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## **THE IMPACT OF SOCIO-CULTURAL VALUES ON NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Socio-cultural values like institutional frame work, has been largely ignored as if it, too had no serious implication for the success of national security strategies. It is easy enough to discount the socio-cultural values in the national security strategies. But that has been a costly error. The paper recommends that government should as a matter of fact and urgency have a refine national values and incorporate in into our national security strategies in order to have stability which is a requisite for national security and development.

### **INTRODUCTION**

There is no doubt that socio-cultural values are potent instrument for the development of national security strategies The bone of contention is whether there are other instruments necessary other than socio-cultural values. Socio-cultural values is through socialization that members of a given social system imbibe the norms, believe and values of the system. Socio-cultural values state from home since it is first point of meeting of the child and backbone of his socialization, and it have every high significant on the national security because it serve as starting point in the personality of an individual. It harbour the attitude, value, motive and intention of the person toward his environment

### **CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS**

The word **culture** is frequently used to refer to a person as someone who is cultivated, enlightened and civilized, as when somebody is ad to cultured” This means that such a person is being viewed as someone who comforts himself in a way of life that is acceptable within a civilized setting. (Imo, 1990). However, for most sociologists the term culture refers to the ideational aspect or social structure which are the main subject matter in which those in this discipline are interested. It was from this perspective that radcliffe Brown defined culture essentially as set of rules that embody the basic ideals that give a society its identity and bind it into a unit. Wlliam (1985) argued that the term culture can be describe as a particular way of life which expresses certain meaning and values not only in art and, learning but also in institutions and ordinary behavior. Tylor (ascited in Thio, 1986) defined culture as a complex whole includes knowledge, beliefs, art, moral law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by human being as member of society. Culture therefore refers to the totality ways of life of people in a given society at a particular given time.

## **values**

Stark (as cited in Onyema, 2000) defined value as ultimate aims and most general standards for assessing good and bad or desirable and undesirable behavior. Social value is an idea (i.e. abstracting) which a society deems important for her survival.

Among such cherished ideals in the modern society are freedom of expression, equality, democracy and progress. The social values of society, therefore, constitute the yardstick by which the people assess the desirability of events concerning them as leadership, education, religion, or economic enterprise. Social values are involved endogenously or exogenously in response to certain needs of the people (McGee, 1980). Nkpe (2004:22) defines values as the highest ethical parameters, standards and criteria through which individuals, groups and societies order their goals and determine their choice and judge their social life. Value, therefore, is widely held belief or sentiment that something is important to the community well being.

## **Security**

is the degree of resistance to or protection from, harm. It applies to any vulnerable and valuable asset such as a person, dwelling, community, nation, or organization. (Wikipedia) National security is the requirement to maintain the survival of the state through the use of economic power, diplomacy, power projection and political power. Accordingly, in order to possess national security, a nation needs to possess economic security, energy security, environmental (Brown 1981) National security is the ability to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory, to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms to control its borders. Mailer (1990)

## **National security**

is best described as a capacity to control those domestic and foreign conditions that the public opinion of a given community believes necessary to enjoy its own self-determination or autonomy, prosperity and well-being. Paleri (2008) defines national security as a measurable state of the capacity of a nation to overcome the multi-dimensional threats to the apparent well-being of its people and its survival as a nation-state at any given time, by balancing all instruments of state policy through governance, that can be indexed by computation, empirically or otherwise, and is extendable to global security by variables external to it. National security therefore is the struggle of state to overcome various external and internal threats. Mckeown (2001) argues that strategy is about shaping the future and is the human attempt to get to desirable ends with available means.

## **Development**

Development is defined in various ways by different users. However, the concept is generally embedded in the ideal of progress in society. Conventionally, attention is focused on indices of economic changes which are measured in terms of gross national product (GNP) per capita income or gross domestic product (GDP). The tendency is for rising indices in the variables taken as evidence of development. However, such variables are more indicators not only analytically and empirically, but indeed we can have a situation of 'growth without

development'. Growth is qualitative process, involving principally the extension of an already established structure of production. Whereas development suggests qualitative changes, the creation of new economic and non economic structures (Davis 1967: 153). Development relates to a set of values judgment which underlines its conception (Rodney 1972, Berstein 1973, Dove 1977). The conception therefore of development denotes ".....the movement of society from state 'A' to 'B' is judged to be better than state A by some criterion of value which speaker accepts" (Dove 1977:14). Development therefore is the structural transformation of economy, society, polity and culture of the satellite that permits self-generating and self perpetuating use and development of peoples potential.

### **THEORETICAL FRAME WORK**

The structural and functional paradigm shows culture as a complex strategy for meeting human needs (Macionis 2001). Structural functionalism is adopted as an anchored of the paper, as it provide explanatory model of the national security challenges in Nigeria. Functionalism posit that society is a complex system whose various parts work together to produce stability and solidarity. Person (1967) argue that the essential functions of the society are called functional prerequisite which are performed by the major social institution and political institution. To social structure theory, cultural value is a part and if it does not function properly it will lead to dysfunction of the whole (Haralembos,1980). Moreover, for society to maintain its equilibrium and orderliness every parts must play its role, which will bring about national security for the Nation (Nigeria).

### **IMPACT OF CULTURAL VALUES ON NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGIES**

Nigeria as an integral of Africa Nations is made up of different social groups with different socio-cultural values. in effort to achieve meaningful development, the different cultural values must be properly harmonized to have a national goal and adapted as strategy of attaining national Security. The cultural values which are embodied in our national goal to certain extent determine our behavior. (whether negatively or positively in any development process depending on our values. Our core values include justice and fair play, discipline and accountability, integrity and honesty, patriotism, dedication, loyalty and trust, humility, decency, sanitation and as well as abstinence (self demail). Such as justice and fair play can guarantee a harmonious and peaceful society which is a pre-requisite for development. patriotism, which is the act of being loyal to one father land. It is an act of commitment to realization of the social goal. Patriots adhere to their civil responsibility and protect the chalant attitude towards civil responsibility and protect the integrity of a nation. Where as a nation without patriotic values makes citizens to have non chalant attitude towards civil responsibility and protection of national integrity. Most people act on randomly because they are not self disciplined, self discipline leads to development in any society. Some of the attribute of self discipline include obedience, honesty, respect for elders and seniors, loyal to constituted authorities

However, conolonialism which is the practice of creating settlements in lands geographically distant from the parent or total domination of one nation by another historically, Nigeria

colonialism which took place, as dated back to 1861 by the British officials has negative impact to the Nigerian culture, economy and leadership. One obvious casualty of colonialism on the indigenous culture of the country is the introduction of the western value system into the indigenous culture which also contributed in some way in making certain cultural practices in these places irrelevant or out moded. In the early stage of industrial revolution, the socio-cultural system in Europe became modernized and extended to other cultures through colonialism and technology transfer rather than derive forward. The progressive legacies in national cultures, African leaders promoted western socio-economic networks until multi-national and translational corporations emerged as dominant economic super structures in Africa where survival of many people still lies in indigenous traditional practices. In contrast, colonialism interrupted the process of evolution of Africa by its interventionist and exploitative logic. The colonial state in the process of destroying pre-colonial structures and integrating African into the capitalist mode of production undermined the sub-structure of African traditional intellectualism and its link with the larger society in the promotion of missionary and western education in the new fountain of wisdom(Onyema,2000). The western educated elite inherited the political apparatus as the political independence open space for the indigenization of the colonial state. Unfortunately, the state remained oppressive and the imposition of western model of stability was legitimized in African. In Nigeria, most of the intellectuals that articulate colonial value became politicians and civil servants without much zeal to promote indigenous cultures. As such, instability has been the bane of Nigeria social structure.

However, denigration of traditional socio-cultural system is a major cause of instability resulting to insecurity in our societies especially in Nigeria and other African countries where western culture has taken a centre stage in virtually all facets of the social structure resulting to the neglect of communal life style and social welfare through which the basic needs of the people were hitherto guaranteed. The new values brought about by colonialism has undermine the old bases of association and of authority before new skills, motivations and resources can be brought into existence to create new values (Ekeh1983). According to the words of Olutayo etal(2002), Nigerians contact with western world brought a lot of changes in her cultural values and set back in her development. This point was expatiated by Rodney(1972), when he mentioned that European masters invaded Africa, took away her able body young men and women and children. This create a vacuum between the old men and with the children. As a consequence, there was difficulty of proper socialization and enculturation. The Europeans later occupied the vacuum they create there by using that as an advantage to transfer their orientation to the young Nigerian (Africans), who were eager to learn.

## **CONCLUSION**

From the forgoing, cultural values is a vital tool for development strategy. Therefore, government should as a matter of fact and necessity have a refine national values and in corporate them into our national security development strategy in order to have stability which is a pre-requisite for our national development.

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