Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the Challenges of Human Capacity Development in Nigeria

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Abstract:

    Natural disasters, insecurity mantra, heightened conflict and war have wreaked havoc and adversely affected the lives of vast majority of citizens in Nigeria. The havoc has created unimaginable spillover situations that have worsened human misery and ecological devastation. This scenario is making it almost impossible for the state government to achieve implementation of a meaningful policy management for human capacity development which is the most important aspect of all developments in any country. The study used an empirical research through "Focus Group Discussions" (FGD) to analyze the social phenomenon. Random sampling technique was applied to select participants from each state of the six geo-political zones, each from one local government area. Also, purposive sampling technique was used t select three IDPs victim from the selected campsites to participate in focus group discussions. The FGD elicited information from the victims on the social phenomenon, IDPs. Besides, the study applied account method to estimate the economic consequences of IDPs. However, the study addressed the challenges of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and its implications on the human capacity development in Nigeria, and make some recommendations.

Key words: internally displaced persons, human capacity development, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

The reports of hunger and starvation emanating from the temporary state government provided abodes of victims of violence in the Boko-Haram terrorists infested areas of North-East region in Nigeria are disgusting. Television footages with horrifying graphics from the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) slums reinforce the fact and truth of the pathetic state of affairs in the refugees' campsites. These are citizens of the country who were up-rooted from the comfort of their homes, simply because the government could not provide them adequate security in the first place.

However, violent conflicts with their ever present danger of spillovers into citizen's own daily lives are the constant companions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). This problem of IDPs no doubt has become the single largest contributing factor to national and global instability. The premise of the study rests on the thinking that when the vast majority of young citizens are being displaced from their homes, human resources development will be stunted. Also, parents as refugees in campsites will not be coordinated and organized to train their children for talent and skills development.

The study discussion is on the challenges of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), on the human capacity development and its consequences on socio-economic growth of the country. The investigation of this social phenomenon also attempt to find possible solutions to the many problems it generates, and how the phenomenon can be tackled successfully.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS

The cases of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are rampant in Nigeria. There is an increase on the intensity of insecurity and violent conflicts that is creating helpless internal migration. Nigeria as a country is facing militant crisis in the South-South zone, religious cum tribal violent conflict in the North-Central zone, Boko-Haram insurgency in North-East and gradually spreading all over the Northern regions in the country. Besides, Fulani herdsmen attacks in the South-East zone, while in the South-West zone, there are tribal violent conflict going on. There is a political tension virtually in the entire country.

The thought of being an Internally Displaced Persons is very frightening, the experience is traumatic to the victims and their relatives. This social phenomenon is adversely effecting on the psyche of the victims and this scenario is creating a serious problem on the human capacity development. With huge population in Nigeria, the problem of internally displaced persons has become an international political issue on the refuge management. There is a spillover to the whole of West African regions via other parts of Africa to Europe and other parts of the world.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The major aims of the study are:
    i.   To examine the social phenomenon of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the challenges it poses to Human Capacity Development in Nigeria.
    ii.   To ascertain the effects of Internally Displaced Persons on the socio-economic development of the country.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The term "Internally Displaced Persons" (IDPs), is not amendable to a precise definition. It is a compound terminology with a composite meaning which depends on the notions of "Internally" and "Displaced Persons". From the perspective of internally, it refers to involving or concerning only the people who are part of and full citizens of Nigeria (Nwigwe, 2016). Internally is connected with the country's own affairs rather than those outside the country.

On "Displaced Persons", they are persons or people being forced to move away from their homes to another place. This act of displacement of civilian population by force from their home eventually turned them to be refugees. The term designated a particular situation caused by violent conflict (terrorist attacks or war) and natural disaster like flood, draught, among others. However, the intensity of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria should not be seen as a surprise. This social phenomenon could be traced back to the marginalization and political motivated crises in the Nigerian socio-economic political system. The wave of internally displaced persons in Nigeria took a new dimension as a result of serious agitation over the control of resources, increase on terrorist attacks and activities of the various ethnic militias as to extract resources and attention from the state. For instance, the Niger Delta Militants and their activities, the Boko-Haram terrorist attacks and other ethnic or tribal violent conflicts to achieve supremacy in the affected regions.

Furthermore, on the challenges of internally displaced persons (IDPs), the word "Challenges" according to Webster's Encyclopedia is a call or summons to engage in a contest, as of skills, strength, etc. It went further to say that, it is something by its nature or character serves as a call to battle, fight, and contest. In relations to IPDs, challenge has become a battle for the future and survival which is seen as part of life and must be

handled. The displacements of people from their homes have become a challenge that affects the human capacity development.

In this study, human capacity development is seen as the gradual training (formal or informal) to produce personnel with the necessary knowledge or skills for future requirements to manage the country's economic work force (Psacharopoulos and Woodhall, 1995). Skilled manpower is one of the most crucial inputs of a modern economy and shortage of manpower constitutes a serious bottleneck that will frustrate development plans. As a developing country, Nigeria needs a long-term forecast of manpower requirements that will boost the economic development.

The basic objective of human capacity development according to Human Development Report (2006, p.26) "Is to create an enabling environment in which people can enjoy long, healthy and creative lives". The report went further to explain that, people are the real wealth of nations. Having a continuous situation of IDPs, the human development cannot be achieved.

In the same perception, the United Nations Human Development Index (UNHDI) (2006), provides a composite measure of three dimensions of human capacity development-living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and enrolment at primary, secondary and tertiary level) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power party, ppp, income). The index also includes respect for human rights, democracy and equality. The index when put together creates better health, equity and empowerment.

The context of the relationship between internally displaced persons and human capacity development lies on conditions. There is much less agreement on the attributes of these imperatives. It is acknowledged that human capacity development is mainly to be achieved through a peaceful environment, coordinated and well organized livelihood. To this

realization, all knowledge and learning process are situation bound (Chaturved, 2006). There must be dynamic synthesis to achieve meaningful human capacity development.

The truth is that, the situation the internally displaced persons found themselves will not achieve the United Nations Human Development Index on the victims' human capacity development, because the situation creates fear, misery, frustrations, and insecurity. The victims live in fear of reprisal attacks. The weakness and unreliable state security infrastructure has not helped in curbing the reprisal attacks in the campsites. Besides, the condition restrict the movement of the people displaced because the lives of the victims have dramatically changed and their hopes shattered on their plans or strategy in building the human capacity development.

The phenomenon of IDPs absolutely destroys the means of income of the victims for their socio-economic survival and has created a serious psychological trauma on them. As a result, there is deflective negative role on the social and educative activities especially of the young refugees. It adversely affects the psyche of any child since the refugee slum environment the child finds himself is harsh, over-crowding, full of poor living conditions, unsafe and marked with poverty.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Anomie Theory

The word "Anomie" is linked to the adjective, "anomos", meaning "without law", (Scott and Marshall, 2005). From Emile Durkheim concept, anomie results in a psychological state of disorder and meaninglessness. A social context in which, the social order have broken down for an individual or group, a situation in which social structural constraints of behavior becomes imperative. According to Basirico, Cashion and Eshleman (2005, p.507), opined that "anomie creates social unrest. The stage in the development of social unrest that is

characterized by unfocused restlessness and increasing disorder".

During this period of unrest, the society becomes inoperative as a result of social crises such as violent conflicts (war), famine, flood, draught amongst others, and rapid social change occurs.

Anomie theory can provide an analytical frame work in explaining the issue of IDPs and human capacity development in Nigeria. An anomie society is not able to control human aspirations, ambition and demands. In such situation, the displaced persons are much closely locked into their slums or campsites, so their basic needs or desires have become limitless and confused. They could find themselves in a psychological state of disorder and unable to think for articulated human capacity developmental process.

As refugees, they are handicapped economical which makes it almost impossible to acquire education (formal or informal) and develop their human potentials for self-actualization in the larger society. Also, they could experience psychological depression, poor accommodation, disease infested environment, poor medical attention, which when put together the situation becomes suicidal.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study primarily focuses on the challenges of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as it affects the human capacity development in Nigeria. The target study group is the displaced persons, which are victims of displacement as a result of violent conflicts, natural disaster and political induced crisis.

The research method adopted in this study is the complementary qualitative primary data through the Focus Group Discussion (FGD). The method applied was based on the need to solicit information on the psychological feelings of the displaced persons, their social cognition on their conditions and

its likely effects on their human capacity development. Random sampling technique was used to select one state from each of the six geo-political zones, from which one local refugee campsite was selected and participated.

Purposive sampling technique was applied to select three displaced persons from the selected campsites that participated in the focus group discussion. The FGD elicited information on their individual perception on the causes of IDPs and the likely effects on the victims, their families, and the entire national development.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The study shows that most common causes of Internally Displaced Persons observed by participants in the Focus Group Discussion were as a result of insecurity. Besides, there are tribal and religious violent conflicts, political induced crisis and natural disaster. As observed by Adegoke (2013), the need to escape from social upheavals, violence and political instability is also a common reason for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria. Insecurity and disruption of civil order emanating from Boko-Haram insurgency, for example, have caused the relocation or migration of persons to non-violent places in some parts of Northern Nigeria. As observed, a FGD participant from Adamawa state said:

> Of recent, one of the reasons for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria particularly from the Northern part of the country into the Southern part is related to the security challenges in the Northern-Eastern part of Nigeria. This has made people to leave their homes, farms, businesses, amongst others in search of safe places.

Even though the country's constitution guarantee for every Nigerian, freedom to reside and call anywhere in the federation a home, this is just verbal, the country is still far from achieving this noble desire. Evidence or rather report from

Focus Group Discussions (FGD) show that migrants cannot fully participate the native social and cultural activities where they relocated to, because they are still seen or regard as non-natives. Migrants' safety are not guaranteed.

The displaced persons as migrants are bound or likely to suffer a reprisal attack. They cannot freely participate on any economic activities, rather they cluster in groups and form a huge refugee community that can be easily converted to be seen as Internally Displaced Persons and stay in the campsite for safety.

According to one participant, Mallam Maimaram Nuhu spoke in Hausa vernacular language but was translated to English language:

> I feel like a stateless person because we (IDPs) are seen by the natives as a foreign plague. We are helpless to be involved in economic activities that could have being a help to sustain ourselves. Our movements are being restricted within the campsites, which makes it almost impossible to improve the unfortunate situation we found ourselves. In fact the situation is heavily painful.
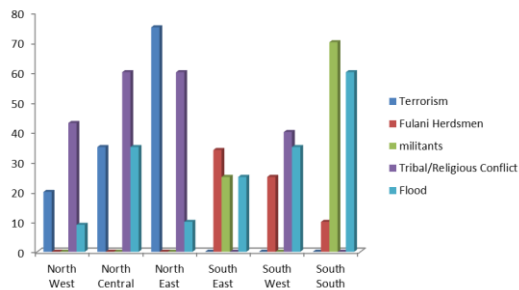>
> (A FGD participant from Yobe State, North-East zone)

SPREAD OF VIOLENT CONFLICT IN NIGERIA

According to research findings, there is rampant spread of violent conflict in the six geo-political zones of the country. However, the diagram below illustrates the spread of violent conflicts besides flood in Nigeria, that are, the main cause of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

(Source: Field Survey Report Nigerian Map – 2016)

For a clearer picture and better understanding, the diagram is translated into a chart record.

(Source: Field Survey Report – 2016)

The above chart shows the regions or zones that are more prone to violet conflicts and to natural disaster like flood in Nigeria. According to the chart there is high incidence of violent conflict and flood disaster in the six geo-political zones in Nigeria. To their dependency on low agricultural productivity, poor social and economic infrastructure which creates unemployment, internally displaced persons, migration and creates impossible situation for human capacity development and this scenario attributes to national underdevelopment.

CONSEQUENCES OF IDPs ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Accounting the economic costs of IDPs on national development is an attempt to calculate the price to the human race. In estimating the economic costs, it is separated into;

    i.   Direct and

    ii.   Indirect costs.

Direct costs are those that can be observed and counted at least in principle. As all data on IDPs in a country usually are difficult to collect and more or less unreliable, if found this might be cumbersome in practice.

The indirect costs are much more controversial since they can not be directly seen but are estimated. This estimation can always to question and build on some assumptions that are debatable. Most of them undoubtedly exist for countries experiencing the phenomenon IDPs, but how large they are is open to discussion. The table below lists the direct and indirect costs of IDPS in Nigeria.

Accounting method for estimating Direct and Indirect Economic Consequences of IDPs in Nigeria, thus;

Table 2

	Economic level	Direct Cost	Indirect Cost
A	External Relation	-Relying on donor countries for aids. -Foreign debt -Foreign debt boomerang. -Spread of Refugees to other countries.	- Less investment. -Discouragement of foreign investments. -Less development aid. -Emigration of skilled workforce.
B	National Economy Level	-Physical destruction of production capacity infrastructure, factories, machinery. -Injuries, illness and death on workforce. -Low agricultural production capacity. -More spending on humanitarian	-Non-production because of threat situation. -Less investment. -Less development of human resources. -Marred education opportunities for IDPs victim and families. -State of anomie/failed state. -Inflation.

		aids. -Refugees care -Human degradation	Economic underdevelopment. - Social vices.
C	Household level	-Injuries, illness and death. -Psychological imbalance. -Poor social cognition. -Home displacement due to destruction. -Malnutrition/kwashiorkor. -Poor health.	-Food scarcity - Inflation. - Forced migration. - Emigration. - Exploitation. - Alienation. - Fear and anxiety.

IMPLICATIONS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs) ON HUMAN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Observed, the major implication of IDPs on human capacity development is that, the economic situation and the environment the displaced persons are, cannot allow and encourage them to have articulate strategy to involve in education process (formal or informal) for acquisition of knowledge, skills and economic empowerment.

We should have in mind that, it is only a knowledgeable human resources or manpower strategy development that can handle intricate social control mechanisms. On this, Mezieobi (2012) opines that basically a new form of economic production and socio-cultural change which relies on new knowledge generation and intricate social control mechanisms. This perception is also shared with Iheriohanma (2011), when he admonishes that knowledge and skills acquisition is necessary because global economy demands a concerted contribution of all economics or else those that recline on consumerism stand the risk of economic doom.

On this note, Opara and Uzoma (2013) assert that undeniably human capacity or manpower development constitute the ultimate basis for national development. Human beings are the most active agents who accumulate, exploit natural resources, and build socio-economic and political organizations that carry forward social development. However

discussed, human capacity or manpower development are a nations most critical and valuable resources.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, Nigeria is convulsed by internal problems and has not been able to deliver expected positive political goods to her citizens. As such, the phenomenon of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) is a widespread problem and abuse of human rights. Normally, citizens expect their state government to provide them with political stability and socio-economic security, non-fulfillment of these breeds discontent and social unrest. The security challenges which we are facing in Nigeria today, including high level of insecurity, political crisis, ethno religious conflicts, poor level of human security are all reflections of the failure of the state social welfare and care.

The poor level of human security in Nigeria can-not achieve a meaningful human capacity development. This poor level of human security manifest a "failed state" in Nigeria. According to Alli (2016,p.36), a failed state could be defined "as a state which has not been able to perform its core responsibility or perform them effectively". A failed state under develops the nation's human potentials, as such, displaced persons and their conditions cannot achieve a meaningful human capacity development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The national problem of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) has associated social vices which can be reduced through, reconstituting a developmental state. To reduce the phenomenon of IDPs that degenerated to human degradation cum under development, Nigeria as a country must bring back a "developmental state". To this view, Alli (2016,p.40) defined a developmental state as;

> A state with two components, one ideological, one structural. In terms of ideological, such a state is essentially one whose ideological underpinning is "develop mentalist" in that it conceives its "mission" as that of ensuring economic development usually interpreted to mean high rates of accumulation and industrialization, clear ideological underpinnings in a developmental frame work and in which administrative and political resources are devoted to the task of socio economic engineering and development.

There is an urgent need for a return to the developmental state paradigm in which the state takes the commanding heights of the economy, producing, promoting and protecting public goods for the benefit of all adopting policies that will guarantee the welfare of the most vulnerable in society.

Another remark is on security. Nigeria as a country can not take security for granted. Security in its entire ramification is fundamental to, and coextensive with, development, wealth creation and wealth of a nation. Once security needs are solved, they clam the frayed nerves of economic development and the various strains that pull a nation together or tear apart. To this perspective, policy Brief (2014) identifies that:

> Cultural and economic security provides a unique framework to explain the explosion of poverty, diseases, intractable ethnic militancy, religious tension and terrorism, all tapping into the deep veins of insecurity and human desperation in Nigeria, and Africa at large.

In a situation of the matter of urgency and immediately apply a rehabilitating programmes for these citizens. Such programmes as providing shelter, water, food, medical services, light and importantly education should be considered as fundamental rights to these citizens that unfortunately turned to refugees.

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