

# Enhancing the Affective Traits of Learning in Abia State School to Minimix Securiry Challenges

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**Abstract:** *No nation can survive without adequate affection for one another. Nigeria as a country is presently engulfed in a mire of security challenges. In every part of this state (Abia State) there is one form of insecurity to the other. Some underlying factors responsible for the present situation are discussed. The paper outlined the consequences of the challenges bedeviling the state. The state and its citizens appear to be seated on a time bomb. There is anxiety, fear, and total confusion among the people. People lives as refugees in their own state. The state security operatives are finding it difficult to cope with level of destruction both human and material that Abians are faced with. Some of the challenges confronting the state are addressed in this paper. The school has a cardinal role to play by encouraging the learner to develop their affective domain. People that respect others feelings, consider others, develop tolerance, practice social justice and cooperates will fair far better. The traits of affective could be developed by the school just as the cognitive and psychomotor domains. Abia leaders must go beyond condemning when people are killed or maimed. Children must be taught right from the Nursery schools about the importance of cooperation and the need to live in peace with all citizens. Abians need to appreciate the essence of dialogue as a means of resolving crisis rather than adopting violence as a means of conflict resolutions. A change in mindset is among other recommendations made on how to minimize the State security challenges through enhancing affection among Abians.*

**Key Words:** *insecurity, Affective Traits*

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## Introduction

A nation where there is mutual distrust is bound to experience insecurity. In Abia there are mutual distrust and suspicion among members of the society. Insecurity appears to be one of the greatest challenges facing the Abians today and it is certainly sure that life is of less importance when compared to domestic animals that are used for commercial purpose (Kiyel, 2020). Different authorities have defined insecurity, according to their perceptions. Ajaegbe, Uganme and Nuhu (2016) submit that insecurity is a state of being subjected to danger or injury, doubts, feeling of being unsafe insecurity created uneasiness, it's an indication that one is being exposed to liable to risk or danger. The world Health Organization WHO (2013) emphasizes that insecurity occurs as a result of violence acts that are intentionally used, where in physical force or power, threatened or actual is perpetuated against oneself, another person or against a group or community leading to a high likelihood of injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation. Circumstances of insecurity naturally caused life-threatening situations.

There are two ways in which humans experience insecurity. One is through natural deserters such as floods, climate changes, or erosion. The second source through which man becomes prone to insecurity is man-made. These among others include violent conflicts, poverty, wars, human rights violations, armed robbery attacks, sexual abuses, religious fanaticism rape, communal clashes, ritual killings nefarious cultic

activities, chronic unemployment, etc. Elaborating further King and Murray (2001) opined that some major sources of insecurity include transnational crimes, poverty, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and the use of illicit drugs. Coupled with the above are the level of corruption and corrupt ravaging the state. The state although naturally endowed with human and material resource is mainly infested with corruption and lack of will power to build strong institutions. As a result of the circumstances stated above no section of the state can deny that it is unsafe. Even Nigeria as a country is engulfed in one way or the other with security challenges. In Nigeria for instance in the North-East is the Boko-Harm. terrorist, in the North west are the armed Bandits, at the middle Belt communities families innocent children are killed. The south-west and south-East had become the den for kidnapping and cases of ritual murders. Drugs, stealing alcoholism electoral mal-practices and corruption as well as bitterness had completely disorganized the fabrics of the people of Abia. Fear, anxiety, and confusion without doubt had permeated the psych of the citizen.

In the mist of these psycho-social realities there is need to address these embarrassing insecurity challenges through the cultivation of affective. The affection domain is the educational process when properly enhanced could stand as the gap to solving human insecurity in the state and Nation at large. According to Miller (2005) the affective domain of learning is concerned with how learners feel while they are learning as well as with how learning experiences are internalized so they can guide the learner's attitudes.

According to Olugbenga and Ayooluusa (2017) the ineffectiveness of the police and other security agencies has left hundreds dead, destroyed human habitations, and their means of livelihood. Insecurity had also caused internal displacement abduction rape, physical abuse, human trafficking and forced marriages on the female gender. Lack of security and continuous destruction of life had posed major challenges to the protection of the most vulnerable segments of the rights of the female gender as well as children. To make matters worse, the state is gradually collapsing socially and morally. Things are indeed falling apart as maintained by Achebe (1958).

In all parts of the globe, security has been considered as a first order value worth preserving, security is seen as a situation where a person or things is not exposed to any form of danger or rise of physical or moral aggression, accident, theft or deterioration. The concept of security is associated with the safety and survival of the state and its citizens from harm or destruction, of dangerous threats.

State security is the requirement to maintain the survival of the state through the use of economic, diplomatic power projection and political power. State security is all embracing economic security, energy security, and environmental security and so on. A state security threats involve not only conventional foes such as other states but also non state actors which in the context of this study.

State security means the ability of a state to protect its internal values from external threats. It is also conceptualized as a state when nation has security where in it does not sacrifice its legitimate interest to avoid war and is able if challenged to maintain them by war.

## **Insecurity in Abia State**

Abia is one of the states among states in the southeast geographical zone of Nigeria that are being ravaged by the unknown gunmen with attacks on security formations and federal assets. There is no doubt that the heinous attacks by the unknown gunmen in Abia state had so far claimed many lives. It has recorded cases of attacks ranging from burning down of the police criminal investigation department (CID) office situated at umuagu umuahia, uzuakoli divisional police station, Nigerian immigration service office, ubakala and ubakala police station in Umuahia-south local government area of the state. Following the spate of attacks by the unknown gunmen, residents of Abia state were thrown into fear, with many deserting and scampering from being hit by stray bullets as a result of the Nigeria security agencies and the dreaded gunmen Chijindu (2021).

Many areas in Abia state is engulfed with security challenges. For instance Insecurity in communities around umunneochi local Government area of Abia state have lamented that kidnapping in the area by suspected herdsmen has become a daily routine despite the efforts by the state government to curb the menace (Stave,2022). He emphasized that despite the continued presence of soldiers at lamara military checkpoint, kidnapping for ransom and criminal activities of herdsmen had gone on unchallenged. The resultant effect is that the activities of these kidnapers has succeeded in crippling the economy of umunneochi as traders have deserted their markets while their people living abroad also avoid coming home.

### **Consequences of Insecurity**

The insecurity of any kind has its negative consequences on the perpetrators, victims and the entire state at large for example Ngwoke and Obikwelu (2016) pointed out that a violent child can develop into an adult criminal assassin and kidnapper or even become a militant who terrorizes the entire state. The entire populace of Abia today grapples in fear, the wealthy sleep with eyes wide open. There is an absolute lack of trust; one can see the anxiety in the faces of most citizens. News of manifest antisocial behaviour such as rape, terrorism, extortion and kidnapping as well as an open display of lawlessness by street boys like the Aros and Ayaa that operates in Aba and other parts of the state in Abia state.

The adverse effects of insecurity impede on all children are prone to become vulnerable-once their parents or relations are directly involved. The future progress of the child certainly might become blur due to incessant violence. According to the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF, 2007). An environment devoid of peace will inevitably result in children being absent from school; this in turn, leads to a higher degree of school dropouts; poor academic achievement rate and no doubt a threat to safety and security. Ngwoke and Obikwelu submitted that under such confusing circumstances the teaching and learning process could be disrupted due largely because of fear, intimidation, absences or class disruptions. In all of these both the victims, the aggressor and the bystanders suffer hardship and mental torture.

Insecurity can lead to failure in examinations and then withdrawal from school. The child is disorganized and might graduate into becoming a delinquent by venting their deep seated anger back on the community by engaging in destructive acts and criminality. It is worth noting that areas affected by conflicts are problems because once the atmosphere is tense, people advise their children not to go to school. Girls are more scared because they are easily trapped in the violence.

There could also be cases of rape which may not even be reported due to cultural factors such as stigmatization. This has a negative effect because education positively transforms one's social life. Onah et al (2017) aver that the educational achievements of woman can have ripple effects within the family and across generations. Education is a poverty reduction strategy which can be used to create awareness for woman on material infant mortality issues, HIV/AIDs, issues relating to peace and governance within their societies as well as environmentally sustainable practices.

Denga and Dengi cited by Ugboha et al (2016) inferred that aggressive acts are counterproductive and a limiting factor to the learning potentials of a willing student who experiences insecurity. Their submission is that insecurity can induce traumatic conditions that call for trauma counseling's to help victims.

### **Promoting the Affective Traits of Learning to Minimize Insecurity in Abia State**

In Bloom's Taxonomy, the domain constitutes the processes of learning. These are the cognitive, the affective and the psychomotor. In the words of Agih (2016), the affective domain is the most neglected aspect in terms of teaching and learning. The affective domain has to do with feelings, attitudes, emotions and human reactions to the circumstances around them. According to Rimland (2013) the affective domain is the disposition that enables man to value and construct ideals regarding truthfulness, honesty and integrity which shapes the daily conducts of life. It encompasses human emotion which invariably leads to the development

of man's self-esteem. Developing human emotions positively by training children to abhor excessive anxiety, angers and cultivating hospitable conducts even in the face of provocation would be the prime step towards addressing the issue of insecurity in society.

The affective domain is the balance that stabilizes human conduct Rimland (2013) describes it as the "valuing" domain. It is the human attitude that exemplifies his attitude and character. Values are exhibited in their beliefs values promotes human survival skills such as promoting the ability to care, being fair to the next person, honest being faithful, enthusiastic, as well as being responsive. These characteristics are the strong pillars upon which social justice is built (Agih, 2019)

Encouraging the affective traits among the youth certainly will enable them to acquire skills for perseverance, cooperation, tolerance, punctuality and humility. These essential traits once kept would be able to check corrupt practices in our society. Surprisingly, even if these variables are part of the school system, they are not previously taught nor assessed. To what extent do teachers and the curriculum make an effort at promoting the affective characteristics of the learners? Popham (2009) had asserted that only a few classroom teachers try even assessing the affective status of their students. Again, Pierre and Oughton (2007) as cited in Agih (2016) submitted that the affective domain is the pathway to learning. Its importance notwithstanding, over the years, the cognitive and the psychomotor domains had always gained more prominence.

### **Affective Traits Development and Human Security**

Human life had become of little importance in Abia. Hooligans, cult boys, kidnappers and people who ordinarily should be kept under check had become the warlords and silently dominating the socio-political spheres of Abia. Crime rate on the increase because truth, fairness and affection had been replaced by vindictiveness and viciousness. The Abians elite who should have promoted civility and diligence in itself appear to be corrupt. Adebayo (2018) asserted that despite the natural endowment Abia State is described as the poverty capital of the nation today. A people that care, love and cooperates with its members would not embezzle its hard-earned resources over the years, billions of multimillion dollars, oil money had been siphoned to foreign nations.

The importance roles the affective domain can play are clearly encompassed in the statement that when wealth is lost nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost, but when a character is lost all is lost. Leadership in Abia state which had brought the state to the present lingering security challenges can hardly be disintegrated from character failure. The affective traits once properly developed can spur a man to success and greatness in life since it helps to promote passion, gratitude, motivation, interest and contentment. These ingredients are what our curriculum planners must encouraged the learners to learn right from the pre-nursery school if peace must return to Abia state.

Recall that the (UNESCO, 2007) declared that since wars conceived in the minds of men, peace must also come from within the minds of human too. The schools must therefore, encourage dialogue and open communication, inspire a student to promote social justice and fair play. Positive feelings and capacities can fostered through classroom learning once teachers help their students to see themselves as a community by recognizing inclusiveness, participation and cooperation as the hallmark of unity. Security education will enable students to generate positive feelings and capacities such as tolerance, comprehension, respect and love to fall conflicts peacefully. By so doing the learning process will be more holistic active dimensions of the learner (Sofia, 2013). This way the challenges of insecurity will gradually be surmounted. Our intelligence operatives must also create new innovative methods and techniques towards addressing the state security. It is not enough to only condemn acts of violence after they had happened. The intelligence agencies must be empowered and equipped to represent their calling.

## Conclusion

This paper attempted to examine the present security challenges bedeviling the entire state. It went further to discuss the psychological trauma and pains the citizens are passing through as a result of the lack of security. The work submits that social justice and equity can be attained once Abians begin to appreciate the place of the affective domain which is the value domain and the very foundation for character development. The school must join the home to develop in the child the spirit and character of honesty, cooperation, diligence and self-esteem. This is where the affective domain stands out. With a conscious effort to be patient, tolerant and accommodating Abians will overcome its security challenges.

## Recommendation

Peace building is a collective responsibility and therefore must not be seen only as of the sole responsibility of the government. Every citizen of Abia must play an active role by helping to cooperate with the security agents to report incidents that lead to be breakdown of law and order timely.

The state government should tackle the myriads of problems including insecurity facing the state by making universal education available to the youth as well as address the problem of poverty.

Right from the Nursery schools, security education must be taught as part of the school curriculum to help the pupils/students be security conscious.

Emphasis should be placed on the importance of developing the affective traits of students to enable them to appreciate the essence of positive character molding.

The value that will promote unity such as hard work, honesty, trust, appreciation and tolerance must be encouraged and possibly rewarded for people to cultivate such habits.

Above all, dialogue remains the best way to address the concerns of all citizens. Abians must be ready to deliberate openly and be ready for true reconciliation as it obtained in South Africa after the collapse of the apartheid regime.

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