

## THE RELEVANCE OF WOMEN IN GLOBAL EDUCATION: A CASE STUDY BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY IN YOBE AND BORNO STATE, NIGERIA

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**Abstract:** The competitiveness of a country depends on its knowledge acquisition capacity of its human resources. A peace nation gives birth to a developed country. This study aimed at examining the effects of Boko haram insurgency in Borno and Yobe state in relation to girl's child education. And it adopts descriptive analysis. The study reveals that the number of schools drops out in the areas of Borno and Yobe is significantly increasing due to persistent attack by Boko Haram militant which resulted to the death of hundreds of boys and girls. Also an increasing number of girls students' abduction in that area consequently forced girls to remain in their homes. It is therefore recommended that, Nigerian government should intensify effort to get rid of Boko Haram insurgency in the region.

**Key words:** Girls education, book haram, insurgency

**Introduction:** The global economy is becoming increasingly dependent upon the ability to effectively produce and use knowledge and that the competitiveness of a country depends on the knowledge acquisition capacity of its human resources. Empowerment has become a widely used word. In spheres as different as management and labor unions, health care and ecology, banking and education, one hears of empowerment taking place. The popular use of the word also means that it has been overextended and applied in circumstances that clearly do not involve much power acquisition beyond some symbolic activity or event. Empowerment in its emancipatory meaning is a serious word-one which brings up the question of personal agency rather than reliance on intermediaries, one that links action to needs, and one that results in making significant collective change. It is also a concept that does not merely concern personal identity but brings out a broader analysis of human rights and social justice. Since the "UN Declaration of the Decade of Women" in 1975, attention and action on women's concerns have steadily increased and education, whether it is the form of consciousness-raising or skills acquisition, was one of the areas women's organisation,

government agencies and international donor agencies focused on. The underlying assumption was that if women understood their conditions, knew their rights and learned skills traditionally denied to them, empowerment would follow. Eighteen years have passed and there are different views as to whether such assumptions about increasing access to education and training have resulted in the tilting of the power balance in favor of women.

In some part of northern Nigerian where the epidemic of Boko haram have affected the area had led to increase number of school dropout. Parents were removing their children out of western education which is the "say" soul objective of Boko Haram action for their violence in some part of the region.

The aim of the research paper is to examine the effects of Boko haram insurgency in Borno and Yobe state in relation to girl's child education.

### **Theoretical Base And Literature Review**

**MalalaYousafai Campaign:** Reference [16] showed extraordinary courage in continuing her fight for girls' education in the face of adversity: she held from the Swat Valley in northern Pakistan, which was ruled by the Taliban in 2008 and 2009. Daughter of girl's

school head, Yousafzai described life under the Taliban for the BBC, aged 11. Since the Taliban tried to assassinate her in October 2012, Yousafzai has become world famous.

She started her campaign in Pakistan which the country with the second highest number of children out of school, according to UNESCO. Two-thirds (over 3 million) of these are girls. Compared to other lower middle income countries, Pakistan has a low primary enrolment rate. Only 54% of girls are enrolled in primary school, which drops to 30% for secondary school. The figures for girls from rural areas are even worse (50% primary enrolment, 24% secondary). These figures vary by region. Girls are also more likely than boys to drop out of primary school, mainly owing to poverty. Although gender parity in education improved from 2001 to 2011, the World Bank still reports a ratio of 79 girls to 100 boys in primary and secondary schools (see figure 1). About 5% of children currently in school attend Madrassas – Muslim religious seminaries. Islamic organisations have expanded the scope of Madrassas to cover mainstream education. This has attracted the interest of the government and some external agencies, since it could give girls education otherwise denied.

To her Poverty is an obvious adverse factor for girls' schooling. When large families can only afford school for some of their children, daughters often lose out to sons. Other factors hindering girl's education identified by researchers from the Pakistani Population Council include: access and long distances to school (with dangers of sexual violence), cultural constraints, early marriage and/or pregnancy, and lack of water and sanitation in schools.

She showed the effect of Taliban's on girls education thus during their brief rule over the Swat Valley, the Taliban destroyed more than 400 schools. More than half of these were girls' schools. They argued that women (and girls) should stay in the home.<sup>[10]</sup>

**Brief history of Boko Haram:** Boko Haram ("Western education is forbidden"), officially

called Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'Awati-Jihad meaning "Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad"), is a terrorist Islamist movement based in northeast Nigeria, also active in Chad, Niger and northern Cameroon. The group is led by Abubakar Shekau. Estimates of membership vary between a few hundred and 10,000. They have been linked to al-Qaeda and ISIL.

After its founding in 2002, Boko Haram's increasing radicalization led to a violent uprising in July 2009 in which its leader was executed. Its unexpected resurgence, following a mass prison break in September 2010, was accompanied by increasingly sophisticated attacks, initially against soft targets, and progressing in 2011 to include suicide bombings on police buildings and the United Nations office in Abuja. The government's establishment of a state of emergency at the beginning of 2012, extended in the following year to cover the entire northeast of the country, resulted in a marked increase in both security force abuses and militant attacks. The Nigerian military proved ineffective in countering the insurgency, hampered by an entrenched culture of official corruption.

**Boko haram's effect on Girls education in Nigeria:** Boko Haram killed more than 5,000 civilians between July 2009 and June 2014, including at least 2,000 in the first half of 2014, in attacks occurring mainly in northeast, north-central and central Nigeria. Corruption in the security services and human rights abuses committed by them has hampered efforts to counter the unrest. Since 2009 Boko Haram have abducted more than 500 men, women and children, including the kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok in April 2014. 650,000 people had fled the conflict zone by August 2014, an increase of 200,000

since May; by the end of the year 1.5 million had fled.<sup>[1]</sup>

In the words of the Borno state government's spokesperson, speaking on the basis of information passed to him by the principles of the Government Girls Secondary Schools ChibokAsabeKwambura-declared that 129 girls had been staying at the school in one night and were all abducted. He added that 14 of them escaped as they were driven into the bush, leaving 115 still being held by their captors.

According to Reference[1], officials are still unclear students figures during Chibok attack, but figures which stated that around 360 were present at the school when the attack happened appears the most accurate. He further revealed that "from the school records, a total of 530 were registered for the West African Examination Council (WAEC) exams, which the girls were sittings at the time of the kidnapping, out of this figure, 70 were external students.

**Methodology:**The study is a descriptive analysis. It aimed to assess the effect of Boko Haram on girl's school attendance in the Northern Nigeria. The study cover schools in the most vulnerable states: Yobe, and Borno states were selected for the study. A boarding Government Girls secondary school chibok in Bornoand Federal College of Education Damaturu in Yobe state are the key areas of our analysis.

**Discussion:**Since the beginning of Boko Haram insurgency in the early 2000, their mission is to get rid of western education which they described as a forbidding act and they have been working vigorously to accomplish their task and immediately called on their followers to destroy schools providing Western education.. The elimination of Girls education has been among the group top agenda. According to the group, women should remain indoors and should not be sent to schools in search of western education. However, literatures revealed that girls has been among the top

victims of the group actions, a situation that led to the abduction of over 300 girls with higher number of girls been forced to stay at their homes without attending schools across the areas of Borno and Yobe state .

Considering the Boko Haram group actions particularly the abduction of Chibok school girls, it is apparent to note that the group actions have a serious effect in the life of girls and education in general. Apart from this incidence, girls have been killed in most of the attack launched by the group in most of the schools across the areas of Borno and Yobe state respectively. The recent attack in Gamborin Gala area of Borno state witnessed the death of significant number of young ladies, including injuries and some were evenforced to flee from their homes.<sup>[4]</sup> Girls in northern Nigeria faced challenges long before the insurgency. For instance, girls' education has always been under threat. The region has the lowest girl child enrolment in Nigeria.In 2008 the net enrolment rate for girls into secondary school was 22%.<sup>[1]</sup>In northern Nigeria girls are married much younger than in other parts of the country.InYobe state, which has been in a state of emergency for nearly a year, 209 schools have been destroyed. In Borno state more than 800 classrooms were burnt down. However, the catastrophic effects of the Boko Haram insurgency continue to impose threats into the minds of children as well as their parents in these areas.Children prepared largely to remain in their homes because of the fear of death. This situation has largely affected the girls education with the girls school enrolment figures drastically fallen in these areas.

**Conclusion And Recommendation:**The importance of girl's education cannot be overemphasized.Improving the levels of girl's education has been considered as a wise investment that have clear impacts on the health and economic future of young women, which therefore improves the prospects of their entire community. In the

global context especially in the developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America girls have been denied access to civil education due to one reason or the other. Northern Nigeria is not exceptional. The number of schools drops out in the areas of Borno and Yobe is significantly increasing due to persistent attack by Boko Haram militant which results to the death of hundreds of children and consequently forced girls to remain in their homes. In view of the above, this paper recommends the following points;

- Government should intensify effort to get rid of Boko Haram insurgency in the region. This is possible through the coordinated effort by the Civilian Joint Task force (J.T.F) who has shown the capacity to achieve that.

- Government should also try as much as possible to pursue other alternatives such as Dialogue as an effort to find the root cause and possible lasting solution to the Boko Haram menace.
- Government should join hands with nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) in their effort to increase girls' enrolment, retention and transition to secondary schools in northern Nigeria particularly in the affected areas.
- Government should also prioritize effort to promote girls education through the provision of adequate facilities, security any sort of threat as well as improving transport system to enable them easy access to their schools.

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