

**THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN NATION BUILDING PROBLEMS AND  
PROSPECT: THE CASE OF CORE- NORTH WEST REGION IN  
NIGERIA**

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## **Abstract**

*This paper focused its attention on the role of youth in nation building in Northern region of Nigeria. The study uses survey data from the core North West region in Nigeria to determine the features influencing the role of youth in nation building. The core Northwest regions are Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara state. The basic hypothesized in the study was address using data from survey instrument administered to 100 youth from each of the state designated. The study concludes that there is need to examine the role of youth in nation building in Nigeria democratic context. The result print to a merit in allocating core, durable authorities in setting priorities and approaches to the roles played in the development of the country. Youth are the power house of any nation and how tomorrow will be like ca easily be seen in the kind of youth a nation has. Nigeria is at a historical cross road and there is the cry for divine intervention, international dimension for every corner.*

## **Introduction**

Nation building should be the concern of young men and women who can really stand their ground to affect positive changes in Nigeria. The age where he or she may leave compulsory education, and the age at which he or she and his or her first employment. The UN defined youth as those persons between 15 and 24 years (UN, 2012). Nation building is about leadership in our sector as well as developing leadership in our children. It's about maintaining social harmony whilst learning to be independent, it's about deciding whether we are leaders or followers of our sector future. Nation building is about accepting and confirming early childhood education is where it all starts building the nation of tomorrow. One study has defined nation building as a process of constructing or structuring a national identity using the power of the state. This process aims at the unification of the people within the state so that it remains politically stable and viable in the long run. Nation building can involve the use of propaganda or major infrastructural development to foster social harmony and economic growth. (Adejumo, 2010).

## **Scope of the Study**

This paper will be limited to role played by youth in nation building using information from selected urban rural areas in Nigeria, specifically the study uses survey data from the core Northwest region in Nigeria. The core Northwest regions are Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara state. The information deliveries considered are printed materials.

Sokoto is the state where Kebbi and Zamfara were created out from; it is the most urban followed by Kebbi state which has the second largest city in the core Northwest region. On the contrast Zamfara is one of the three richest states in the core in the Northwestern part of the country and therefore has wider land coverage. There are marked rural urban differences in Nigeria which is generally reflected in all the core Northwest region. The Nigerian National youth Policy (2001:2) indicate that education is vital to poverty reduction and National building in Nigeria educational opportunity are equally distributed but due to the nature and culture of parent in the core Northwest of not sending female child to school the literacy rate is 73% for men and 48% for women. The gender gap in literacy rate is however decreases from older to younger people aged 15 – 19, hence literacy rates of 79% for boys and 61% for women compared with older adults aged 45 – 49 with literacy rate at 60% for men and 22% for women. Rural women are even more disadvantaged than their urban counterparts. Table 1 shows a profile of the three core northwest surveyed. The table give a description of the proportion of literacy rate among the youth both men and women who have been to school among the 3 core Northwest region discussed, the Kebbi state has the all over youth who have been to school 79% and even the

highest among males and females. This followed by Sokoto and Zamfara. This gives an indication that the regions men and highly contributing in nation building than their female counterparts.

**Table 1: Regional Education and Literacy Rate**

Region	Education		Total	Literacy rate
	male	female		
Sokoto	60	30	90	30%
Kebbi	60	40	100	20%
Zamfara	50	20	70	40%

**Source:** *The Nigeria Nations Youth Policy (2001)*

The public hypothesis in this study is that the wide difference in literacy of youth influences then role in nation building. This basic hypothesis is addressed using data from a survey instrument administered to 100 youth from the 3 core Northwest region.

### **Why Youth Nation Building Failed In Core Northwest Region**

Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara state are often regarded as the core Northwest region of Nigeria. For the purpose of this reach to mark the role of youth in Nation building of these three region in Nigeria. It is the hope of the research to pass the needed message on how youth improve into contain level within the region, thus because youth have never experienced anything near a functional society, a society with guaranteed water, power, health care delivery, quality education many born in so called urban centers, have never witnessed water flowing from public water source. That have never seen

deficiency from NEPA/PHCN UN-in tempted for up to 6 hours, sometimes less hospitals (Lukman, 2013).

Nation building is the centers for advancement of socio economic and political development. According to Adejumo 2013 define nation building as the process of constructing a national identity using the power of state. This process aim at the unification of the people within the state so that it remains politically stable and viable in the long run. Nation building can involve the use of propaganda or major infrastructural development to faster social harmony and economic growth (Adejumo, 2013). One of the major problem is the expectation that government initiative is what is needed such as skill acquisition programme, entrepreneurship can help build individuals; their families and their little communities. It is a fact that, the nation building is highly dependent on youth. Youth is that powerful resources, which can either construct or destruct the nation. According to everyone youth should step forward to take up on the responsibility in developing the nation.

### **Past and Present Scenario of Youth in Nation Building as a Fulcrum of Development**

The youth in present date are completely neglecting the ethical values and running the educational the moral education they had learned in their childhood. This may be the reason why people would has 6.66billion population among which 27% constituted youth are residing mostly in many an old age home, orphanages homes for the destitute, juvenile home; individual families, and jails. Youth must take necessary steps and find new method or revenue old method to avoid some many problems.

Evil habit is a hip in today's world. It is impossible for any one to escape from these until and unless they are self confident to control themselves. Self control ability is the only measure to save oneself from evil habit. Drug, alcohol, smoking, undesirable sexual activities, syrup (tutoling) consumption, also hinder nations building. If the youth get addicted to any of these activities, one can easily predict that, the destruction has started not only as the person but also harm the nation which need young blood to run an or construct it. One has to realize the necessity of being healthy in almost every aspect of life. (Jaihind, 2008).

The power of the youth in nation building is like a double sledge sword which can swing to either right or left depending on the intention of the person swinging the sword. The power of youth can therefore utilized either as a constructive force by any nation. The youth are a powerful force to be reckoned with in any nation where its government is mindful of its future.

As it is the youth which is spearheading the development process in Nigeria and nation, while the developmental agenda has been laid before us by our visionary leadership in the past with a clear objective of making of our nation more advanced in all the fields. Unfortunately, we are still dealing with the basic developmental issues that are to do with the fundamental rights of people. We need to work at a faster to catch up with our global competitive and source a head interims of achieving the growth and development. Growth is a big product of inclusive and sustainable development which involved all the sections of our society.

Countries like Nigeria, have the opportunity to their youth bulge into a demographic dividend which can power economic growth and development

other wise, the bulge is a ticking time bomb waiting to explode into youth disaster, disillusioned and frustrated, a threat to the already fragile socio-political stability. Despite Nigeria well documented challenges, youth can be reaped with adequate education, empowerment and economic opportunities to the youth demographic, our pre-document focus on government glaring short comings.

A theoretical framework explaining the role of youth in nation building at a minimum to address three important issues. First; the framework must address the process weather or not the youth influence the society in a nation. Second; the relationship between the youth and government can be an advantage for good governance. Third; there is need to recognize that youth are the power engine of the nation building. Finally, the framework must point to select indices that are generally encouraging to capture the broad weakening of the concept youth and nation building.

### **Background Literature and Methodology**

There exists an extensive and diverse literature on the role of youth in Nation building specifically in core Northern region in Nigeria. The literature cuts across disciplines, methodologies, theories. The literature has been reviewed theoretically.

### **Theoretical Literature**

International conference, meeting, speeches, presentation, news papers, web and private research initiatives have generally contributed to;

1. Defining the concept of youth use in nation building
2. Understanding the role of youth in Nation building.



There are many interface between youth and nation for the development. A typical study was conducted by UDE (2013) emphasize the expectation were high and Nigeria looked toward to rapid development. The major group that is suffering the consequences of our beleaguered experience is the youth. But the challenge of rebuilding the country also lies on the youth. The Authors define youth as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood independence and awareness of our interdependence as a member of a community.

Nation building that will liking contribute to stable international peace will need to emphasize the democratic participation of people within the nation to demand rights. It will need to build the society, economy and polity which will meet the basic needs of the people, so that they are not driven by poverty, inequality and unemployment on the one hand, or by a desire to compete for resources and power either internally or in the international system.

### **The Role of Youth in Nation Building**

The countries where the youth are agile and pay their proper contributions towards their nation are more developed. The entire success of a nation depends on the youth. It is the duty of the government to provide the youth with ample opportunities to play their role in effective manner. Parents also have a major responsibility to fulfill. They must induce patriotism feeling in their young ones. The youth fraught with patriotism would lead to nation to the front. The youth have the following role and responsibilities towards their nation.

- They must set proper and complete education

- Take part in welfare activities
- Spread awareness and education among the masses about their rights and responsibilities.
- Help other youth in building confidence and pursuing the field of interest.
- Guide new comers in every field on right times.
- Promote the fear image of the country before the world.
- Serve the country with their skills and talent in various fields.
- To nip in the bud all the evils that are polluting our society.
- To reinvigorate the culture, trend and traditions of the society.
- Help the government in the implementation of policies.
- They can play a vital role in the elimination of terrorism.
- The young people are full of vibrant. Their ideas can show the country a new path towards prosperity.
- Young people have energy to try out things and the patience to learn from mistakes. Giving them opportunities to plan to decide and to work prepares them to face harsher realities in life.

Young participation is important because youth are the countries power. Youth recognize problem and can solve them. Youth are strong force in social movements. (Wadliwani, 2011).

### **Problems of Youth in Nation Building**

#### **1. Education**

2. Marginalization
3. Bad Group cultism
4. Craze for wealth
5. Consumerism
6. Corruption

- **Education:** Education is a key building block of skills of a labour force, yet in Nigeria, literacy rates of the 15 – 24% group range from 65 – 75% with stark variation between the Northern and Southern states. Though youth especially females have lower school attendance rate across all the core Northwest region with the lowest rate recorded in the Zamfara. Generally, it is hypothesized that educated youth will be willing to participate in the democratic context and decision making while an illiterate would remain in the society as no future ambition in which they will help in building the nation at large.
- **Marginalization:** Many young people in developing countries have weakened or severed family ties, are subject to social stigmatization and are not connected to institution such as schools, youth's clubs or the formal work place. These youth are vulnerable to sexual exploitation, high risk of unintended pregnancies, and sexually transmitted infections, they often lack access to reproductive health information, counseling legal potential.
- **Bad Group Cultism:** Cultism has become the order of the day. Over kids and wards are members of different cult group which unleash

irreparable materials loss, anguish, hatred, revenge, pain and moral degradation on youth, families and society at large (Obinna, 2008).

- **Corruption:** Corruption is very much detrimental to our national character and has been the root cause of many a social and moral problem. Youth have been prepared to rise against it. A generation can not build a nation; the energetic youth of course can complete task in hand in phases. One generation complete one phase of work, the next one is prepared to carry it further and so the third it's a continuous process. If the youth lose their way or direction, it would become very serious and alarming (Kumer, 2008).
- **Problems of Wealthy Individual:** Problems of wealthy Nigerian to assist the young talented youth for fear of the known and unknown, the known being that the young may become a master and the unknown being only personal to the individual. Some of the wealthy Nigerians have become so misery that they would only engage the youth in dirty Herculean tasks and pay them with intoxicants, merchants without sponsoring them for their future.
- **Consumerism:** In Nigeria youth are seriously in the habit of consumption such that every aspect of their lives is touched by a serious consumption of syrup called (Tutoling) in particular youth in the Northern part of Nigeria are increasingly experiencing the effect of consumer culture at unprecedented levels of involvement. It become necessary, therefore, to examine the impact of taking syrup in order to assess identity formation and development in young people are receiving an endless barrage of material messages encouraging

purchase behaviour and consumption that impacts the self image. Indeed youth from the ages of 18 to 25 have increasingly been defined and viewed by their spending capacity. A whole line of products they need to emulate a feminine; there is a mountain evidence to suggest that the structure of youth is eroding and are suffering from serious physical, emotional and social deficits directly related to consumerism.

### **Research Methodology**

The information from the literature review was combined with the key elements of the general frame to develop a survey instrument that was used to collect the primary and secondary data to hypothesized to influence the youth willingness to pay to information; some of the problems of youth and their potentials in nation building. This study is a descriptive research in which the case study method has been in the collection of the data. In research, case study is the detailed description and analyses of everything that is in the history of development, of a single person community event or institution which as a management, for the purpose of undertaking the cycle, or an important part of the cycle of each unit. The findings of case studies are usually limited to the individual units out attempting to generate the findings to other persons, institutions or events.

### **Prospect of Youth in Nation Building**

1. Government at all levels establish effective talent hunt department to be directly under the presidency, the Governor and the Local Government Chairman.

2. Youth must shun violence and the hydra-headed devil of corruption, sloth, greed, hatred, tribalism and complacency.
3. Youth should learn and be encouraged to begin with the little they can. It is the gathering of sands and pebbles that leads to greatness.
4. Movement should develop, knowledge, money and the people predominated by the youth.

### **Conclusion**

This paper looked at the need to design the role of youth in nation building information from selected urban areas. In Nigeria data were collected from 100 respondent from core Northwest region namely Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara State in Nigeria to determine the role of youth in nation building. The basic hypothesis in the study was that the wide role played by youth in the development of society. This basic hypothesis was addressed using data from a survey instrument administered to 100 youth from the three designated state; the overriding conclusion that emerges from this study is the need to examine the role of youth in nation building

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