

# CURBING GLOBAL UNREST THROUGH EDUCATION

SULE M. N.

Department of Educational Foundations,  
Faculty of Education, University of Jos.

## Abstract

The paper is an exposition on the incidents of social unrest in the society. It articulated the concept of unrest at a global perspective and chronicled the events that are assumed to be unrest. Education was discussed as an instrument for the amelioration of social discontent. Some suggestions and recommendations were made for enhancing education to serve this purpose.

## Introduction

The key component of this conference theme is "Global Unrest". It is, therefore, expedient to provide an understanding of its meaning quite very early in the course of this discussion. To do so, an exposition on the concept of "Social Movement" that usually precludes it, will most apparently assist in illuminating the meaning and nature of "Global Unrest".

Hughes, Kroehler and Zanden (2002) stated that:

*Social Movement is a more or less persistent and organized effort on the part of a relatively large number of people to bring about or resist change (p.453).*

For instance, civil rights movement mobilized 200,000 people to march in Washington DC, in 1963 and also to demonstrate across the country. These demonstrations led to an end in the segregation of schools as well as other public facilities. Similarly, in the present day Nigeria society, women's agitations have led to the formation of movements that have resulted in a transformed society where they work alongside men in all types of careers. Today in Nigeria, a woman, Justice Aloma Muktar has emerged as head of the judicial arm of the Federal Government. Obviously, persistent agitations have brought this honour to the women folk.

Social movements usually emerge in times of rapid social change. Normally what gives rise to social change is mostly derived from external forces and processes but, essentially, internally triggered. Thus, social movement possesses a considerable measure of internal order and purposeful orientation. This organizational potential of a social system allows social movements to challenge established institutions. The act of challenging an established institution is usually depended on whether the institution is reflective of the current aspirations or demands of the social group. Usually, a social system is largely predicated on its value system and a social movement can either move to alter it or resist a change to alter it. Since every social system makes effort to maintain order based on its value system, the need to alter or not to alter its structure can also be seen as an effort to maintain orderliness.

Thus, a social change can be effected in an orderly fashion without discontent, bordering on riotousness. Infact, the educational institution of society is charged with the responsibility of initiating social change through the ambience of the school curriculum. This is done through subtle means where character change as a result of learning is gradually achieved.

However, certain desires for change may be too sudden and abrupt while not conforming to a gradual process or wait for a curriculum output. These social changes may arise from social misery and, more particularly, in social and economic deprivation. This can be further explained through the theory of 'relative deprivation'; which states that a social movement can emerge where a discontent associated with the gap between what people actually have and what they do expect and, indeed, feel to be due to them. This accounts for several cases of abrupt social changes following severe deprivations in rewards delivery.

Another dimension of the 'relative deprivation' theory is that, it can be fostered under the characteristics of Davies' (1974), "rise-and-drop" or "J-curve" hypothesis. He contended that revolutions are most likely to take place when a prolonged period of social and economic betterment is followed by a period of sharp reversal such as a salary cut in an austered economy. Thus, members of society fear that the gains they have achieved with great effort, will be lost, and their mood becomes revolutionary.

Social unrest is thus, a condition where disorderliness, disquiet or discontent is applied by a social movement to bring about or resist change. It usually disrupts the social organization or structure of society. An example is the upturn of a state and class structures of society. The above example carries the feature of a social revolution. This can be further explained and, of course, understood in the concept of terrorism which is the use of force or violence against persons or properties to intimidate or coerce a government or formal institution to achieve political, religious or social objectives.

Without doubt, all forms of unrest in society are basically motivated by the desire to attract personal or collective gains. These may not always be necessarily based on absolute but relative objectivity when considered on the scale of rationality. For instance, an unrest may pursue objectives that aim to change society by challenging fundamental values while another may seek modifications within the framework of the existing value scheme. Thus, issues that pertain to unrest in society are those that challenge the existing values and requiring sudden changes. Quite a number of the cases have assumed a global dimension and are apparently predicated on similar causes.

### **A Chronicle of Global Unrest**

Moments of social unrest are occurrences that have plagued the entire global community and thus, cannot be perceived within the horizon of a particular nation. Expectedly, the nature of these unrest have been similar in methods and procedures. This can be adduced to the state of globalization as well as the remarkable improvement in communication technology.

Most global unrest are often predicated on the variables of polity, economy and social justice. Koba (2011), reported that economic uncertainty led to global unrest in London, where three nights of rioting poured hundreds of people into the streets, leaving several local neighbourhoods in shambles. In this, one man died, dozens were injured and arrested. The protest spread to other cities, with violence reported in parts of Birmingham, Liverpool and Bristol. The cause was basically due to global economic uncertainty and stock market volatility, although Police said the violence began during a vigil for a man, Mark Duggan, who had been killed. However, those on the streets said what happened went beyond one man's death. The death was just an opportunity to press for issues that were economy-oriented.

Koba equally reported that in late June of the same year, half of the public schools in Britain were closed by a massive protest over public pension cuts. This mass movement comprised of some 750,000 people including three major teacher unions, customs and

immigration officers as well as air traffic controllers. Before the protest, it was perceived that discontent had simmered among Britain's urban poor for years in neighbourhoods like Tottenham where the protests started. However, in response to the violence, Prime Minister David Cameron announced his government's decision to maintain law and order by doubling the number of police officers on the streets and the institution of curfew for young adults. Generally, Cameron's conservative government was accused of spending pension cuts meant for social welfare programmes to help reduce the country's debt.

CNBC (2011), while reporting of a major unrest in Israel, stated that some 250,000 people took to the streets of Tel Aviv on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> August to protest over the rising cost of living. Demonstrations actually started earlier when a few people set up tents in an expensive part of Tel Aviv to protest the rising property prices. Eventually, the protests moved to other cities in Israel where some 50,000 people rallied. The demonstrations turned into a major challenge for the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Thus, the government announced a series of reforms including freeing up land for construction and offering tax breaks. This indeed is a sharp contrast to the response by David Cameron who instead doubled the number of police and imposed a curfew period. Instead of appeasing the people, the reforms rather generated further anger. Quite clearly, the protesters placed the following demands:

- Increase personal tax brackets for top earners;
- Enshrine the right to housing in the law; introduce rent controls; boost mortgage relief;
- Stop further privatization of things such as health facilities;
- Provide free education for all from the age of three months; and
- Raise the minimum wage to 50 per cent of the average wage.

Social unrests have equally featured in some European nations. Spain, Greece and Portugal have experienced protests and rioting in reaction to government austerity programmes and bad economic conditions. Koba (2011) reported that, in late June, riots broke out in Athens and other parts of Greece as the country's parliament voted to approve severe cutbacks in government spending. This meant a drastic slash in welfare packages that would affect ordinary people. Dozens of people were hurt and businesses destroyed as police battled rioters with tear gas and night sticks. In an explanation, Greek lawmakers stated that the cuts were to enable the government receive more bailout money from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and European Union (EU) or rather run the risk of defaulting on their debts.

In Spain, thousands of people, according to CNBC (2011), turned out in late May 2011, to protest the country's 21% unemployment rate. They also demonstrated against corruption in government activities and austerity measures to reign in the country's debt. Hundreds of people set up tents in a Madrid square and spent a week there in protest. Equally, Portugal saw massive strikes and protests in March, 2011 in response to government spending cuts where at least 200,000 people gathered in Lisbon.

Information collected, analyzed and presented by CNBC indicated that thousands of workers took to the streets throughout the Philippines in May, 2011 to press for higher pay. They demanded for better wages in the light of rising inflation which included higher oil prices. President Benigno Aquino III was urged to do more to help protect jobs. In reaction, the government held job fairs as hundreds of workers were earlier laid off as the economy slumped. In spite of this, the workers insisted that the effort had fallen far short of what they wanted.

The situation in Eastern China was quite similar, where nearly 1000 cab drivers blocked traffic and protested on August 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 over fuel costs. It was indeed the latest signal of discontent about the country's surging inflation. Inflation is hitting China hard with food prices recently increasing by 12%. Many Chinese officials are reported to be quite concerned that inflation, along with rising property prices, could lead to even more unrest. This is most worrisome as China is practicing communism and political as well as economic conditions should have been relatively stable.

One classical example of unrest is to be found in the "Arab Spring" which literally means the Arab rebellion or the Arab Revolution. It is a revolutionary wave of demonstrations and protests occurring in the Arab world that began on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December, 2010. To date, rulers have been forced out of power in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen. Civil uprisings have erupted in Bahrain, Algeria, Jordan and Kuwait. The protests have similar techniques of mostly civil resistance in sustained campaigns involving strikes, demonstrations, marches and rallies, as well as the effective use of social media to organize, communicate and raise awareness in the face of state attempts at repression. Many demonstrations have met violent responses from authorities, as well as from pro-government militias and counter-demonstrators. Nevertheless, these attacks have been answered with violence from protesters in some cases.

Some observers and commentators have drawn comparisons between the 'Arab Spring' movements and the pro-democratic, anti-communist revolutions of 1989 that swept through Eastern Europe and the communist world in terms of their scale and significance. The 'Arab spring' was sparked by the story of Mohammed Bouazizi, the street trader whose self-immolation on the morning of 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 ignited the revolution in Tunisia in protest of police corruption and ill-treatment. He could not get a job because, in a corrupt dictatorship, he lacked the right connection. As a street vendor, he earned 140 dollars a month from which he paid for his sister's education. This unemployed graduate, who felt molested by the police, got himself burnt, consequently hospitalized and died. This led to massive unrest in Tunisia that eventually saw to the exit of President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali who fled to Saudi Arabia. Similar protests led to the falls of Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak, Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi, and Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh. During this period of the Arab regional unrest, several leaders announced their intentions to step down at the end of their current terms. Sudanese President Omar al Bashir announced that he would not seek re-election in 2015, as did Iraqi Prime Minister, Nouri al-Maliki whose term ends in 2014.

In another legacy from the 'Arab spring', protests and riots in Syria against the rule of President Bashar al-Assad have been going on for over five months now. It is estimated that at least 1,600 people have been killed by government forces in this unrest. These demonstrations are a combination of calls for economic as well as political changes. In response, Assad's government has promised a package of reforms including higher wages, letting political parties exist, easing restrictions on the media, and a new anti-corruption drive. Surprisingly, these new measures have not been concretely placed to achieve the well-desired economic and political reforms. The tendency is that, the unrest may not only continue but may assume a complex dimension.

Turning the search light of social unrest towards home, it is not difficult to illuminate also on issues that are hanging on polity, economy and social justice. Just after the attainment of political independence by the founding fathers of Nigeria, it went through a dark period of unrest that eventually culminated into the civil war that lasted for about three

years. This unrest was more or less triggered by ethnic suspicion based on presumed domination of one by another. It was obviously an unfortunate situation for a country that just emerged from the doldrums of colonialism to so experience socio-political uncertainty. Another post-independence discontent situation in Nigeria was the Niger Delta Militancy. This started as a protest against environmental degradation occasioned by oil exploration and the lopsided derivation principle. From historical antecedents, when substantial amount of oil was first pumped in Southern Nigeria in late 1960s, 50% of revenues from the oil were remitted back to the states where the oil installations were located. However, successive governments gradually decreased the derivation percentage until it fell to about 2% of the initial 50%.

With the emergence of democratic government in 1999, sequel to very frantic agitations for improvement in the derivation percentage for oil producing states, it received an upward review of 13%. Those who notably championed these agitations included Adaka Boro, leader of the Niger-Delta Volunteer Force, and Ken Saro-Wiwa who headed the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP). These were social movements but initially had no revolutionary tendencies. The movements and those that evolved along the line became violent in the pursuit of these demands. As a result of these crises, The News Magazine of the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, 2012 reported that the Federal Government of Nigeria lost over N3trillion between 2008 and 2010. That when the hostilities in the Niger-Delta was on, crude oil exploration for export dropped from 2.3 million to 700,000 barrels per day. \*

Recent developments have shown that, civil unrests associated with crude oil exploration and trading are still being recorded in Nigeria. From the Wires (2012) reported that unrest in the country is affecting the global oil market negatively. Series of unrest in the country ranging from fuel subsidy removal protests, bombings and oil spillage have reflected in the price of crude in the world market. According to the report, Brent's Premium to United States crude reflected unrest in Nigeria, which is Africa's top oil producer. Shell, the world's largest energy company by market value, has suffered major losses due to incessant unrest in the oil rich regions of Nigeria. For instance, early this year (2012), an offshore oil spill in the Niger-Delta led to the shutting down of the Bonga field. This oil spill was considered the nation's worst in more than a decade since Bonga field has the capacity to produce more than 200,000 barrels a day of crude oil and 150 million cubic feet of gas a day. Economic deprivations have led to discontentment accounting for widespread unrest in Nigerian oil rich region.

Another major social unrest in Nigeria has been the "Boko Haram" insurgency. The sect has remained faceless and very little is known of its demands. It has been responsible for the death of over one thousand people since its emergence. With very sophisticated methods of attack, its grievances seem to be based on economic, political and religious dimensions. Since it has remained a faceless and inaccessible social movement, quite little is known of its concrete aspirations, not to talk of meeting them. A lot of efforts need to be made to unravel the mystery behind this continued unrest because its negative signal is fastly permeating and weakening the existing structures of the nation's political and economic institutions.

### **Pathogeneses of Global Unrest**

To understand the pathogeneses of social unrest, it is most beneficial to consider the factors below:

\*

### **i) Political Factors:**

Politics means the science of government or its business. It entails moves or maneuvers that are concerned with the acquisition of power by an individual or group.

The British sociologist Ralph Miliband (1969) sees power as being derived from wealth. This contention thus, rejects the pluralist view that in "democracies" equal political rights give each member of the population equal power. Political equality is, therefore, a myth and even more difficult to realize in conditions of advanced capitalism because of the power of those who own and control the means of production.

The Marxist perspectives similarly see power as concentrated in the hands of a minority in society. They stress that the powerful and the powerless have different interests and that these differences may lead to conflict in society which can degenerate to unrest.

Unrest could be centered on a controversy between a powerful governmental force and a relatively powerless followership. For instance, Smith-Spark and Busari (2012) reported that Nigeria's main trade union groups early this year (2012) called for a general strike and mass rallies over a controversial government decision to take away fuel subsidies. Union leaders said Nigerian workers were already experiencing unnecessary hardship as a result of the decision which they argued was affecting the cost of transportation, food, medication, rent and school fees.

In response, government stated that, the removal of fuel subsidies would have a positive impact on the country's economy. It explained that money saved would be used to invest elsewhere, such as, in the refurbishing of ailing refineries. Presently, Nigeria has no functioning refineries and has to import fuel. Despite these explanations by government to justify its political decisions, the mega unions in Nigeria embarked on strike to protect workers' conditions by asking government to revert to the earlier pump price of 65 naira per litre. The unrest was settled through a concession by government in bringing the raised price down to 97 naira per litre.

At the moment, monies accruing into the fuel subsidy accounts seem not to be properly accounted for. For instance, the Federal Government had budgeted N245billion for fuel subsidy last year (2011) but suddenly raised it to N2.19trillion without concrete explanations. All that is more heard of is the "sting operation" involving Hon. Farouk Lawan and Chief Femi Odetola of the alleged \$620,000 USD bribe.

It may not be too long before Nigerians who suspended the strike begin to ask questions on the agreed palliatives meant to address the pains created by the subsidy removal. This situation may just be another "time-bomb" to herald yet a major unrest in Nigeria.

Thus, the political society, according to Antonio Gramsci (1891-1973), often represses the civil society. While the political society comprises of what is normally thought of as state, the civil society consists of those institutions normally thought of as private, particularly the church, trade unions, the mass media, and political parties. The political society often has its interests above those of the civil society, which often results in conflict that usually lead to social unrest.

Those who constitute the political society are usually of the elitist group that belong to the privileged class. They, therefore, enjoy both political and economic advantages over those that belong to the civil society. Basically, the political society is vested with the responsibility of ensuring equitable distribution of our scarce material resources. This position can be further buttressed by the provision of the Nigerian Constitution in Section 17 sub-section 3(a) as follows:

*The state shall direct its policy towards ensuring that, all citizens without*

*discrimination on any group whatsoever. have the opportunity for securing adequate means of livelihood as well as adequate opportunity to secure suitable employment.*

It, however, appears that, this is only a political statement that means very little to the political society itself. Rather, poverty, irregularity and injustices are highly prevalent in mostly developing societies like Nigeria. These have led to wealth gaps between individuals and groups, thus creating imbalances resulting into tensions and subsequently, unrest.

## **ii) Economic Factors**

Economy is seen as the manner in which resources and money within a community or nation are organized. It also involves the method of the distribution of scarce material resources to members of society. Therefore, the production of goods and services holds the key to human happiness and fulfillment. However, not all members of society remain ever happy and fulfilled on the basis of the production of goods and services. In a capitalist economy, a small minority owns the means of production, while a majority that constitutes the work force remains largely alienated even from the goods it produces. Thus, happiness and fulfillment often remain with the minority than with the majority.

No wonder, Haralambos, Holborn and Heald (2000), stated that capitalism is based on self-interest, avarice and greed. It is a system of cut-throat competition concerned with the maximization of profit rather than the satisfaction of real human needs. By these, capitalists and workers are often engaged in a struggle for survival and personal gains, a foundation for conflict.

These gains are often the indices that confer political power on individuals or groups in society. Thus, Hughes, Khroehler and Zanden (2002) agreed that economic capacity renders political power on an individual or groups in society. Individuals or groups that control critical resources such as those pertaining to rewards, are able to dictate the way social life is ordered.

The ordering of social life is by all means characterized by bias and lopsided considerations. These can be seen in the employment prospects of members of society where the least qualified are often considered over the more qualified.

The bases of these are usually in terms of ethnicity, religion, and other primordial considerations. The concept of 'godfatherism' has been the most enterprising phenomenon for the consideration of leaders in Nigeria's political process. Elections are in most cases rigged to give victories to favoured candidates by political "godfathers". These can clearly be justified by the many up-turned so-called victory cases that were challenged at election tribunals and even at the Supreme Court.

A major violent unrest in Nigeria was the post-election violence of 2011 where a colossal damage was done to properties and many lives lost. This followed the rejection of the outcome of the presidential election by some political parties and individuals which moved their supporters to go on rampage.

Unfortunately, the many unemployed and out of school young individuals saw it as an opportunity to show their disenchantment with a government that has failed to offer them better livelihood. Economic poverty due to unemployment and ignorance created by illiteracy were certainly very crucial factors that generated the social unrest.

### **iii) Religious Factors**

One way to understanding religion is to see it in terms of the functions it performs for individuals or society. That is why Sherkat and Ellison (1999) stated that, essentially religion should be seen in its effects on health, the family and politics. Religion is often viewed as a major source of social solidarity. It provides believers with a common set of norms and values which constitutes an important source of social solidarity. Wuthnow (1988), asserted that, religious beliefs, rituals and bonds help to create a 'moral community' in which all members know how to behave towards one another.

In recent years, the entire global religious society has embarked upon a fundamentalist revival. Religious fundamentalism has remained a major challenge to the global society. For instance, the Christian Protestant Movement opposes "modernist", theology and seeks to conserve the basic principles underlying traditional Christianity. Equally, an example could be drawn from the Iranian revolution of 1979 when Ayatollah Khomeini, an Islamic religious leader overthrew the Shah, Mohammed Riza Pahlavi. His monarchy was replaced with a theocratic regime rooted in Islamic traditions.

This revolution ushered in nationalist and political expressions that were beyond religion. Islamic fundamentalists challenged several secular-oriented governments in North-Africa and the Middle East. This was targeted at dismantling western domination for the enshrinement of Islamic principles and ideas in government.

The insurgencies in the Arab world and the spillover effects in some sub-saharan African countries including Nigeria are indeed clear examples for the realization of this ambition. However, underneath this agitation are the desires for economic emancipation and political power improvement. The 'Arab Spring' is an example of the need for social and economic betterments rather than religious demands. Religious crises or social unrest are often fueled and perpetrated by the unemployed and out of school who are always on the 'wings' to be used. Idleness and ignorance being the key elements that serve as drives.

These obviously explain the menace of the "Boko Haram" insurgence in Nigeria. A high percentage of the perpetrators are teenagers who ought to be in school. Many are without worthwhile skills to be considered for paid jobs or have dropped out of school due to financial constraints. These are "frustrated teenagers" that are usually vulnerable and could easily be recruited for violence.

### **iv) Leadership Factors:**

The global society has not experienced enough good leaders with sound dispositions for using the indices of economy, politics and religion for a stable global environment. There has been a significant 'Leadership want' being the bane of social unrest globally. Most of those in leadership positions are covered in injustices based on ethnicity, religious and political biases.

### **Applying Education for Curbing Global Unrest**

Education remains the most veritable tool for the actualization of social betterment, economic viability and political growth in all human societies. No wonder, the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in Section (18) subsection (1) says that government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels. Subsection (3) states that government shall strive to eradicate illiteracy by providing education freely to all categories of Nigerians without any bias. Government's commitment has been further enunciated in the National Policy on Education (NPE) with



very laudable statements of objectives. These statements of objectives, where well pursued can foster the values for betterment, viability and growth of society. The values therefore have important functions in society as a whole. Education can be utilized as an instrument for social cohesion and for the amelioration of social discontent as follows:

**i) Access to Education**

Access to schooling by all society's school aged individuals is not just a privilege but certainly a right. Wiley (2012) stated that, democratizing access to educational opportunity is a crucial step toward curbing global crises like, poverty, hunger, political turmoil and economic unrest. The idea of a totally tuition-free education is quite necessary for all people to have the chance to reach their intellectual potential.

Currently in Nigeria, the Basic Education Programme of the Federal Government cannot be said to be totally free. Though, it is tuition-free, some basic necessities are still being paid for. The children still pay for or purchase school uniforms, writing materials, practical work materials and a host of others whose costs are enough to deny some categories of children full access to school.

**ii) Qualitative Education**

High educational standard is a prerequisite for a sound society premised on orderliness, justice and equity. Consequently, a sound society can guarantee a society devoid of incessant conflicts and unrest. Educational standard is a measure of the levels of skills acquisition, knowledge, competencies, ideas and principles endowed by the products of an educational system. Obviously, most products of our school system are highly bereft of the virtues outlined above. Many factors can be adduced to this phenomenon and which are teacher – quality dimension, funding, facilities and infrastructures. For instance, inspite of government's huge investments in education, much is still desired. Many children in primary schools still sit on bare floor to be taught. Teachers more often than not go on strike to press home demands for unpaid salaries. Presently, primary school teachers in Plateau State are being owed three months of their salaries while those in tertiary institutions in the state are equally owed four months. This year, primary school teachers in the state have only taught for one and half months (1½ months), yet the children are expected to transit into the next classes and some into JS1 by September.

Social unrest can be an indicator of the prevalence of high rate of school drop-out and poor school performance. The case of the fifteen years (15 years) old teenager who planted explosives in his body and detonated it at the palace of the Shehu of Bornu is quite worrisome. Probably, he was a school drop-out that had experienced severe frustration. Quality education is a basic requirement for job creation and placement without which a recipient of education is rendered idle. The need therefore is stressed for more proactive roles by government and stakeholders in education to exhibit more commitment to enhance its quality to its recipients.

**iii) Global Education**

Since social unrest has assumed a global dimension, it is also necessary to pursue education within a global focus. This idea can afford for a shared-valued-education within the entire global community. Education can assume a cross-cultural dimension while permeating all social values and norms. This will apparently and gradually moderate obnoxious cultures in different societies. The world will then reason commonly and perceive issues and situations

collectively. This might herald and then strengthen the need for inter-nation collaboration for better understanding.

**iv) Education for the reduction of illiteracy and ignorance**

Education must be seen as a mechanism to eradicate illiteracy and remedy the high level of ignorance, particularly in developing or emerging societies. Currently, Nigeria's literacy rate is just above fifty percent (50%). This calls for an aggressive effort to ensure that it is raised to an appreciable level, otherwise many will continue to wallow in deep ignorance and be manipulated for social unrest.

**v) Education for the balancing of fundamental human rights**

Since most social unrest stem from human rights abuses and injustices in society, it is necessary that education systems and school curricular structures be substantially based on skills that can promote the basis for democratic living, and adherence to social justice principles. Currently, the rate of corruption in Nigeria seems to be alarming and exposes the nation to the preponderance of injustice. Corruption is considered by most Nigerians to be a way of life and indeed part of our acceptable norm. Thus, an individual is considered to be corrupt only where he decides not to either directly or indirectly engage in corrupt practices. The case of the Police Pension Fund official who hid two billion naira in his house while the pensioners in their numbers slumped and died could not have been a fair judgment. He lacked what it takes to be educated and accountable. Just an education which provides a balance of fundamental human rights is required.

**vi) Education Beyond Graduation**

The system of education in society should provide a compelling mechanism for continuous training and retraining. This is necessary because of the continuous rapid changes in society which at times are sophisticated and complex that require more recent ideas and principles. Ideally, education is meant to be a life-long process given the need to update knowledge and refine skills. Education should re-awaken and prepare us for complex challenges in society on a continuous basis.

**Conclusion**

That global social unrest is assuming a more complex and sophisticated dimension is the basic truth and a realistic statement. Man seems to be evolving more violent strategies to settle disputes and social discontent. The patterns of these unrest are apparently similar in nature and procedures. This can only be explained by the great improvement in communication technology as the world has fast become a "global village". The only most veritable way to stem the tide of social unrest is by using the instrument of education. Education can change the value system of a group of people by inculcating in it new ones. The school curriculum is often the best tool to be used to achieve this.

## References

- CNBC (2012). Employment/Europeanunion/recession/inflation/Portugal/Britain/Economy  
<http://www.cnb.com>
- Davies J (1974). Toward a theory of revolution. *American Sociology Review*, 53(1), 5-19.
- Federal Government of Nigeria (1999). *Constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria*.  
Lagos: Federal Government Press.
- From the wires (Feb, 2, 2012). *Nigeria Unrest affects world crude oil trading*.
- Giddens, A. (2006). *Sociology*. Manchester: Polity Press.
- Haralambos, M. Holborn, M. & Heald, R. (2000). *Sociology: Themes and perspectives*.  
London: Harper Collins.
- Hughes, M, Kroehler, C.J. & Zanden, M.W. (2002). *Sociology: The core*. New York:  
McGraw Hill.
- Koba, M. (2011). *Economic uncertainty leading to global unrest*.  
<http://www.cnb.com/id/44073673>
- Milliband, R. (1969). *The state in capitalist society*. London: Weidenfield & Nicolson.
- The News Magazine*, vol 39 No. 01 9<sup>th</sup>, July, 2012.
- Wiley, D. (2012). <http://wwwuopeople.org>.