Onduke (2003) in Enu and Ugwu (2011) the preservation of human dignity is the core of human security, human rights and human development. It means using that which builds on people’s strengths and aspirations. It implies creating political, social, environmental, military and cultural systems that give the people the building block of survival, livelihood and dignity. For every responsible government, human security and peace building concerns should be of utmost priority. Peace building according to Enu and Ugwu (2011) means building a society in which positive peace is secured; peace without structural violence such as poverty and discrimination or a society which guarantees human security. It is a society in which individual human rights and social justice are respected. That is to say; it is all about how to transform a conflicting society characterized with conflict, terrorism, violence, and civil strife into a peaceful society in which human beings can live freely. In the same vein, Abad (2000) observed that human security will always be threatened if there is no inter-state, inter-regional and inter-ethnic peace and stability as the promotion of regional security must remain a legitimate preoccupation of nation-state. In relation to
peace and stability in a society, it is also worthy to note that idleness is one of the variables that act as stimuli for lack of peace and stability in our today’s society. This is because when people, especially the youths have nothing doing, there will always be social, economic and even security threats.

The aforementioned about human security is in agreement with the objective of human security as given by Enu and Ugwu (2011); which is to safeguard the vital core of all human lives from critical threats that spread everywhere, in such a way that is consistent with long term human fulfilment.

**Security Problems**

Security problems which vary from place to place are too numerous to mention. Some of these problems such as terrorism and assassination, among others cut across every country, thereby becoming international in nature. While others such as oil theft, corruption and illiteracy among others seem to be national. Although security problems are too numerous to mention, Albert (2004) listed the following as some the security problems: communal violence, political assassination, electoral violence, youth militancy in the Niger Delta, oil theft, illegal oil bunkering and sea piracy. According to Dashe and Daniel (2013) terrorism, kidnapping, assassination and murder and porosity of Nigerian borders among others are some of the security challenges in the country that are causing havoc to the lives and property of the citizens.

Other security problems identified by other researchers such as Eme (2011) and Dembo and Mustaph (2012) sited in Adewumi (2013) includes ethno-religious conflicts, ethno-regional conflicts, farmers - fulani clash, economically-based violence, armed robbery, cultism and the so called Boko Haram among others. From the aforementioned, one can confidently say that Nigeria has been witnessing all these problems and many others over the years, and as a result, many lives and property are being lost. What is currently taking place in different parts of Borno and Yobe States among others is a typical example.

**Some Causes of Security Problems Nigeria**

As there are numerous security problems, likewise the variables that cause such problems are many. Some researchers and other important personnel pointed out some variables that cause security problems. For instance, ElBaradei (2006) pointed out that poverty and lack of good governance are some of the drivers of security problems. Dembo and Mustapha (2011) in Adewumi (2013) stated that security problems are caused by three major factors among others. Namely: illiteracy, unemployment and disregard of traditional security measures. According to Otarigho, Rachael and Oviogbodu (2013) the number one enemy of security in Nigeria is corruption.
Audu (2011); an Abuja based Defense and Security analyst reported that unemployment and under-employment are threats to Nigeria’s National Security. According to him, the vast unemployed majorities of school leavers and graduates roam the streets and therefore have a higher tendency to resort to crime. This class constitutes a source of potential danger to the state. In the same vein, Sanusi (2013); the governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) was said that “the unemployment of youths in Nigeria poses a threat to its development, security and peaceful coexistence”. He called for urgent measures to tackle the problem of massive youth unemployment in the country.

To summarize the discussion on the causes of security problems in the country, poverty, lack of good governance, youth unemployment, corruption and illiteracy are among the major variables that have the potential to quickly stimulate security challenges in the country.

The Role of Integrated Science in Resolving Some Security Problems in Nigeria

Nigerian youths are confronted with problems such as poverty, unemployment, and different forms of conflicts. These problems demand that the youth be empowered with entrepreneurial science thinking process/skills and creative problem-solving skills. Entrepreneurial science thinking skill according to Buang, Halim, Subahan, Meeraq and Osman (2007) is about being innovative, creative, finding original solutions to problems, thinking differently and also encouraging people to think in an alternative manner.

Integrated Science, due to its nature of being an activity-oriented course, has the potential of equipping learners with such processes and skills through its activities. Therefore, functional Integrated Science education will serve as the bedrock for scientific knowledge and skills required for scientific entrepreneurial development that will help youths to be self-employed and self-reliant. This will also help in tackling the ugly situation of poverty and massive unemployment of the school leavers and graduates. Unesco (2002) sited in Dashe and Daniel (2013) states that education and training help the individual to develop himself/herself personally and to fight poverty through provision of skills and knowledge that will raise output and generate income. The development of science process skills such as observation, measurement, experimentation, manipulation and problem-solving skills among others as well as scientific attitudes such as honesty, objectivity, open-mindedness and willingness to cooperate and accept criticism among others through Integrated Science can best be realized when the learners are taught practically using the activity- based approach as demanded by the course curriculum and at the same time as recommended by the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE, 2008). It is hoped that proper utilization of these skills and the scientific attitudes will help in resolving some of the
security problems such as corruption, poor/weak governance and unemployment among others.

In view of the foregoing, Yoloye (2010) pointed out some objectives/purposes of practical work in science education in general; which if realized, are also crucial in resolving some of the security problems in the country. These objectives include: developing a critical attitude, developing an ability to cooperate, acquisition of skills (cognitive, affective and psychomotor), acquiring problem-solving behaviour and developing the cognitive, affective and psychomotor skills among others. These objectives are in line with the aims and objectives of Nigerian education as outlined in the National Policy on Education (Federal Ministry of Education (FME, 2004); which include:

The inculcation of national consciousness and national unity.
The inculcation of the right type of values and attitudes for the survival of the individual and the Nigerian society.
The training of the mind in the understanding of the world around.
The acquisition of appropriate skills, abilities and competencies both mental and physical as equipment for the individual to live in and contribute to the development of the society.

Conclusion

As highlighted in this paper, there is every hope that if Integrated Science is functionally and or properly taught in terms of using appropriate methods/approaches, it will go a long way to provide jobs (self-employment) for our school leavers and graduates. This will further reduce/solve some of the security problems being caused by factors such as poverty and unemployment among others. Also, Integrated Science through its activities (i.e. if properly conducted) has the potentiality of providing the skills and knowledge and developing the right type of values, attitudes and competencies; all of which are pre-requisites to resolving the security problems that have direct link with poverty, unemployment, bad governance and corruption among others.

Recommendations

1. The teaching of Integrated Science at all levels (i.e. where it is being taught) should incorporate acquisition of entrepreneurial science thinking skills so as to enable our school leavers and graduates become self-employed and self-reliant and this will help them live good and normal life in the society.
2. Government should intensify its effort towards fighting corruption by making sure that whoever is found guilty, is seriously punished regardless of his/her
status/inclination and that the fighting against corruption should be a continuous process at all levels and sectors.

3. All crucial national issues such as corruption, poverty, unemployment and armed robbery among others should be addressed through effective youth empowerment and human resource development programmes.
References


