Deradicalizing the Radicalized Youth for Peace, Security and Development in the North Eastern Region of Nigeria

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Abstract: *The concept of deradicalization has been synonymously used as counter radicalism, counter terrorism or counter insurgency among other terms. It is indeed the direct opposite of the term radicalization. This study covered the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe in the north eastern region of Nigeria since 2009 where government has been fighting Boko Haram insurgency. 450 respondents were involved in the study as respondents that were given questionnaires where 417 returned the completed questionnaires. It was observed that military option combined with deradicalization may yield better result in ending insurgency in the region. Those parents, traditional institutions, religious institutions and the NGOs need to be involved in the process due to their closeness to the people and indeed the trust people have in them. With this, there is the tendency that the radically minded persons will understand and better appreciate the roles of these institutions. Although the idea for adopting deradicalization was supported by the respondents, skepticism was also expressed with regard to total success in relinquishing the ideology. There was agreement with regard to institutionalized deradicalization policy initiated and supported by government; equally it was observed that non-institutionalized deradicalization policy initiated and supported by government may likely yield significant result.*

Keywords: Deradicalization, Radicalization, Insurgency, Boko Haram, Terrorism

1. Introduction

Taking it from a broad perspective, the word "deradicalization" is the other side of "radicalization". Radicalization is used to describe the process whereby individuals and/or groups develop a mindset that increases the risk of being engaged in violent activities, extremism or terrorism. It therefore follows that the word "deradicalization" should only be used to refer to the methods and techniques used to undermine and reverse completed radicalization process, thereby reducing the potential risk for the society to have its members engaged into extremism, violence and/or terrorism. Deradicalization is as such the way of encouraging the people with extreme and violent religious and political ideologies to adopt more moderate views.

Moreover, deradicalization is usually used interchangeably with some sister terms and this allows some confusion to arise. These are **counter-radicalization**; the term used to describe methods to stop or control radicalization as it is occurring, **anti-radicalization**; the term used to describe methods to deter and prevent radicalization from occurring in the first place. In both the two situations, the individual or group has not yet become fully involved in terrorism. This implies that the process of radicalization has not been completed or begun in earnest. Thus, the individuals are not in detention and therefore not subjected to either direct or rigid control associated with detention. This is because they have not gone beyond the radicalization process and to get actively involved in terrorist activities.

The defeat of terrorists on war front through military strength does not automatically implies the denouncing of their views and ideology. It therefore implies that they ultimately hold the radical political, ideological, or religious views and ideology which are unacceptable. This is where the option of deradicalization comes to play in order to ensure the up-rooting or polishing of the radically unacceptable views and ideology from them for lasting peace. In principles and practice, this entitlement to hold one's own viewpoints is legally enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) in Article 10, which protects freedom of expression. In the United States, a similar right to freedom of speech is guaranteed in the First Amendment of the US Constitution. In addition to national and regional legislation, equivalent concepts of freedom of thought and expression are upheld in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). However, radicalization still remains unacceptable and as such has to be fought systematically through de-radicalization programs.

A cursory look around the world will reveal that many countries have suffered and are still suffering from radicalization, extremism and most disturbingly terrorist attacks. For instance, the attacks that took place in London in June 2017 where the attackers (Khuran Butts, Youssef Zaghba and Rachid Redouane) succeeded in attacking London Bridge where eight persons were killed (Independent, 2017). Similarly the Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris in 2015 where 130 people were killed while as much as 494 people sustained varying degree of injuries. The attackers whom were confirmed to be sponsored by ISIS were armed with rifles and succeeded in attacking six locations across Paris (CNN, 2015). Africa too has had terrorist attacks that have rendered peace and stability almost a mirage in the affected countries. Examples include the Al Qaeda in Middle East, Boko Haram in northern Nigeria, Al-Shabab in Somalia and among others. This is an obvious indication of the degree of radicalization of the youth and indeed the requisite need for de-radicalization. Furthermore, since 2002, de-radicalization programs seeking to induce the disengagement of suspected terrorists from terrorist activities have been established in Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia,

Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Bangladesh, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands (Barrett & Bokhari, 2009).

This research work is a critical attempt to examine how the conditions, methods and processes under which deradicalization, counter-radicalization, and anti-radicalization programs are applied, with adequate highlights on the benefits as well as the challenges they present to the persons and organizations involved in carrying out the programs and on the other hand how youth deradicalization can serve as an effective strategy to fight radicalization, extremism and terrorism particularly in Sub-Saharan African countries to ensure peace, stability and development especially in the Boko Haram affected north eastern region of Nigeria. The research aimed at finding and recommending lasting solutions to the menace of radicalization, extremism and terrorism so that the peace, stability and development shall be achieved again and sustained in the areas.

2. Statement of Problem

The high and rising level of youth radicalization by fundamentalist groups such as Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, the Niger-Delta militants among others have direct link to violence and terrorism in Nigeria and beyond which has in turn posed serious fears among the populace and the international community. It has also eaten deep into the fabrics of the society and affects the security, peace and economic development depicting their hostility to have obviously gone beyond religious or political coloration. In the attempt to provide lasting solution to the challenges, several meetings, summits, conferences, negotiations, consultations, among others have been held in Nigeria and beyond, but all to no avail.

Furthermore, the governments at both state and federal levels have spent millions of Naira in making sure that peace is regained in Nigeria and the neighboring countries which is gradually yielding results. President Buhari in one of his speeches prompts all Nigerians to take security seriously because it is everybody's business. But can we say that the Boko Haram insurgency menace could be curbed and finally settled without the deradicalization of the already radicalized youths. This logically seems impossible. It therefore implies that deradicalization is a fundamental strategy that must never be left out in finding a lasting solution to the insurgency problem in Nigeria and elsewhere. However, empirical studies, meetings, summits, conferences, negotiations and consultations only focus mainly on the causes and counter processes directed mostly at the developed countries of the world, but are yet to give the needed paramount focus on youth deradicalization in Sub-Saharan Africa which we considered as an indispensable strategy in providing a lasting solution to insurgency in the north eastern Nigeria and at the same time ensuring sustainable peace and development. Based on this, this study is set to empirically investigate how deradicalization can provide solution to radicalization, extremism, terrorism and insurgency and on the other hand ensure peace, stability and development in the north east and Nigeria at large. This shall further awaken the government and other stake-holders to embrace youth de-radicalization as one of the important strategies to lasting peace, stability and development.

In line with the above, this study was built on the objective of establishing indispensable measures to deradicalize the youth and erase their already imbibed radical views and ideology towards ensuring lasting peace and stability especially in the security threatened areas like the north east of Nigeria. It is in this regard that the objective has been expanded to cover the following;

- To ascertain how deradicalization of ideology and views can solve the menace of fundamentalism, extremism, conflict and terrorism in Nigeria and beyond and ensure peace and stability.
- To examine the need for de-radicalization in fighting the menace of insecurity, insurgency and terrorism.
- To find out the threat pose by the Boko Haram insurgency to the peace, stability and the economy of Nigerian.
- To explore whether the military option alone is a viable solution in tackling the menace of insurgency,
- To provide an explanation on the deradicalization methods and program that has worked effectively elsewhere.
- To recommend youth deradicalization that shall befits the Nigerian situation.

3. Scope of the Research

Deradicalization especially of the youth is no doubt a fundamental strategy to proffering far reaching solution to the security threat in Nigeria and other countries of the world. The states in the north eastern region of Nigeria are worse affected by the Boko Haram insurgency, especially Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States. Based on this, the researchers took it upon themselves to cover a total of fifteen Local Government Areas (LGA) affected by insurgency in Adamawa (Michika, Mubi North, Mubi South, Gombi and Maiha) Borno (Maiduguri Metropolitan, Jere, Dambua, Konduga and Bama) and Yobe (Gujba, Gulani, Damaturu, Tarmuwa and Geidam) were selected for the purpose of this research.

In this connection it is significant to note that terrorism and insurgency all begin with the radicalization of the views and ideology of the people more especially the youth. They are currently the top topical issues in the world. The significance of this study on youth deradicalization is that it will provide a guide to the government and other stake holders like the NGOs in their quest to proffer solutions to the problems of radicalism, extremism, conflict, insurgency and terrorism especially that of Boko Haram, as each of these poses obvious threat on peace, security, stability and the overall growth of countries' economy. The study shall as well guide the policy makers in formulating well informed policies on youth deradicalization as a strategy in ensuring peace.

Moreover, this work will theoretically be useful to writers, scholars, journalists, researchers and other readers in adding to their existing knowledge of deradicalization particularly regarding Boko Haram. It shall also help the communities towards the deradicalization of their members on one hand

and making them useful again. This study is therefore of paramount importance and worth doing.

4. Review of Literature

This is done on terms and concepts as they relate closely to the topic of the research, it is certain that scholars at various times have written on de-radicalization from various perspectives which could help significantly toward the understanding of our subject matter. Radicalization has been conceived in the writing of Bartlet and Miller (2012) that it can assume violent or nonviolent pattern, but it is a process of forming an extremist view that has high propensity of resulting in to a violent action. The (IPI, 2010) stated that deradicalization and radicalization lean heavily on the family and other social ties and contemporary world of internet which has been significantly contributing to radicalization process. As further reported in the (IPI,2010) the category of persons that are generally vulnerable to radicalization possesses the following features , trusting persons already involved with radical groups , they are spiritually hungry and dedicated to their faith, having limited knowledge of their religion and being desperate , naïve or simply in need of money.

Deradicalization

Deradicalization is a concept that has over the years gain much popularity due to the growing demand for practical application of the concept in resolving major global threats of terrorism/extremism. It is also pertinent to understand that youth deradicalization cannot be treated without looking at the concept of radicalization which is the bedrock of the problem, that is to say it is only where there is radicalization that the concept of deradicalization can come up. In this connection this literature examines various works that are related to this study by focusing on de-radicalization and radicalization.

In contemporary global scenario, there has been a great concern on why and how to end radicalization and terrorism which is one of the major global threats to peace and security. This therefore generated the need for deradicalization particularly of the youth who are the most vulnerable category of persons involved in radicalization. According to El-said (2015) deradicalization refers to disengagement from violence, in essence it is a package of policies and measures designed and implemented by authority in order to normalize and convince groups and individuals who have already become radicalized or violent extremists to repent and disengaged from violence. This is simply to say deradicalization implies a process of reversing radicalization.

However, Porta and Lafree (2012) observed that the issue of deradicalization is a two way process which involves disengaging from violent behavior on one hand and quitting the ideology of the extremist group by integrating in to the society devoid of such extremist behavior. It is also certain that the process of deradicalization may take shape from formal or informal process depending on which one is initiated. It is also important to note that we cannot talk of deradicalization without considering the concept of

radicalization as it is the bedrock from which the concept of deradicalization get its roots.

Effectiveness of Deradicalization in Combating Terrorism

Radicalism is generally driven by some fundamental issues of varying degrees affecting the society which need the concerted efforts of the government and the society to counter them. These factors includes ideology, poverty, ignorance, deprivation and political pressures pushing youth toward radicalism and terrorism (USIP, 2012). Various deradicalization programs aimed at deradicalizing extremist or radically minded individuals and groups tend to adopt one of such measures in an attempt to combat terrorism which is considered today as the major singular global threat to peace and security. According to Barrett and Bokleri (2009) deradicalization programs have been established in a number of countries with the view to induce disengagement of terrorist from the terrorist activity as in the case with countries such as Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Tajikistan , Indonesia, Singapore , Malaysia, Algeria, Egypt , Libya, Bangladesh, Philippines, U.K, and Netherlands.
Pakistan Deradicalization

In Pakistan certain rehabilitation schools / centers were established for detainees who were considered as soft rather than hard core militants, under which six deradicalization programs were being operated throughout the country. The policy was built on the conviction that violent extremism cannot be defeated by traditional military warfare but need to be pursued via other means. Such ideology is predicated on corrupted and deviant interpretation (Hesterman, 2010). The Pakistan policy is predicated on the objectives of providing formal education, correct religious education, vocational training, counselling and therapy in addition to discussion with the participants and members of their families (Qazi, 2013). The initiatives which was activated in 2009, had recorded 99% percent success level with over 2,500 Taliban fighters successfully reformed according to Pakistan officials (Rana, 2011). However, such claim could not be verified independently. In line with the above Rana (2011) equally maintained that, four methods of deradicalization have been adopted around the world which includes security approach, societal approach, ideological approach and political approach. The four approaches focus on different targets/ subjects by adopting different strategies and having the general aim of deradicalizing and neutralizing the threat of the peace by the society. The summary of the process is presented below.

Table 1, deradicalization approaches used in different parts of the world

Approach	Security	Societal	Ideological	Political
Targets	Detainees	Vulnerable groups	Religious leaders	The entire society
Method	Rehabilitation	Getting them engaged	Emphasizing peace in religion	Convince the mind and the heart
Specific aim	Curtailing threats	Build a moderate society	Counter arguments	Neutralized security threat

Table adopted from Rana (2011)

The Saudi Arabian Deradicalization Success

The Saudi government has been involved in deradicalization programs in order to free the society from radicalism, it has been focusing on radically minded persons who have been imprisoned with the view of deradicalizing them, returning them to the society and reintegrates them with other members of the society. A strategy involving the process of prevention, rehabilitation and after care approach (Goodstein, 2010). These three steps have the goal of preventing entry of non-radical individuals, the rehabilitation tries to fix those who are already radicalized in order to be returned to society while the aftercare is to enable proper reintegration , monitoring and future prospect of the disengaged persons released from custody. With this approach Saudi government claimed 100 success in its deradicalization program (Auld, 2015). The programs involved families of the radicalized prisoners to ensure that they are given adequate support after being released. However since such statistics happened to be given by the government it has to be treated with caution. It has been contended that Saudi centrally focus on religion as a major cause of radicalization and thus tend to concentrate on trying to convince the detainees that their interpretation of the Qur'an is built on misguided interpretation (Capstack, 2015). It is also a process that is financially overburdened and as such not all countries can adopt that method.

The Columbian Deradicalization

The Columbian government being one that has been faced by a long period of guerilla war adopted a policy of collective disengagement through negotiating with the leaders of the groups. The process had been greatly influenced by Law 148 (1997) and amended Law 782 (2002)

through Decrees 128 (2003), 3360 (2003) and 2767 (2004). These laws states that persons who have been involved in armed groups may be eligible for amnesty in relation to their political crime. However, persons found to have partake in atrocious acts of barbarity, terrorism, genocide, kidnappings and the likes of such were not eligible for such amnesty. The process of collective disengagement through the heads of the groups seemed to have yielded positive results even though some demobilized members may still maintain their ideological behavior (NCSTRT, 2009).

Deradicalization Practice in United Kingdom

As a preventive strategy the United Kingdom initiated the channel program as a response to the increasing level of radicalization and indeed the UK effort in countering terrorism after the 9/11 attack with the aim of preventing people from joining terrorism (Gayle, 2016). The program is centrally targeting vulnerable children and adults of any faith, religion and ethnic background before their vulnerability is exploited by the terrorist (HM Government, 2015). The approach emerged from the studies carried out on convicted terrorist where an assessment framework was developed for ascertaining vulnerability factors that are either causally related or at least correlated with all of the individual psychologies (Ali, 2015). Those identified to be at risk of being radicalized are be referred to counseling centers, faith guidance, civic and political engagement, education and health services (HM Government, 2010). However because the channel program refer even younger children as four years old is more likely to promote extremism rather than countering it since the younger ones come in to contact with the adults at the such centers.

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of respondent's views on the variables contained in the questionnaire relating to youth deradicalization in the north eastern region of Nigeria

	Sex	Male		%		Female		%		Total		%	
1	Response	**A 262**		**SA 62.8**		**N 155**		**D 37.2**		**SD 417**		100	
	Issues raised	Fr	%	Fr	%	Fr	%	Fr	%	Fr	%	TT	%
2	Youth deradicalization is necessary in controlling violent extremism.	149	35.7	197	47.2	44	10.6	1	0.2	26	6.2	417	100
3	Insecurity in the North eastern Nigeria was caused by indoctrination of the youth on fake religious claims	124	29.7	158	37.9	46	11	60	14.4	29	7	417	100
4	The military option alone cannot solve the problem of insecurity in the north eastern Nigeria	95	22.8	189	45.3	70	16.8	58	13.9	5	1.2	417	100
5	The military option has to be supported by the policy of deradicalization.	156	37.4	135	32.4	49	11.8	56	13.4	21	5	417	100
6	Deradicalization should involve employing personnel with the requisite qualifications	145	34.8	125	30	72	17.3	58	13.9	17	4.1	417	100
7	There is need to adopt policies of countries that have benefited from the practice of deradicalization	137	32.9	162	38.8	62	14.9	37	8.9	19	4.6	417	100
8	Going by the nature of Boko Haram operations, even with deradicalization they may not be welcomed back in to their communities	140	33.6	113	27.1	30	7.2	87	20.9	47	11.3	417	100
9	Deradicalization will not clean up the extremist ideology in insurgents and they may still return if chanced.	127	30.5	122	29.3	63	15.1	66	15.8	39	9.4	417	100
10	Government is responsible for ensuring peace and development in the north eastern Nigeria	177	42.4	160	38.4	41	9.8	25	6	14	3.4	417	100
11	Traditional institutions should be involved in deradicalization of youth in north eastern Nigeria because of their closeness to the people.	134	32.1	142	34.1	71	17	41	9.8	29	7	417	100
12	Religious groups should be involved in deradicalization of youth in north eastern Nigeria.	104	24.9	167	40	73	17.5	39	9.4	34	8.2	417	100
13	Non-governmental organization should be involved in	137	32.9	115	27.6	78	18.7	58	13.9	29	7	417	100

No	Statement	A Fr	A %	SA Fr	SA %	N Fr	N %	D Fr	D %	SD Fr	SD %	Fr	%
	deradicalization of the youth in north eastern Nigeria.												
14	Provision of basic needs of the society will help in deradicalizing the youth in north eastern Nigeria.	147	35.3	125	30	61	14.6	41	9.8	43	10.3	417	100
15	Ensuring adequate employment opportunities will help in the deradicalization of youth in north eastern Nigeria.	156	37.4	152	36.5	40	9.6	51	12.2	18	4.3	417	100
16	Youth enlightenment regarding religious views of western education should be emphasized.	114	27.3	148	35.5	66	15.8	21	5	68	16.3	417	100
17	Security attitudinal change will help in deradicalization of the youth in north eastern Nigeria.	169	40.5	124	29.7	46	11	52	12.5	26	6.2	417	100
18	Elimination of corruption in the society will help in youth deradicalization in north eastern Nigeria.	139	33.3	136	32.6	54	12.9	35	8.4	53	12.7	417	100
19	The law enforcement agencies should initiate policies and program towards winning the support of communities where they work.	136	32.6	154	36.9	73	17.5	17	4.1	37	8.9	417	100
20	Amnesty should be provided to radicalized individuals who have willingly shown interest in abandoning the radical ideology.	115	27.6	108	25.9	98	23.5	51	12.2	45	10.8	417	100
21	The deradicalization policy of controlling extremism is currently yielding result in Nigeria.	155	37.2	128	30.7	70	16.8	48	11.5	16	3.8	417	100
22	The personnel involved in deradicalization of extremist in Nigeria do not have the requisite qualification to do so	135	32.4	138	33.1	75	18	32	7.7	37	8.9	417	100
23	Institutionalized deradicalization initiated and supported by government should be adopted.	148	35.5	135	32.4	54	12.9	51	12.2	29	7	417	100
24	Non institutionalized community based deradicalization initiated and supported by local communities should be adopted.	162	38.8	149	35.7	71	17	**17**	**4.1**	18	4.3	417	100

Key: A= Agreed, SA = Strongly Agreed, N = Neutral, D = disagreed, SD = Strongly Disagreed, Fr = Frequency

5. Discussion of the Results

The study covered parts of three states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe in the north eastern region of Nigeria where three local government areas were chosen for the purpose of selecting respondents that participated in the study. A total of 450 questionnaires were distributed in the fifteen Local Government Areas, however only 417 completed questionnaires were returned which implies 93.67% while 07.33% as revealed on table 2, were not returned. The respondents comprised of males and females from the areas selected. As earlier stated five (5) Local Governments Areas were selected from each of the three states and thirty respondents were chosen in each which amounted to a total of four hundred and fifty (450) respondents. The discussion follows the categorization of agreed and strongly agreed as supportive view while disagreed and strongly disagreed as non-supportive view.

From the response of the our respondents across the three states constituting our sample in the north eastern region of Nigeria on deradicalizing the radicalized youth in the area, the views gathered portrayed that majority of the respondents believed that deradicalizing the radically minded persons is necessary for peace, security and development in the area. This is because it is believed that the problem which culminated in to the insurgency under the canopy of Boko Haram emanated from radicalization. This can be seen from the results reflected on table 2, above with 82.9% support. Similarly 67.6% of the persons that were involved in the research unanimously agreed that insecurity in the area arose from the fact that youth were indoctrinated on fake and misguided religious claims. This has been part of the major factors that led to Boko Haram insurgency which engineered serious security threat leading to loss of lives of citizens, destruction of government and private buildings as well and causing serious setback to businesses and economic activities in general. It also coincides with the view stated by Stern (2010), that in Netherlands and other parts of Europe the Muslim youth of the second and third generation have been rebelling against their parent's practice of Islam of the "soft type". They therefore wanted the practice what they considered the purer type that has not been corrupted by western culture. However, it was found that most of those involved in radicalism were lacking formal education and not conversant with religious knowledge, as a Saudi official told visitors to care center where rehabilitation was taking place, pinpointing that the main cause of terrorism is ignorance about Islam.

It has been observed that military option along may not be a better solution to the problem of insurgency in the region and thus preferred the incorporation of military action in conjunction with deradicalization as respondents revealed on table 2, with about 68.95% acceptance rate. This may not be unconnected with the fact that the military solution which was adopted since the eruption of the Boko Haram insurgency in the region around 2009 could not completely fold the situation. This is also in agreement with position that, for deradicalization to set in according to Demant & De Graaf (2010), then the radical legends need to be converted to non-radical stories. Government should at this juncture be able to introduce neutralizers that will counteract the existing radical legends which was the result of injustices that gave birth to radical ideology. This may include public apology for the roles of the security agencies, open dialogues with the radical groups and amnesty for those ready to relinquish the ideology.

Most of the respondents were of the view that, it is appropriate to involve personnel with the requisite qualifications in the process of deradicalizing the radicalized minds where 64.8 % carries this opinion. However, since many countries of the world have employed different policies of combatting radicalism, 71.7% were of the view that such policies adopted by other countries should be borrowed and adopted here too in order to succeed. This may not be unconnected with the fact that radicalism,

extremism, fundamentalism, terrorism and insurgency seems to have relatively common features across the world. Building on this view, significant number of our respondents 60.9% have expressed skeptical feelings with regard to deradicalization of the radically minded Boko Haram insurgents in relation to being accepted back in to their communities due to the magnitude of the atrocities they committed in the communities. This means the indelible print they left in the communities cannot be erased by deradicalization policy. Not so far from this position, Stern (2010) continued that deradicalizing terrorist who have been in custody involves not only tracing the root of their being terrorist but also evaluating the possibility of reversing the trend through institutionalized government supported deradicalization policy which may eventually lead to relinquishing of the act by the radically minded persons. This is also in line with the view of Stern (2010), as opined that terrorism and radicalism are activities of the young persons, to this end sometime retirement from violence as a result of age may be mistaken for successful deradicalization and in this connection an undeserved credit will be given to deradicalization.

It is also buttressed by the view of majority 59.8% who believed that deradicalization may not clean the extremist ideology in the radical insurgents and even after being deradicalize they may still rejoin the group if chance permit. A response rate of 76.8% was of the opinion that government is responsible for ensuring peace, stability and development and thus government has to take all possible measures to ensure the smooth flow of such. Considering the relevance of traditional institutions in peacemaking, most of the respondents 66.2% were of the view that the traditional institutions should be significantly involved in the deradicalization process as a result of their closeness to the people and as custodians of tradition. In relation to the above 64.9% of the respondents reflected in table 2, that religious institutions should equally be involved in the process, this is because religion takes a premium position in the lives of the people and as such the words of religious leaders plays a pivotal role in ensuring societal change and stability.

Taking note of the roles of the NGOs in the area in the recent years as a result of the insurgency in the area, 60.5% indicated on table 2, still considers it relevant to include them as partners in deradicalizing those seen to have been radicalized because they are considered to be playing neutral role. While considering persons and things required in the process, it should be equally understood that certain policies are required to make the entire process a success, thus as shown on table 2, 65.3% pointed out that some basic needs in the society need to be met as lack of such basic needs are likely to fuel the existing situation. This has been supported by 73.9% that creating employment opportunities will reduce the tendency of deradicalization and indeed pave way for deradicalizing the radicals.

It has also been pinpointed that rigorous youth enlightenment regarding religious doctrines is an essential tool in deradicalization of radical youth who constitutes security threat in the area this was also buttressed by the information on table 2, where 62.8% responded in that line. In addition there should be further training of security personnel in order to ensure attitudinal change by demonstrating high degree of professionalism in conducting their duties as well as building trust among the public. This view was depicted by 70.2% of the respondents which may be as a result of hostility being demonstrated by the security in the discharge of their responsibility. The behavior of the security could not as well be blamed due to their experience in the fight against insurgency where many lost their lives while fighting an unknown and unidentifiable opponent. Corruption need to be eliminated if deradicalization should be successful, this is due to the fact that it is one of the principal factors that engineered the development of radicalism. This view is shown on table 2, where 65.9% of the responded stated as such.

Considering the role of the law enforcement in the fight against insurgency majority of our respondents stated that the security agencies should initiate policies and programs toward winning the support of the communities where they are located. In this regard 69.5% concurred on this view as depicted on table 2 above. In line with this 53.5% of our respondents agreed that there should be amnesty to those who have relinquished radicalism in practice and in ideology. This is because there might be the possibility that some insurgents may no longer be interested in the operation but are afraid of returning back in to the communities as they might be targeted and captured.

In relation to the discussions on this issues of deradicalization 67.9% of the respondents were of the view that in the present circumstance deradicalization is yielding result since a number of ex-radicals have been integrated in to the society. It is in this connection that, 67.9% of our respondents agreed that deradicalization should be institutionalized whereby government should take the responsibility of providing all that is required for the process while in another response, 74.5% were of the view that non institutionalized approach to deradicalization may yield more positive results in the current situation in north eastern Nigeria. This means the communities should adopt policies toward giving room for persons that have given up insurgency to be accepted and reintegrated back in to the communities.

Formulation and hypothesis testing
Ho₁: Youth de-radicalization will not lead to improvement in the condition of peace and stability
in north eastern Nigeria
Ha₁: Youth de-radicalization will lead to improvement in the condition of peace and stability in
north eastern Nigeria

Table 3: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	8.805ᵃ	4	.066
Likelihood Ratio	9.063	4	.060
Linear-by-Linear Association	3.481	1	.062
N of Valid Cases	417		

a. 2 cells (20.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .37.
Source : field survey, 2019

Since the calculate chi-square value (8.805) is greater than the table value at 4 degree of freedom, critical value which is

.066, P ≤ 0.05, we reject the null (Ho) hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis (Ha) that youth de-radicalization will lead to improvement in the condition of peace and stability in the north eastern part of Nigeria.

Table 4: Symmetric Measures

		Value	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.145	.066
	Cramer's V	.145	.066
N of Valid Cases		417	

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.
b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.
Source: field survey, 2019

Ho₂: Military option and deradicalization process together are not adequate for the return of peace and stability in north eastern Nigeria

Ha₂: Military option and deradicalization process together are adequate for the return of peace and stability in north eastern Nigeria.

Table 5: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	46.859ᵃ	4	0
Likelihood Ratio	51.485	4	0
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.606	1	0.436
N of Valid Cases	417		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 7.81.
Source : field survey 2019

Since the calculate chi-square value (46.859) is greater than the table value at 4 degree of freedom, critical value which is .000, P ≤ 0.05, we reject the null (Ho) hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis (Ha) that Military option and de-radicalization process together are adequate for the return of peace and stability in north eastern Nigeria.

Table 6: Symmetric Measures

		Value	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	0.335	0
	Cramer's V	0.335	0
N of Valid Cases		417	

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.
b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.
Source: field survey 2019

6. Methods and Data

Methodology is the process of arriving at a systematic, planned method of data collection, analyses and interpretation for the purpose of making discovery of meaning and relationship that exist among phenomena. This process includes among others research design, population of the study, sample size sampling techniques, instruments, methods Data collections, target population and data analysis. Survey research was adopted in this work which utilized both quantitative and qualitative data to arrive at a dependable conclusion. Primary and Secondary sources of data collection was employed, questionnaires were administered which enabled us to elicit required information on the subject matter of this research. In this regard, the research work focused on the three states of north-eastern Nigeria (Adamawa Borno and Yobe) that are significantly affected by the Boko Haram insurgency and terrorist activities. The population of these states is as provided on the table below based on the last population census conducted.

Table 7: Population of the study area as par last population census

SN	State	Population	Senatorial district	LGA
1	Adamawa	4,182.032	3	21
2	Borno	4,151,193	3	21
3	Yobe	2,321,591	3	17
4	Total	10654816	9	65

Source: Nigeria national head count (census 2006)

This is the population of interest to the researchers and the result of the study was made to represent the entire population through generalization and to serve as a guide in the deradicalization process especially among the youth who are the most vulnerable group and coincidentally the most involved in radicalization and insurgency. The sample size that was taken for this study is four hundred and fifty (450), one hundred and fifty (150) per state while thirty (30) respondent from each of the five (5) selected local government of the three states under study. Thus the states were divided in to Local governments and local governments in to units and wards for the purpose of effective data collection. This process also involved selecting individuals for the study in which such individuals selected represented the larger population as our sample. In line with this research, simple random sampling technique was employed which permitted us to select the sample in such a way that all individuals in the defined population were given equal and independent chance of being selected to form part of the sample. In other words all members of the population have some chance of being included in the sample. The choice of simple random sampling was due to the fact that it ensures a fair non-subjective selection.

The collection of data for this research work involves quantitative and qualitative data collection and the use of primary and secondary sources relied heavily on questionnaire administered to the sampled population and the use of publications, textbooks, journals, periodicals and internet materials. Data collected was organized, analyzed and presented as the outcome of the research finding. The findings was presented and analyzed using statistical packages for social sciences (SPSS), while employing chi-square Test to determine the impact of youth deradicalization toward improving peace, security and development on one hand and whether military option combined with deradicalization will certainly yield positive result with regard to ending insurgency and terrorism and to ensure peace and development in the region and Nigeria at large.

7. Conclusion

The research which aimed at finding lasting solution to the problems of radicalism which is the backbone of insurgency,

fundamentalism and terrorism with a special focus on the north eastern region of Nigeria has uncovered the hidden conviction of the people in the area with regard to the situation. The research thus, explored that military solution is important but not a final solution in ending radicalism, this implies that at certain stage particularly when the strength of the insurgents has been weakened by military action as with the situation in the north east now, then imbibing deradicalization as an additional strategy is pertinent and is certainly likely to yield positive result.

Radicalization is a phenomena which has been found to be generated by certain factors in the society such as, poverty, unemployment, injustice, illiteracy, inequality and ignorance of religion among others. Addressing these problems will surely contribute significantly toward ending and sealing radicalism to a greater extent. It is also clear that in most countries of the world where deradicalization has been adopted, the governments were the were the sole initiators and implementers of the programs, however it has been observed that, a community initiated deradicalization supported by the community is like to yield more fruitful results. The community initiated deradicalization however need to be recognized by government in order to grantee the freedom of the deradicalized persons in the society. In this regard any deradicalicalization program anywhere should either be supported initiated and supported by government or be initiated by communities or other organizations but be recognized by the government.

This research work provided more insightful and practical measure that are belief to be the way out or means of curtailing radicalism, preventing insurgency and terrorism through systematic inquiry into the causes and remedy to the issue of radicalism and the related problem. Survey of opinion was conducted focusing on the people who were affected in one way or the other by the insurgency in the north east with emphasis on ending the problem as the core focus of this research work. It is the belief of the researchers that solutions to problem that emanated among people in a particular area can at best be provided by the people themselves, thus this inquiry explored the causes of radicalism, insurgency and the possible solutions perceived by the people. We believe the problem of radicalism, insurgency and terrorism can be brought to a halt where peace and development can once again be achieved in the North eastern part of Nigeria and by implication Nigeria as a whole through such types of enquiry.

8. Recommendations

This research work give an insight into the causes of radicalism and by implication terrorism and insurgency and by this suggest and provides strategies and measures to contrails it through the following way.

1) There should be enactment of basic laws, provision for justice to people, reduction of inequalities among citizens through job creation particularly to the teaming youth and maintenance of law and order.
2) Teachers, and parents should adopt strategies ensuring the development of appropriate behaviors among their students and wards respectively.

3) Imams, Malams and other religious leaders should use their influence and the respect they command among their followers in getting the radicals and intended radicals to shun the idea. It is therefore hoped that they will play significant role in changing the misleading ideologies being popularized by some individuals.
4) The risk posed to vulnerable young people by extremists should serve as a significant background for developing counter-terrorism policy.
5) Government should understand the reasons why people are getting attracted to radical ideologies and ensure that practical solution are provided to turn people away from radicalism and violent action.
6) Security agencies need to be trained to be more friendly and professional and handling situations affecting citizens.
7) The role of traditional institutions is of paramount importance in securing the mind of the youth from being polluted and drag in to radicalism. This is because the traditional institutions are held in high regard in addition to applying traditional methodologies in getting people comply with rules of proper behavior.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations	
CNN	Cable News Network
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
Ha	Alternative hypothesis
HM Government	Her Majesty's Government
Ho	Null hypothesis
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IPI	International Press Institute
ISIS	Islamic State
LAW, C	Columbian Law
LGAs	Local Governments Areas
NCSTRT	National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
USIP	United States Institute of Peace