UNIJERPS
Unizik Journal of Educational Research and Policy Studies VOL.15 (2);
https://unijerps.org
2021 Impact Factor: 5.641; 2020 Impact Factor: 5.355.
January-June, 2023
Indexing and Impact Factor URL: http://sjifactor.com/passport.php?id=21363

CONSEQUENCES OF MONDAY SIT AT HOME PROTEST ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN ANAMBRA STATE

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated consequences and solutions of Monday sit at home protest on academic performance of secondary school students in Anambra state. Two research questions guided the study. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was 59308 SS2 students. A sample of 600 students was taken. The sample was composed using the multistage sampling technique which includes proportionate and simple random sampling technique. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire developed by researchers. The questionnaire was duly validated and its internal consistency was ascertained using Cronbach Alpha. Mean was used to analyze the data collected. Results revealed that Teaching and learning activities were shifted from Monday to Saturday and court days of the leader of IPOB. Even WAEC/NECO examinations were disrupted in some places. Hoodlums used the opportunity to attack students going to school, killing, robbing and raping girls. This has reduced their academic engagements and performance in school. It is therefore expedient to deduce that sit at home protest encumbers academic performance of secondary school students in Anambra State. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended among others that Federal government should realease Mazi Nnamdi Kanu unconditionally and call for peaceful negotiation with IPOB to cushion the effect of insecurity in the State.

Introduction

Education is a potent force that brings about change in the thought, behaviour, skills, values and interest of individuals. It is these changes in cognitive, psychomotor and affective orientation that are required for the overall development of man and his environment. Education is a lifelong process. It is a process of individual development and an instrument used to attain a better life. Education is a process of growth and development which goes on in life. An educated person is one who can apply his knowledge and skill in such a way as to find solutions to whatever problems that confronts him. The education one receives is the greatest input for advancing towards his objective since education helps the total development of human personality (Offor and Offiah, 2021). By educating an individual, one transfers some desirable knowledge, understanding, skills, interests, attitudes and critical thinking. He acquires knowledge of different subjects and also acquires some skills in writing, reading, speaking, calculating, drawing, and operating

some equipments etc. Education takes place under the guidance of educators. They use different educational methods to teach such as discussion, lecturing, activity, problems solving and drama method. However, education can take place formally, informally and non-formal.

Formal education in Nigeria usually takes place in school. School children often attend nursery school before primary school and continue with secondary school before the tertiary stage of education. Secondary education in Nigeria is that level of education which children receive after primary education. It is a link between the primary and tertiary levels of education. The main objective of secondary education is to prepare the recipients for useful living within the society and for entrance to tertiary education (FGN, 2013). Throughout the ages, secondary school education has been recognized as an instrument for individual and societal transformation. This is the main reason why every society continuously strives to bequeath to its successive generations this aspect of formal education that is not only qualitative, but functional with the help of skilled and knowledgeable experts that can impart them accordingly.

Despite the role of formal eduation in the world, schools in different countries have been disrupted due to insecurity, natural disaster, conflicts, occasionally epidemics like COVID-19. In Nigeria, insecurity, incessant strike, Herders clash, banditry etc. continue to disrupt teaching and learning in the schools. For instance, schools were closed in Borno State sequel to Boko Haram attacks more particularly after the kidnapping of chibok girls om 14th April, 2014. Since 1960 till date, incessant strike actions from several School Unions have also led to school closure in Nigeria. During the Nigeria/Biafra Civil war, schools were also closed. In 2013, Ebola Epidemic led to school closure (Ebubedike, 2020) and in 2020, Nigeria temporarily closed her educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19. School closure in Nigeria is a raising concern over the future of millions of children. In 2021, Indegineous People of Biafra (IPOB) Monday sit at home protest has also continued to disrupt the school system in South eastern part on Nigeria especially in Anambra state.

IPOB is a group and Separatist movement to help Biafrans achieve self-determination within the framework of law through diplomacy, civil rights activism (human right movement), mass media, political and every other legitimate process. IPOB is a separatist organization or a secessionist group. Biafra is a region in the south east of Nigeria. The region is mainly populated by the Igbo ethnic group. From 1967 to 1970, Nigeria fought a civil war against Biafra secessionists in which millions of people died. Young youths who belong to secessionists group such as IPOB are mainly ethnic Igbos who feel that they have been disciriminated against by the Nigerian Government. The reason for forming IPOB is to attract the attention of the federal government that they have been politically, and socio-economically marginalized. IPOB was a faction of Mobilization for the actualization of independent State of Biafra (MASSOB). The

leader of IPOB is mazi Nnamdi Kanu. Kanu has dual citizenship, British and Nigerian citizen. He was arrested during his visit to Nigeria. He was charged with conspiracy, managing and belonging to an unlawful society, intimidation and treasonable felony in October 2015. However, a court in Abuja ordered for Mr kanu's release in December 2015 but he was not released, despite several court rulings on granting him bail.

The detention of the founder of IPOB, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu exacerbated the agitations. Igbo youths across the south-East zone took to the street to protest his arrest and demand his unconditional release. The sustained protests disrupted socio-economic activities in the South-East zone and led to clashes between the protesters and security agents. Mr kanu was later granted conditional bail and he was later re-arrested through extrajudicial rendition. In 2021, Mazi Kanu, who was brought to court for the continuation of trial shortly after he was intercepted by security operations, sought the permission of Justice Binta Nyako to address the court and present his side of the story. Upon the permission, Kanu told the court that his house was unlawfully invaded by security men with his life seriously threatened. The self-acclaimed Biafran leader further alleged that he would have been killed along with others on the day of the invasion if not for the wisdom he applied to jump out of the country (Nwankwo, 2021).

Kanu was re-arraigned before the Federal High Court for the continuation of his trial. The Federal High Court in Abuja granted the Federal Government's application to detain the IPOB leader in a DSS facility through out his trial (Nduka, 2021). The court also granted the application for the accelerated hearing of his trial which has continued till date. As a result, the Indigenous People of Biafra announced that there would be a sit-at-home in the South-East every Monday until their leader, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, regains his freedom. Sit-at-home means an order issued by IPOB that there would be no movement on every monday and on the day their leader Nnamdi Kanu would go to court as a way of persuading the government to release mazi Nnamdi Kanu unconditionally. Though the order was later revoked by IPOB but it is still very effective. They only maintained that sit at home would be observed only on the day their leader would go to court

However, it did not come to the mind of people the disastrous consequences that would follow the order as lives and property of residents of the South-east had been in jeopardy due to the activities of overzealous hoodlums in the state. Also, apart from threatening and maiming residents, the education sector is presently affected as they are forced to skip schools on Mondays and days their leader would go to court. This tends to affect academic performance of secondary school students in southeast part of Nigeria especially Anambra state. According to Chijioke (2013) academic performance is the outcome of students' evaluation in the educational process indicating to what level the students have achieved the educational goals as specified in the curriculum which is greatly influenced by internal and external classroom factors. In this vein, Mellisa (2013) opined that academicperformance

indicates how well a student meets standard set out by the institution. Thus a student success is measured by academic performance.

In addition, Monday, while students and teachers in different parts of the country attend schools, their counterparts in Anambra State do not go to school in order not to fall victims to the overzealous enforcers of sit at home protest. The sit-at-home protest has untold adverse effect on secondary school students, as a result, teaching and learning was shifted from Saturday in order to help the students cover u their curriculum. There had been a shift from Monday attendance to school to Saturday. This is to help students esecially those who would take external examinations with other schools outside the region and West Africa. The teachers need to cover the syllabus to prepare the students for final examination that would be forth coming. The secondary school students wear coloured dress to school on Saturday which had a great implication. Some students go to school for show. They go to sample or showcase the kind of dresses they have especially those from wealthy homes. On the contrary, some of those students from poor family may not have beautiful dresses to wear to school and as a result, they would not attend school on Saturday. Some students are being distracted because of the way their fellow students dressed. Some dress indecently because their parents were not at home to monitor them. Some students do not get to school, they use the opportunity of wearing coloured dresses to visit their male friends instead of going to school. They end up in different joints with their boy friends. They attend party instead of attending classes. The implication of this type of life is not farfetched. The students tends to becomes pregnant and stopped schooling. Most of the students do not carry their bags while going to school on Saturday. They see it in which they do what they liked as a free day, they do not concentrate in the classroom and lacked decorum. They make the classroom uncondusive for teaching and learning to take place. The classroom become very noisy that the teacher cannot even hear herself while some students would be eager to learn. Some of the teachers do not take Saturday teaching very serious because a good number of studenta would not turn up, thereby making the teacher to reteach some of the topics taught on Saturday lessons when she would have a full class. Most often some of the teachers do not attend Saturday lessons making the students not to take it serious, yet the syllabus would not be covered.

However, to address the issue federal government should release Mazi Nnamdi Kanu unconditionally and embrace dialogue with the group, Nigerians irrespective of ethnicity religion should come together for development and advocate for good use of resources, Federal government should make meaningful efforts for political reform. Also true Federalism should be practiced in Nigeria by the federal government in other to carry all the ethnic groups along. Federal government should maintain zoning in power sharing, thereby, rotating the presidency amongst the geo political zones, the federal government should call the secessionist group to dialogue with them, federal government should adhere to federal

character principle in political appointments and also provide enabling environment to encourage investors. Government should call for a sovereign national conference that will involve all ethnic nationalities to discuss the existence of Nigeria, Government at all levels should work collectively to regulate high cost of goods and services which partly led to IPOB agitations It is an irony that educational strides are being dampened by this order. No parent will allow his child to be molested by miscreants who take such advantage to cause problems. Many parents and guardians advised their children against going to school on Mondays due to the risk involved, it has affected teaching and learning because Monday is gone out of every week and the curriculum is running thereby making students to miss their classes. Based on the foregoing, it becomes needful to investigate into consequences and solutions to IPOB sit at home protest on academic performance of secondary school students in Anambra state.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the consequences of Monday sit-at-home protest on academic performance of secondary school students in Anambra state?
2. What are the solutions to Monday sit-at-home protest on academic performance of secondary school students in Anambra state?

Research Method

The descriptive survey design was adopted in the study. The population of the study was made of 59308 Seniour Secondary School 3 students in public secondary schools in Anambra State (PPSSC, 2022). They were selected because they are victims of Monday sit it at home. The sample of the study was 600 students selected through multi stage sampling technique. First, The researcher used simple random sampling to select two public secondary schools in each senatorial zone, one urban school and one rural school: Anambra south, Anambra central and Anambra North; making a total of six public secondary schools. From each of the six public secondary schools, 100 SS3 students were selected, through simple random sampling giving rise to a total of 600 students that constitute the sample of the study. A structured questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. The questionnaire was divided into two parts: A and B. Part A of the questionnaire specified information on personal characteristics of the respondents while part B contained information with regard to the research questions. The response option of the questionnaire was Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD). The validation of the instrument was ascertained by giving three questionnaire alongside with the purpose of the study, and research questions. Two experts in Sociology of Education and one expert in Measurement and Evaluation, all from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, validated the instrument. The reliability of the instrument was done using trial testing. 50 students from two secondary schools in Delta State were used to determine the reliability of instrument. Cronbach Alpha Analysis was used to obtain reliability coefficients of 0.79, 0.76 and 0.73 respectively. The instrument was deemed

high enough and the instrument was taken as reliable. The researcher with the help of 10 research assistants distributed copies of the questionnaire in third term to the students in Anambra State. In addition it took them four weeks to visit all the students in their various schools. All the questionnaires distributed were retrieved because of the on-the-spot method adopted for data collection. Data collected were analyzed using the statistical weighed mean. This was because of the four-point rating scale which was adopted in the study. A mean of 2.50 was used as the cutoff point for making decisions. The decision rule was that any item that scored a mean of 2.50 and above would be seen as having attracted positive responses, while items that scored less than 2.50 would be regarded as having attracted negative responses.

Presentation of Results

Research Question: What are the consequences to Monday sit-at-home protest on academic performance of secondary school students in Anambra state?

Table 1: Mean rating of respondents on consequences of IPOB sit-at-home protest on academic performance of secondary school students in Anambra state

S/N	ITEMS	$\bar{X}$	REMARKS
1.	Monday sit at home disrupts academic calendar which affects my academic performance	2.56	Agreed
2.	It seems very hard for me to go to school on Saturdays because my parents do not allow me	2.80	Agreed
3.	I do not focus during teaching on Saturday classes because of peer distraction	2.50	Agreed
4.	My teachers do not cover our syllabus because of sit at home.	2.70	Agreed
5.	Saturday classes deprives me from engaging in tutorials which affects my grade	2.56	Agreed
6.	I do not carry my school bag to school on Saturday because I visit my friends.	2.60	Agreed
7.	I end up in joints or clubs with my friends on Saturday instead of going to school	2.82	Agreed
8.	I lack concentration during Saturday classes because it is always noisy and unconducive	2.60	Agreed
9.	Some teachers do not attend Saturday classes	2.50	Agreed
10.	Some teachers used to copy notes for us on Saturday	2.80	Agreed
	total	**40.46**	
	Cluster x	**2.53**	**Agreed**

In table 1, all the items (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10) obtained mean score 2.50 and above indicating agreed. On the whole the mean of means was rated 2.53 it implies that all the above items in table 1 are onsequences of IPOB sit-at-home protest on academic performance of secondary school students in Anambra state

Research Question 2: What are the solutions to Monday sit-at-home protest on academic performance of secondary school students in Anambra state?

Table 2: Mean rating of respondents on the solutions to IPOB sit-at-home protest on academic performance of secondary school students in Anambra state

S/N	ITEMS	X	REMARKS
11.	Saturday schooling should be revoked and returned to Monday	2.86	Agreed
12.	Federal government should embrace dialogue with the group	3.01	Agreed
13.	Federal Government should release Mazi Nnamdi Kanu unconditionally	2.60	Agreed
14.	The federal government should equitably give appointment of political positions to all ethnic groups without marginalizing any group	2.88	Agreed
15.	Federal government should give room for political reform.	3.00	Agreed
16.	The government should practice true federalism whereby any Nigerian can become a leader in a state without considering its origin	2.90	Agreed
17.	Government should give rapid response to other peaceful agitations that may surface in the long run to avoid escalating their agitation	2.79	Agreed
18.	Government should implement zoning or rotating presidential position to all the zones	2.88	Agreed
19.	Government at all levels should provide enabling environment to encourage investors	3.12	Agreed
20.	Federal government should adhere to federal character principle in political appointments	2.94	Agreed
	Total	**52.23**	
	cluster x	**2.90**	**Agreed**

In Table 2, items (11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 34) were rated agreed by the respondents. On the whole the grand mean score was rated 2.90, this implies that all the items in table 2 are the solutions to IPOB sit-at-home protest on academic performance of secondary school students in Anambra state.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study revealed that Monday sit at home protest disrupts academic calendar which affects students' academic performance, it is very hard for students to go to school on Saturdays because their parents do not allow them. The findings of the study is in line with the report of Nwankwo (2021), who supported that sit at home disrupts academic calendar and some schools in the south east are even using Saturday to cover the Monday gap; some students miss Saturday classes because their parents do not allow them to attend Saturday classes. The findings of the study revealed that students do not focus during teaching on Saturday classes because of peer distraction and some teachers do not cover their syllabus because of Monday sit at home. Also Saturday classes deprive some students from engaging in tutorials which affects their grade. In that regard, Olu (2021), agreed that some teachers cannot cover their syllabus have the Monday sit at home protest persists. Similarly, Okonkwo (2022), supported that some students may not meet up with tutorial classes because of Monday sit at home protest that was shifted from Monday to Saturday. Findings showed that some students do not carry their bags to school on

Saturday because they visit their friends, they end up in joints or clubs with their friends on Saturday instead of going to school. The study by Nwankwo (2022) agreed that some students use Saturday classes to deceive their parents, as some of them go to visit their friends for premarital sexual activities. Finally, some students lack concentration on Saturday classes because it is always noisy and unconducive; some teachers do not attend Saturday classes, let alone copying notes. In this vein, Okafor (2022) agreed that not all teachers come for classes and this affects academic engagement and performance of secondary school students.

To address these problems, the findings of the study revealed that Federal government should release Mazi Nnamdi Kanu unconditionally and embrace dialogue with the group, Nigerians irrespective of ethnicity religion should come together for development and advocate for good use of resources, Federal government should make rooms for political reforms. Accordingly, Okafor (2021) agreed that federal government should dialogue with Nnamdi Kanu and release him unconditionally. Findings also showed that federal government should adhere to federal character principle in political appointments. The findings of study revealed that true federalism should be practiced in Nigeria by the federal government in other to carry all the ethnic groups along. Federal government should maintain zoning in power sharing, thereby, rotating the presidency, Federal government should call the secessionist group to dialogue with them, government should call for a society natural conference that will involve and ethnic neutralities that to discuss the existence of Nigeria. To this end, Obinna (2022) agreed that government should end security challenges in South east through the release of MNK and adherences to federal Character Principle. The outgoing Mazi Nnamdi Kanu's case should not be delayed with unnecessary logistics by the federal high court in order to guarantee him fair hearing.

Conclusion

It is clear that sit at home protest was designed to draw the attention of the federal government over the marginalization of the Igbos, the protest has some consequences in some South east states especially in Anambra state. Teaching and learning activities were shifted from Monday to Saturday in order to help the students cover their syllabus. In order to help the students cover their syllabus. In the contrary, the decision had some adverse effect on the students because some of the students abused the privilege given to them. They see Saturday as a free day in which they do that they like. Wear any kind of dress they like to school, because they are allowed to mufti instead of their school uniforms. Because the students put on mufti, they visit their boyfriends, go to clubs, and engage in all sorts of criminal activities. This is so because they do not have any form of identification again. This has reduced academic engage and performance in school instead of increasing it, therefore should be cancelled. The Saturday schooling should be cancelled. The Saturday schooling should be reversed to Monday. It is therefore very expedient to deduce that Monday sit at home protest encumbers academic performance of secondary school students and therefore

should be revoked. It has a long term adverse effect on the students' career. In order to have a shift from Saturday to Monday, the Federal government should dialogue with the secessionist group to annul the Monday sit-at-home protest.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Saturday schooling should be revoked to cushion the effect of the agitation in the state.
2. Federal government should release Mazi Nnamdi Kanu unconditionally
3. Federal government should call the secessionist groups to dialogue with them
4. IPOB should set up a suitable panel that would monitor their activities and ensure that the Monday sit at home is called off.
5. Federal Government should adhere to federal character principle in political appointments.
6. Federal government should create a room for political reforms.
7. Also true federalism should be practiced in Nigeria by the federal government in other to carry all the ethnic groups along because Nigeria is vast.

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