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# Nigerian youth: victims of the 21st century Suleiman Dahiru<sup>1,2</sup>, Nobaya binti Ahmad<sup>1</sup> and Wan Munira binti Jaafar<sup>1</sup>

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# **ABSTRACT**

The article focuses on the Nigerian Youths as Victims of this 21st century, as it is believed that they are the leaders, movers, propellers of the socio economic, political and intellectual development of every nation. The youth have fallen victims of the danger of social problems ie poverty, violence, use of arms and a new face of immorality such as baby factory phenomenon etc to survive. What is the hope of the Nigerian youths in the 21st century is one of the questions raised. Anomie theory was use to explore the Nigerian Youths as victims of the 21st century.

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#### Introduction

The believed is that the future and hope of every society depends on the social roles enshrined on every level of human existence in the society i.e. the childhood, youth and the elderly roles. In the hunting and gathering societies, society is stratified according to social roles and responsibilities. The child help in carrying out domestic activities, whereas, the youth goes out to hunt and farm; while, mothers take care of the children and the elderly advice the youth on where to search for games in different seasons. This is applicable to every home, community, society and nation, if really it is determined to achieve growth and development. These could only be achieved if the driving forces of the society were motivated, encouraged, empowered, educated and enlightened both socially, morally, culturally, politically, historically and establishing a favorable environment to achieve the goals; the forces are the youths

"The youths are Africa's greatest asset" Says former president Jonathan at the AU 3 day's summit in Malabo, Eauatorial Guinea.

It is believed that the true asset of any nation is not oil, not even technology but human resources. It is estimated that there is over 700 million people 30 years and under in Africa today. There is no doubt that the young people, future leaders, inventors, scientists, engineers, doctors, entrepreneurs, lawyers, philosophers, poets, writers, thinkers, etc., are Africa's richest assets (Rev. C. K, Ekeke, 2011)

Many leadership experts argue that the greatest need of the 21st century will not be doctors, MBA's, lawyers, religious leaders, farmers, educationists, entertainers or even IT professionals, but leaders. The greatest need of this century will not be oil and gas alternatives or finding cure for cancer, HIV and AIDS, but finding genuine and authentic leaders.

Thus, what will be the future of a country if these assets are blocked, marginalized, exposed to the danger of poverty, ignorance and illiteracy, unemployment, hunger and starvation, frustration and depression? Whereas, they are used

and utilized as small clique machinery for political, ethnic and religious conflicts by political gladiators. These motivate them to aggressiveness, violence and crime for survival in this century.

This paper raised some fundamental questions;

- What is the hope of the Nigerian youths in this century?
- What is the future of the next generation?
- What is the future of Nigerian State as a nation?

After 50 years of political independence, indeed it is true that, the youths are the assets of the nation or the victims of the 21st century.

# Background

Nigeria is more populous black nation in the world, with an estimated population of over 140 million people, and more than 200 ethnic nationalities and linguistic groups. Nigeria is indeed a blessed nation for being one of the largest oil producing nations in the world with diverse oil minerals. Thus, by all standards, no Nigerian citizen is supposed to live below the poverty level or suffer in perpetual poverty as is being witnessed in most cities of the federation today. The existence of oil and gas and their continued exploration and exportation to the international markets are enough to fast-track economic growth and sustainable development. Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore with whom Nigeria had similar colonial experience are all doing well as oil producing nations and active members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Africa and the world at large. In spite of these, the Nigerian postcolonial state has, over the years, failed to live up to the expectations of the citizenry (Ake, 2000). Available records among development experts show that there are still millions of Nigerians who are wallowing in poverty, hunger and destitution, majority of which are youths, women, young and disable persons and the aged (Green, 2008).

What is happening to Nigeria, today, is just a resemblance of what a greater number of African countries are facing. Africa is today a laughing stock in the Diaspora because the greatest of world problems are found on the continent. In recent times, most democratization processes in Africa are

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received with violence and anger. There is dismay in the nature and character of the Nigerian state, and the attitudes of the present youth groups to Nigeria's myriad problems of development. This was exactly the challenges of the Nigerian youth in post-military 21st century Nigeria (Waziri, A.B, 2013).

# The concept of youth

The concept is a relative term; it is multi-dimensional and falls within several age ranges in countries all over the globe. Using the United Nations definition, a youth is someone who is between the age of 15 and 24 years of age. For the World Bank, such an individual must attain 25 years before he/she can qualify to be a youth. The Federal Government of Nigeria pegs the age limit at 30 years maximum while some researchers believe that youthful ages exceed 30 but not above 40 years (Jike, 2002, cited in Waziri, A. B, 2013).

According to Wikipedia (2008), a youth is determined by person's physical, mental and psychological state of mind. Most times, youths are referred to as persons possessing certain distinct physical characteristics, which include; Ability to think fast, ability to display much energy towards the actualization of goals, assertive and resistant personality, and ability to change a state of art. While the Commonwealth Nations, recognizes the ages between 16 and 29 years (Radda, S.I, et al, 2010).

Thus, youths are expected to be the most active population of a country. The higher the number of youths, the higher should be the quantity of wealth and national income, all things being equal. Nevertheless, the reverse has been the case in most developing countries of the world where the youths are rendered either redundant or marginalized by cliques of opportunist.

# The concept of victim

According to the Microsoft Encarta dictionary, (2009) a victim is a helpless person or somebody who experiences a misfortune and feels helpless to remedy it. Therefore, when the young people of any nation are blocked, marginalize, exploited and are not properly educated, trained and prepared to take over as leaders, it is right to assert that these youths are victims. The consequences are that, the nation will experience instability – violence, killings, armed robbery, kidnapping etc.

# The Nigerian youths as victims

As postulated by Waziri, A.B (2013) Lots of commendations should go to the majority of the Nigerian youths who formed coalitions against the military. This was because even after the May 1999 handover, the Nigerian youths continued to fight civilian dictatorships under the immediate past civilian government. Having realized that the struggles for good governance, sustainable human-centered development, true federalism, minority group interests, economic growth predicated on self-independence was needed for a new Nigeria, and that the struggles were not yet over, the leaders of the Nigerian youth re-organized themselves into different Civil Society Organizations, and refocused their socio-cultural associations as forces of social change. It was this that led to the militarized nature of the emergent militia groups in the early 21st century Nigeria. Politically, some youths were integrated into the mainstream politics while others were used and abandoned by politicians and other state actors.

However, today most Nigerian youths are victims of the current challenges posed by the society and the environment in which they find themselves. What types of challenges are they? What is the hope of the Nigerian youth's?

# The Face of victimization of the Nigerian Youth's Victims of political violence

Politics allows for seeking, acquisition, sharing, utilization of power and authority. Power and authority are normally secured through the electoral process. As a nation embraced democracy, politics is ever becoming a reality of life. However, in the process of capturing political power and authority, undesirable events occur, i.e. political violence, political assassinations, thuggery, inter and intra party skirmishes, blackmail, slander, intimidation, hatred. bickering, etc. these negative attributes of politics in Nigeria lead to loss of lives and property, retard development, promotes insecurity and arm running, and fracture community relation (Radda, I.S, et al, (2010). Today, political jobbers utilize jobless and idle youths for political assassination and political violence. It is even pathetic that those whom the state usually refer to as trouble makers are the same youths its politicians empowered with guns and machineries to kill and maim the opposition (Waziri, A.B, 2013).

# Victims of drugs addiction

Since the early times, herbs, leaves and plants have been use to heal and control diseases. The use of drugs in itself does not constitute any danger, because drugs correctly administered have been a blessing. World Book Encyclopedia, (2004) defend drug abuse as the non-medical use of a drug that interferes with a healthy and productive life. Manbe, (2008) defined drug abuse as the excessive, maladaptive or addictive use of drugs for non-medical purpose.

Drug abuse is a major public health problem all over the world (UNODC), (2005). The use and abuse of drugs by adolescents have become one of the most disturbing health related phenomena in Nigeria and other parts of the world (NDLEA, 1997).

Several school going adolescents experience mental health problems, either temporarily or for a long period. Some become insane, maladjusted to school situations and eventually drop out of school.

Mba, (2008) identified numerous negative effects of drug abuse on the body chemistry as follows:

- 1.Alcohol-related problems include:
- Physical problems such as liver cirrhosis, Pancreatic, Peptic ulcer, Tuberculosis, Hypertension, Neurological disorder.
- Mental retardation for the fetus in the womb, growth, deficiency, delayed motor Development.
- Craniofacial abnormalities: limbs abnormalities and cardiac deficits.
- Psychiatric such as pathological drunkenness, suicidal behavior.
- Socially broken homes, increased crime rate, sexual offences, homicide and sexually transmitted diseases.
- 2. Tobacco: Causes stimulation of heart and narrowing of blood vessels, producing hypertension, headache, loss of appetite, nausea and delayed growth of the fetus. It also aggravates or causes sinusitis, bronchitis, cancer, strokes, and heart attack.
- 3. Stimulants: Lethargy, irritability, exaggerated self-confidence, damage nose linings, sleeplessness and psychiatric complications.
- 4. Inhalants: Causes anemia, damage kidney and stomach bleeding.
- 5.Narcotics: Causes poor perception, constipation, cough, suppression, vomiting, drowsiness and sleep, unconsciousness and death (Dorcas, O.F, 2012).

More Nigerian youths are becoming drug addicts, while Nigeria has gradually graduated from a drug-consuming nation to a drug-producing one, Weekly Trust reports cited in Nigerian News, 3rdMarch, 2012. Drug barons recruit many people daily to serve as couriers just as many more, especially youths are increasingly becoming addicted to assorted drugs. In Abuja, the Nigerian capital, for example, many youths, mainly from well-to-do homes is increasingly joining the 'big boys club' that abuse drugs such as heroin and cocaine. Another form of drugs like Indian hemp, which are commonly produced in Nigeria and others like methamphetamine, syrups and tablets with codeine capable of intoxicating are mostly found in military barracks, schools, and motor parks and even with local traders that sell provisions in kiosks.

"Majority of drug consumers in Abuja are young men and women who are mostly from well-to-do families. They sometimes come to a place near Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Abuja to buy 3 or 4 wraps of cocaine that cost N2, 500 each. You cannot count the number of teens that come around to buy cocaine. There are a few advanced men and women, but the majority of the customers are the young ones," says Mr.Godswill Akatagbo a convicted drug addict, weekly trust report cited in the new Nigerian News.

According to the head of clinical services, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Education and Rehabilitation Unit at Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital in Kaduna, Dr. Ebiti Williams, in an interview with Nigerian News said, "Over 6 million bottles of codeine are sold on a daily basis in the North-Western part of the country"

National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) report of 2010 also shows that over 11% of people in the Northwestern zone use drugs. He also said, due to the rise in drug addiction, young people make use of cough syrups to make them high.

Dr. Ebiti Williams further asserted that, younger people abuse prescription drugs much more than is referred to as illicit drugs. He disclosed that majority of patients who visit their facility are those who use combination of substances. "We don't have people that use single substance; some take cocaine, heroin, codeine, cannabis and alcohol at the same time".

Dr. Michael Amedu a Senior Registrar at the Psychiatry Department, Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Zaria, also further, explained to Nigerian News, that drug addiction is a case peculiar with people between the ages of eighteen and twenty. Although there are, cases recorded of people younger and older than this age range. He explained that these substances referred to as volatile substances or inhalants could be fumes from petrol, glue, nail polish, paint, chemicals to dilute paints, bases of gutters, codeine in some medicines, and other such agents.

Dr. Adewusi Oyawoye said, "With what we see every day, Nigeria might soon top the list of countries with the highest intoxicants because every day these youths come up with new and easy ways to go about intoxicating themselves. Because there are laws restraining people from abusing some of these drugs, these kids have resorted to using lizard dung and gadagi (a substance resembling tea leaves) which are normally easy and cheaper to afford. It is believed to be the poor man's alternative to cocaine. Lizard excrement are used in a variety of ways; i.e. as part of a cocktail produced from Robin Blue Powder, the popular fabric brightener, as well as medicinal herbs and seeds from a fruit called Zaqami, a quick-

acting substance that puts the user in a daze 30 minutes after ingestion."(Nigerian News, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2012)

Annual prevalence for opiate use in Africa, it is estimated between 0.2 and 0.6 per cent. In Nigeria, the opiate prevalence rate is estimated to have increased from approximately 0.6 to 0.7 per cent in 2009. This means that Nigeria would host roughly 500,000 heroin users (The Nation, 28thJune, 2011).

A lot of young men and women take drugs to get high and forget their frustration. "When you take it you feel happy and your worries disappear" said 23-year-old Usman Umar (Vanguard, 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2014). These are the thoughts of Nigerian's future leaders.

Where are the Nigeria youths heading? As Nigerian youths become drug addicts, and Nigeria has gradually graduated from a drug-consuming nation to a drug producing Nation, where is Nigeria heading?

#### Victims of human trafficking

Youths are also victims of the human trafficking in Nigeria. The 2009 trafficking in persons (TIP) report list the forms of trafficking that takes place within the Nigerian borders to include:

- The trafficking of women and girls for domestic service and commercial sexual exploitation;
- The trafficking of boys for forced labour in street vending, agriculture, mining, stone quarries, and domestic servants;
- The trafficking of boys called Almajirai (migrant pupils of Qur'anic schools) by Qur'anic schoolteachers for forced begging (R.B. Shatsari, 2010).

According to NAPTIP sponsored study aimed at establishing the scale of both domestic and external human trafficking in Nigeria revealed that, the level of internal or domestic trafficking is higher than the cross border one, although it would appear that public attention focused on the letter than the former. The study also estimated that between seven hundred thousand (700,000) to one million (1000, 000) persons are trafficked annually in Nigeria; and about 75% of the people trafficked are trafficked annually across the states of the federation; 23% are trafficked within the state and 2% are trafficked across the Nigerian borders.

Nevertheless, UNICEF estimate cited in the 2009 trafficking in persons report indicated, "as many as two million children are subjected to global commercial sex trade". The devastating consequences of sex trafficking on minors that include long lasting physical and psychological trauma, disease including HIV/AIDS, drug addiction, malnutrition, ostracism, and possibly death.

According to TIP report 2009, Nigeria is a source country from which women, girls and boys are trafficked to other West and Central African countries for the same exploitative purposes listed above. The report identified the countries of destination for the trafficked persons from Nigerian origin as Gabon, Ghana, Cameroon, Chad, Benin, Togo, Niger, Burkina Faso and Gambia.

Nigerian women and girls are also trafficked to Europe for commercial sexual exploitation. Women and girls recruited were transported through Libya, Morocco, and Algeria to European countries like Italy, Spain, Belgium, Austria, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland, France, Greece and United Kingdom. Nigerian children found in the urban centers in UK been exploited in domestic service and forced labour as workers in restaurants and shops. Women and girls are also trafficked from Nigeria to Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries for commercial

sexual exploitation and domestic service (R.B. Shatsari, 2010). What is the hope of the youths in this century after the abolishment of slave trade?

#### Victims of terrorism

It is still fresh in the mind of Nigerian's how this phenomena has exposed the youths and the entire Nigerian society in to massive killings, schools, properties destroyed, instability, mistrust, social disorder, general socio-economic, political and educational retardation (Radda, I.S, et al 2010). With the emergence of Boko Haram sects in Nigeria in 2009, the perpetrators and members recruited in the sects are youths, their actions ranging from violence, intimidation, radicalism, extremism, bombing, kidnapping, assassination and sabotage; these has forced many intellectuals out of school and formal occupation, forced migration and arm running in Nigeria. These have claimed the lives of many youths in Nigeria. It was reported that one thousand two hundred (1200) people were killed from January to March 2014. In addition, one hundred and twenty (120) people were killed in Zamfara State and another twenty (20) worshipers in Buni Gari, in Yobe State in April 2014. What are the hopes of the youths in this century?

#### Victims of baby factory phenomenon

A new wave of making money through selling of newborn babies and child trafficking is currently sweeping across parts of the country for quite some time now. The idea of keeping young girls and boys to produce children and then sell to desperate buyers is fast gaining prominence not only in the Southeastern but also in the South Western part of the country.

Operators of the homes and their syndicates usually scout for females with unwanted pregnancies and lure teenagers to their herbal clinic for delivery. Some keep young girls (teenagers) and allow their male syndicates to impregnate them and hold them hostage throughout the gestation period. Thereafter, the owner of the home settles them with cash and administers the babies to desperate childless women who patronize their herbal clinic to seek for fruits of the womb at higher costs (29thMarch, 2014, Vanguard).

However, when someone could stoop so low that she is willing to sell a newborn baby for two hundred and fifty thousand naira (N250, 000) such morally repugnant development could be associated with abject poverty of a wretched mind. That is the degree of decadence Nigerian society has fallen into (2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2014, Daily Independence).

According to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) report; human trafficking, including selling of children, is the third most common crime in Nigeria behind fraud and drug trafficking. In May, 2011 in Abia state, it was reported in the dailies that the Nigeria police rescued 32 pregnant girls whose babies were on the sales list, ranging between N250 000 and N300 000, depending on the gender of the baby. In the same vein, October, 2011 in Anambra state, another 17 pregnant teenagers were reported to have been freed from captivity in a pure water factory, which turned out to be a baby-making facility. In a related development, another 17 pregnant young girls were rescued by the Imo state police command in similar circumstances. Sadly, it was reported that about 26 victims were rescued from one Ahamefula Motherless Babies Home, Umuaka in Njaba Council Area of Imo state, Nigeria (2ndApril, 2014, Daily Independence). What is the hope of the next generation, as mothers who are the first agents of socialization are infected by these baby factory phenomena?

# Victims of militancy

It is believed that the acts of militancy is cause as a result of marginalization, injustice, institutionalization of inequality experienced by communities that pressured the youth into militant responses thus, defined as crimes against the state (Kurfi, 2010). According to Ekpo (2004), the dissatisfaction is often expressed with the use of violence, ranging from disruption of the activities of oil companies in the area; kidnapping of oil workers with demand for ransom and vandalization of petroleum facilities to cause oil spillage for which communities would demand compensation.

Oxford Advanced Learner Dictionary (2000) defines militancy as growing, increasing or favoring the use of force or strong pressure to achieve one's aims, especially among the unemployed. This definition identified the use of force or strong pressure in the attainment of one's goals. It has also identified unemployment as the motivating factor of one involvement into militancy (Kurfi, 2010). It is a known fact that most youth in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria are into militancy, which exposed the nation to insecurity, arm running and fear of disintegration, and general retrogression of the socio-economic, political state of the nation. If the Nigerian society can cause militancy, then what is the future of the nation? Whenever an individual person is been deprived of justice, the mind becomes imbalanced. Remember, the greater the injustice, the greater the imbalance.

# Victims of unemployment

A situation where able men and women who are ready to work but were denied opportunities to jobs by the nature of the system, when this persist, the tendency is that they might resort to all sorts of crimes and vices. Unemployment combined with poverty will rather aggravate crimes than reduce them. In Nigeria, majority of those who are unemployed today are youths, and graduates who had about four to five years in acquiring intellectual property and yet nothing is available for majority of them to do. No wonder, unemployed youths are easy prey of the political jobbers (Waziri, A.B 2013).

Unemployment in Nigeria is equally believed to be acute even though there is no adequate and reliable data (Zango, I.M, 2010). For instance, the government of Nigeria has conservatively estimated unemployment rate to be 10.8%; thus, the World Bank estimated unemployment rate to be within the range of 40% to 50% in urban centers and among new graduate (Bolnick, 2006). Zango, further postulated that, unemployment in Nigeria has remained high despite high growth rate experienced from 2000 to 2007.

These could be justified in the recruitment processed of the Nigerian Immigration Service in March 2014; where 520,000 people were set for a recruitment exercise for 'employment'. "In other words, in each of the 36 states of the federation, an average of 14,444 applicants was gathered at each stadium by the immigration office for the exercise. It was reported that, seven applicants lost their lives at the Abuja centre, three died in Port Harcourt in Rivers State and two reported dead in Minna, Niger State. It is a similar experience when the Nigerian Prison Service, Road safety Officials, and Independent National Electoral Commission recruitments exercise was conducted (Eloti TV, 17th march, 2014). It should be noted that, the capitalist structure of the Nigerian social system that produce a large reserve army of unemployed youths that are often living in poverty.

As postulated by Bala, (2010), it is apparent that we are living in a period of tremendous moral decadence and high

degree of indiscipline as evident in concerns expressed by families, the government, the electronic media, public lectures and religious preaching. The decline in public morality is a global phenomenon that leads to many social problems, ranging from extreme poverty, unemployment, divorce and broken homes, drug abuse. Other social problems include alcoholism, destitution, begging, thuggery, corruption, insecurity and ethno religious conflicts. Gambling, corporate scandals, financial meltdown, cybercrimes, terrorism, human trafficking and political violence, urban congestion, rural urban migration, environmental degradation, child abuse and abandonment, mass media and professional misconduct, juvenile delinquency, examination malpractice, violent crimes, prostitution, problems of vulnerable groups like children, women and aged, squalor, disease, illiteracy, suicide, are some of the challenges faced by the youth (Radda, S.I, et al, 2010).

Hence, Nigerian youths, in an attempt to safeguard their future from absolute deterioration, disaggregated themselves into different forms of resistant militia groups. Today, some of those whom society looked upon to as youths in the past have turned adults, doing what their predecessors did in government, stealing government money at will and fabricating lies to cover up their illegal deals (A.B, Waziri, 2013). What hope do Nigerian youths have in this 21st century, a world of misery, violence, HIV/AIDS, assassination, examination malpractice, sexual promiscuity and joblessness?

### Theoretical explanation on youths as victims of the century

What an ideology is to a human being or society in terms of creating pathways for a decent and orderly living is what a theory is to a scientist. It offers the scientist the latitude to predict the future with some degree of certainty. Thus, theory in its simplest explanation refers to a body of knowledge obtained through scientific research. This means that for an idea to be considered as a theory, it must have been subjected to the rigor of scientific investigation capable of giving it universal applicability thereby making it superior to hypothesis (Radda, S.I, et al, 2010).

However, for the purpose of this paper, Anomie theory would be use to explain the Nigerian youths as victims of the 21st century. A version of the anomie theories is that of Merton who referred to as structural strain theory. This group of theories borrowed a lot from Durkheim's concept of anomie; a situation of norm-less-ness, where roles governing social life has become unclear. From the assumption that humans have a natural tendency to observe norms, especially because of the part of personality often called conscience. Thus, breaking norms is because of the terrible strains on norms. Anomie often results from rapid social change. The rapid change resulted in an imbalance between people's goals and the available opportunities to achieve them (U.C, Isiugo-Abanihe, et al, 2002).

Merton (1970), focus on the 'log cabin to the white horse' dream of an average American and the structural barriers to this route, postulated five main reactions to the strain produced by the disjuncture between the goals and means. These reactions or adaptation, which results from the conflict so generated are:

Conformism: Accepting or still believe in the goal as well as the laid down rules.

- Innovation: Accepting the goals but create new means of achieving the goals.
- •Ritualism: Rejecting cultural goals but accepting the institutional means.

- Retreatism: Rejecting both the cultural goals and the institutional means and often leaving a life of isolation.
- Rebellion: Those who reject the old cultural goals and introduce new ones; and as well as reject the old institutionalized means and wish them replaced.

These means that, while the goals uniformly apply to every member of the society; the legal and legitimate means of getting them apply to a few. Therefore, those who are disadvantaged and form the majority will use illegal and illegitimate means of getting what the society wants them to get, which breeds social problems. For instance, the society stipulates that people should get money, power, prestige, education etc, because the society values them. However, the same society did not provide equal, equitable and fair pathway for everyone to get these things. Thus, to get money some people commit crimes like armed robbery, and corruption. To get power some people engage in electoral fraud and political violence. To get prestige some people fake credentials. To get education some people engaged in examination malpractice and to dominate the world or be relevant in it, some nations invent weapons of mass destruction (Radda, S.I, et al, 2010).

# Conclusion/recommendation

The 21<sup>st</sup> century to the Nigerian youths is nothing but a time of falling victims of Cross-cultural and re-socialization in to violence, new face of immorality, and recruitment to the use of arms. The social system is structured in such a way that produces' a huge reserved army of unemployed youths that are been utilized or motivated, by the political gladiators and opportunistic cliques. Thus, it is a known fact that the youths are the leaders, movers, and driving force of the socio economic, political, educational and intellectual development of every nation. Note that the youths are the wheels that propel a nation to its development by the winds of change. However, the reverse is the case in Nigeria. Where is Nigeria heading? The youths are moving to an unknown destination, with no hope and future, these are an indication that Nigeria is on a time bomb unless drastic actions are taken to rectify them.

The only way we can get out of the woe is to adopt a holistic approach to the roles of groups as stratified naturally by the society. The government and the people must know that, the society is stratified on the bases of social roles; that is to say, the youths have the energy that need to be exploited (intellectual know how, labor force) for development. Whereas, the elders advice with all sense of patriotic thought and give the government a sense of direction on how to exploit the energy without greed and self-centeredness. Nevertheless, mothers of all communities are the women, they need to be educated, enlighten, informed on the challenges and empowered both culturally, morally and the need for attitudinal change of the upcoming generation as they are the first agent of socialization of every community. Thus, in the side of the government, it must establish a base for equity, justice and fairness in the distribution and allocation of resource among its citizens. The government should provide an enabling structure, infrastructures, and environment ranging from affordable education, health care, housing, political education, industries, transport systems, market, electricity, road network from rural to urban, religious institution, rule of law, security, among others, as these will motivate the youths and investors for development. There is the need for leadership skills that would serve as the plot or scheme of the vision and mission for the socio economic and political development of the nation in this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

However, if these are achieved the citizens will be committed and feel the sense of patriotism and would wish to sacrifice for the society.

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#### References

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For papers published in translation journals, please give the English citation first, followed by the original foreign-language citation [6].

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