

## **COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE NORTH EAST: A TRANS-GENERATIONAL APPROACH**

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### **Abstract**

Since the year 1804, the Northern Region has experienced religious extremist activities ranging from Jihads to Maitatsine of 1980s in Kano and inter-communal clashes. Violent Extremism is a cankerworm that has eaten deep into the fabrics of the Nigeria's nation building process. The mayhem which was begun in 2009 by the Boko Haram and this has left the North East in a state of disarray, under development, desertion and death. Though the Nigerian Government has applied both military and political means towards countering violent extremism in the North East, all efforts seem to be futile and like the mythical Hydra, Boko Haram keeps on growing and perpetuating their acts of evil despite all concerted efforts to curb them. This study provides another approach towards countering violent extremism in the North East. The Trans-generational approach engages not only the Nigerian Government but the people who are the primary targets and the most affected by violent extremism in the North East.

**Keywords:** Violent Extremism, Countering Violent Extremism, centripetal and centrifugal forces, trans-generational.

### **Introduction**

It is pertinent to note that in spite of the existence of numerous body of works related to terrorism in Nigeria and especially the North East quite a number of important questions remained unanswered, because quite numbers of important areas are yet to be examined. It can be comprehended that religion in itself is not the root cause of religious conflict but can serve as the fault line for group mobilization for violence. Nonetheless, the question that remains unanswered is the motivation for the current rise in violent religious groups and a more efficient way to counter violent extremist groups, such as Boko Haram in the North East. To Kressel (2007), it is not only Islam that fosters religious extremism; Christianity and Judaism have their share of anti-secularists also. Though, Kressel contends that Islamic extremists are far more frequent and dangerous today than other religious fundamentalist groups. Nigeria began to experience activities of Violent Extremists using Islam as a base line since time of Usman Dan Fodio and his conquests. Violent Extremism has led to death, displacement and destruction of properties especially in the North East region. Even though other parts of the country must have suffered from the activities of these extremists, none has been more devastating as the North Eastern region. The UN General Assembly (2015) identified certain recurrent drivers, which are common among a wide variety of countries and regions leading to radicalization and violent extremism. These include: lack of socio-economic opportunities; high rate of youth unemployment; extreme poverty; gross inequality; marginalization in politics, governance, administration, economy, culture and religion; poor governance associated with cases of corruption, impunity, violations of human; abuse of rule of law; unresolved conflicts; and radicalization and recruitment in prisons. The Nigerian government response to curb violent religious extremism in the North East has largely been repressive, with the majority of victims being civilians caught in the crossfire between government security forces and extremist groups. The overly militarised counter-extremism approach has had damaging consequences for sustainable peace and security in the country. This approach, which relies greatly on the use of force, does not address the drivers of violent extremism but has led to the death of more soldiers and civilian aggravating the creation of anti-government sentiments, which has led to social alienation among the population and increased the potential for radicalisation among individuals, groups and communities. The deradicalization programme been operated by Operation Safe Corridor in Gombe does not have community buy-in and shrouded mainly in military secrecy making it less effective as the violence and insurgency persists. Given the high human casualties and anti-government sentiments associated with militarised counter-extremism approaches, as well as its failure to address the root causes of violent extremism, this paper seeks an alternate approach known as the transgenerational approach in order to address the structural drivers of violent extremism and provide the pathway to sustainable peace in the North East in particular and Nigeria in general.

# COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE NORTH EAST

## Countering Violent Extremism in the North East: A Trans Generational Approach

### Understanding Conceptual Issues around the Discourse

**Violence:** Violence is a universal tormentor that tears at the fabric of communities globally. According to Sagehub.com, it is believed that like many other critical issues in the social sciences, the field is marked by controversy. There is an extensive literature on the 'causes' of violence, although some criminologists and sociologists argue that posing causal questions is inappropriate and detracts from understanding the cultural, emotional and visceral dynamics of the act. Jackman (2002) proposes a 'generic definition' he puts it as 'actions that inflict, threaten or cause injury. These actions may be corporal, written or verbal ... psychological, material or social'. Felson (2009) describes violence as 'physical aggression, i.e., when people use physical methods to harm others'. However, he continues that 'The harm they produce is not necessarily physical. It could be a social harm or a deprivation of resources'. The World Health Organization in 1996 defined Violence as “The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, underdevelopment or deprivation.”

**Extremism:** For extremists, their beliefs, which could be either political or religious are correct and unquestionable. They believe it is their responsibility to impose these beliefs and ideologies on others. The term violent extremism is not synonymous with one ideology, religion, or political goal. The Counter Extremism Strategy (2015) defines Extremism as the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and respect and tolerance for different faiths and beliefs. According to Astrid (2017), Extremism characterises an ideological position embraced by those anti-establishment movements, which understand politics as struggle for supremacy rather than as peaceful competition between parties with different interests seeking popular support for advancing the common good. Neumann et al. (2011) defines extremism as political ideologies as well as a method that oppose a society's core values and principles. Borum (2011) contends with this definition, but asserts that it could be applied to an ideology that advocates the religious supremacy and opposes the core principle of democratic governance and human rights.

**Violent Extremism:** the concept of violent extremism (VE) has played an increasingly prominent role in policies and development programming not only in Nigeria but on a global level. According to the United Nations Development Programme, Violent extremism is the product of historical, political, economic and social circumstances, including the impact of regional and global power politics. Violent extremism comes in different forms and take different expressions depending on the context where it grows. Matthias et al (2019)

defines this concept as Violent extremism is a violent type of mobilisation that aims to elevate the status of one group, while excluding or dominating its 'others' based on markers, such as gender, religion, culture and ethnicity. In doing so, violent extremist organisations destroy existing political and cultural institutions, and supplant them with alternative governance structures that work according to the principles of a totalitarian and intolerant ideology. The Australian National Counter-terrorism Committee Framework defines violent extremism as "a willingness to use or support the use of violence to further particular beliefs, including those of a political, social or ideological nature" (cited by Nasser-Eddine et al., 2011).

Ali (2018) outlines the consequences of violent extremism therefore as the following:

- Disrupts peace, law and order.
- Disrupts economic activities and revenue generation
- Damage infrastructure and social amenities
- Reduce available land for agriculture and livestock rearing
- Threaten natural resources and ecosystem
- Scare away investors and development partners
- Closure of schools, etc.

**Countering Violent Extremism (CVE):** According to the Homeland Security of the United States, The term "countering violent extremism," or CVE, refers to proactive actions to counter efforts by extremists to recruit, radicalize, and mobilize followers to violence. Fundamentally, CVE actions intend to address the conditions and reduce the factors that most likely contribute to recruitment and radicalization by violent extremists. Where possible, CVE should be incorporated into existing programs related to public safety, resilience, inclusion, and violence prevention. CVE efforts do not include gathering intelligence or performing investigations for the purpose of criminal prosecution. Christain Nunlist explains that the concept of CVE/PVE aims to engage with these personal, individual causes at the micro-level. According to George (2013), CVE is typically used to describe a "range of policy, programs, and interventions designed to prevent individuals from engaging in violence associated with radical political, social, cultural, and religious ideologies and groups." The Norwegian Refugee Council went further to explain that CVE encompasses a wide range of approaches including domestic surveillance, policing, counter-extremist messaging, and development approaches intended to address the drivers of individuals and communities choosing to align with extremist groups.

#### **North East as The Vortex of Violent Extremism in Nigeria**

The geography of Interest of our study is the North East. The states under the North Eastern part of Nigeria include Yobe State, Borno State, Bauchi State, Gombe State, Adamawa State and finally Taraba State. The root cause of Violent

Extremism in the North East are complex, multifaceted, intertwined and is related to the structural environment in which radicalization has taken place. According to Joseph (2015), there has been no unanimity among scholars as to which the extremist group known as “Boko Haram” emerged and made their strong hold in the North Eastern Part of Nigeria. According to Sani and David, “Jama`atul Ahlus Sunna Lidda`Awati” otherwise known as “JAS” did not initially start off as a violent extremist movement; and combination of events, factors and actors that pushed it into becoming a violent extremist group are also complex and consistent with other literature. Boko Haram started off its activism under the leadership of the now slain Muhammed Yusuf. Yusuf hailed from Yobe, a North Eastern State of Nigeria. According to Joseph (2015) Muhammed Yusuf radicalized and opened up the group to foreign collaboration especially with Al-Qaeda.

Borno State has the highest level of insurgency in Nigeria. Maiduguri recorded the highest number of deaths followed by Bama and Konduga (all Borno central). Gwoza recorded the highest number of deaths in Borno South. The North East is bordered by three countries and this is one of the areas that possesses the highest number of cross border movement of person and goods. Nigeria's border especially towards Borno region is poorly manned and watched over. According to Abubakar (2014), one of the biggest issues surrounding insurgency by Boko Haram is the alleged involvement of foreigners which has made it very difficult to bring the violent activities of Boko Haram under control.

There have been several conspiracy theories about the causes of Boko Haram particularly from the ruling and the opposition parties in Nigeria. In the year 2014, as Metuh, cited in Premium Times, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) was in view that the opposition party, All Progressive Alliance (APC) were sponsors of Boko Haram, a ploy to discredit the present government headed by a President from the southern region of Nigeria. The APC on the other hand, argued that the Government is the sponsor of Boko Haram in the North East, due to its failed effort to contain the group, some serving government officers were also linked to the group activities. Although these views were considered “politically and ethnically motivated”, they do not represent the opinion of the entire Nigerians. These views also require empirical evidence to support the arguments. Sani and David drew up an analysis that portrays push and pull factors or what we attribute to as “centripetal and centrifugal forces” that led people towards joining JAS in the North East. The pull/centripetal factors included the opportunity of acquiring status and respect as a JAS member, the pressures and enticements of family and other strong social ties, and finally the economic opportunities offered by JAS membership which according to von Hippel (2004), terror groups can offer social services that the governments cannot provide thereby attracting support from the poor and alienated populations. They further identified the threat of (indiscriminate) violence used by both Boko Haram and the Nigerian government forces and, the second, the lack of economic opportunities for the young people in the North East as

Push/centrifugal Factors for joining Boko Haram.

The United Nations Development Programme established that Growing horizontal inequalities are one of the consistently cited drivers of violent extremism. Critically, unemployment or poverty alone is not the only push factor inciting violence and extremism: perceptions of injustice, human-rights violations, social-political exclusion, widespread corruption or sustained mistreatment of certain groups, are also considered important push factors. When all these horizontal inequalities come together for a particular group, radical movements and violence are more likely to erupt. There are several explanations about the causes of the Boko Haram uprising; ranging from political statements to theories and empirical studies. Similarly, the analysis of the unemployment trend in the country shows that from 2008 to 2010 the rates of unemployment for all the northeastern states (38.0) were above the national average (21.7) (National Bureau of Statistics, 2011). It shows that the Northeast region ranks among the zones in the country with the highest poverty and unemployment rates in the country.

The period of the maximum unemployment rate also coincides with the outbreak of violence in 2009 from the militant Boko Haram groups as indicated in the NBS data (National Bureau of Statistics, 2011). These analyses show the disparities in the poverty and unemployment rates between the North and South of Nigeria. In February 2012, the past Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Sanusi Lamido said that structural imbalance” between the north and south of Nigeria was responsible for the violent conflict in the northern part of the country (The Punch, 2012). Mr. Jonnie Carson, former American under Secretary for Africa concludes that the only way out of the trap of Boko Haram is for the Nigerian government to address the extreme poverty in the northern region of the country. These statements by notable politicians within and outside Nigeria link the root causes of Boko Haram to the deplorable economic conditions in the North East of Nigeria. However, these statements were not supported by empirical evidence and did not tell us about the other contributory factors. More so, the views were not specific to Northeast Nigeria, and the community perspectives about the causes of Boko Haram were left out.

There were also critical views as to poverty and poor economic conditions as being a cause of Boko Haram activities in the North East. Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor, the former national president of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) disagrees with the politicians on the link between poverty and Boko Haram. Oritsejafor said, “It's an insult to say that the poor people are turning to extremist because they are poor.” He further cited the failed amnesty program and the subsequent emergency rules in three states in Northeast Nigeria to support the fact that poverty is not the sole cause of insurgency in Northern Nigeria. Divergently, the Associate Press reports that Boko Haram has the Nigeria government would not know peace until it adopts sharia law. Newman further asserts that factors such as poverty, social inequality, exclusion, and political grievance, are the independent variables on which the emergences of terrorist



and extremist group are dependent (Newman 2006).

### **Unpacking the Consequences and Impacts of Violent Extremism**

There is no progress where the human mind is not at peace. The economic, social and psychological costs of the insurgency cannot be quantified. Violent Extremism inhibits development and puts in a stumbling block towards nation building. The increasing activities of Boko Haram in the North East has brought about severe effects on the population especially on the women and children, this is shown from the increased number of widows and orphans in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa State.

According to the United Nations Development Programme, Conflicts incited by violent extremism are forcing the displacement of millions. The operations of Boko Haram have displaced 1.2 million people internally in Nigeria and forced more than 200,000 Nigerians to flee to Cameroon, Chad and Niger. The UN Security Council report (2014) acknowledges the increasing insurgent attacks targeting civilians and livelihoods in the northeastern states of Nigeria, seizing towns and compelling large numbers of people to flee to neighboring countries of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. The Human Rights Watch report (2014) adds, the Boko Haram attacks have been on the increase since the beginning of this year, with almost daily killings, bombings, kidnappings, thefts, and the destruction of livelihoods, Churches, Mosques, schools, homes, bridges and businesses. The Human Rights Watch also asserts that the effects of violence are more pronounced in local communities in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa States. According to USAID (2005), the effects of conflict are increasingly felt in the rural community and the individual levels. However, a survey of literature shows that there have not been empirical studies on the consequence of Boko Haram on rural communities in Northeast Nigeria due to security challenges in the region. The UNHCR estimates that as of October 2014, 4.6 million people have been displaced in Northeast Nigeria, and many children are suffering from malnutrition. However, there are little information about those that remains in the affected areas in Northeast Nigeria, and most important, how they are coping with livelihoods tasks in the midst of the militants.

Violent Extremism has placed North Eastern region unsafe and so places the lives of women and children in constant danger. Boko Haram has limited the development of women and children in the North East having being engaging in harmful activities such as rape and kidnapping. On April 2014, Boko Haram's kidnapping of 276 female students from the town of Chibok made worldwide headlines, drawing greater policy attention to the crisis. Several Western governments—including the United States—offered technical assistance and intelligence-sharing to help find the girls. Besides kidnapping, the women and girls are constantly sexually abused by the extremists and in other to satisfy their sexual orgy, most occasions are forced into marriages with the foot soldiers of Boko Haram. It has also led to flee of many women and girls into Chad Republic. Horwood (2004) sees sexual violence and rape as an instrument in a war in

order to punish, intimidate, destabilize and to drive people away from their land. This is the case in the northeast of Nigeria where Boko Haram insurgency is concentrated. According to Jennifer Leaning and Tara Gingerich (2005) on their elaboration of the strategy on rape as a weapon of war, they list some factors to be considered as tools for rape to be the aim of combatants: Firstly, Rape instills fear in women and dissuade them from moving around during war. Secondly, it dehumanized women and make them to flee conflict. And finally, it is a strategy of aggression.

Aside the human cost in the Boko Haram insurgency, the atrocities of the sect have socioeconomic implications, especially in the northeast where Boko Haram has dominance. The economic, social and psychological costs of the insurgency cannot be quantified. Commercial activities in the northeast have been reduced because of the unprecedented attacks by the sect. Banks, markets and shops do not open regularly due to the fear of the coordinated attacks from Boko Haram. According to Okereocha (2012) human capital and investors drain is hampering economic development in the northeast this is due to the attacks on banks, markets, parks and government departments. The attacks on these commercial areas have led to the migration of people to other parts of the country.

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they constitute the members of Boko Haram. Evidence has shown that not all the repatriated nationals of the above countries are members of Boko Haram. Definitely, those who have business in cities like Maiduguri, Damaturu and Yola constituted to a large number of people sent homes and that will actually affect the economic activities in these cities. Ovaga (n.d) asserts that under this situation, the economy of the northeast will seriously be affected if foreign citizens who contribute large quota to the development of the northeast vis a vis their economic activities are sent back to their countries of origin. The incessant attacks by Boko Haram in the North Eastern states have a severe impact on the economic lives of people living in these areas. A case in point is that the working duration of most commercial banks in the affected areas hit by Boko Haram bombings has been reduced from eight hours to three hours (Mohammed, 2012). “In Maiduguri, Borno state, where the sect originated, the frequent bombings and clashes between Boko Haram and the security agents have weighed down seriously on the commercial and businesses activities in the city as many business have reportedly crumbled while many people have fled the state” (Shiklam, 2012). There is already a dichotomy in the north and south development in Nigeria. The poverty profile released by the National Bureau of Statistics illustrates that there is the prevalence of poverty in the north as compared to the south. It is in this data that the Business day newspaper predicted if the insecurity situation continues development in the northern part will remain static and the gap between the north and south will broaden further (BDN, 2012). “The region needs peace and stability more than any region in the country, particularly because the region clearly lagging behind in term of infrastructure, education and other development indices” (Minster of Information, Labara Maku cited in Oladayo, 2014).

Moreso, Prominent Nigerians who have complained about the economic impact of Boko Haram insurgency in northeast Nigeria including the President Good luck Jonathan and Northern Governors forum According to Obaremi (2014) “Economic affairs in the north is already depleting due to a massive departure of people and financial institutions from the northern region. But if the government delays in the implementing comprehensive plans to tackle insecurity from its roots, then not only will the northern region be economic desolation, the country as a whole risk losing billions of dollars in foreign direct investment” The business activities of telecom operators have not been left out from the attacks of Boko Haram. For instance, some telecom masts belong to some major mobile telephone operators were destroyed by Boko Haram and the banning of telephone services by the military affected the income generation of some of the mobile phone operators.

Just as the economic implications of Boko Haram atrocities cannot be quantified, the social costs to the community are enormous. The church, school, market, clinic and mosque have turned into potential targets of Boko Haram. The attacks on these social places have disallowed people from going to these places and going about their various functions. Some students

have stopped going to school, others have been transferred to the southern part of the country to continue their education. The Christians in the North East are scared worship in the church on Sundays due to the fear of being attacked by the sect. Same for the Muslim who abandon their mosques because of Extremist attacks by Boko Haram. The markets have become abandoned. The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) that was created by the government after the end of Nigerian civil war to bring about unity among Nigeria is under threat due to Boko Haram attacks. Corps members have abandoned their duty if they being posted to the North and redeployed to other states due to the violence of the region. Also, parents from the southern part of the country have protested vehemently against the posting of their children to the northeast. Aside the socioeconomic implications, the human cost is more worrisome, more than 10,000 people have been killed, a lot of people have been maimed and women have been kidnapped and raped. Violent extremism have left families in the agony from the injured, the raped and the kidnapped. In a nutshell, most of the family members of Boko Haram victims are going through a traumatized period. Many have left their homes and over 650,000 Nigerians have been displaced according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

### **The Trans-generational Paradigm as Strategy for Countering Violent Extremism in the North East**

Towards countering violent extremism in the North East there is a dire need to nip the problem in the bud. Since the year 2013, the Nigerian government under the presidency of Goodluck Ebered Jonathan have initiated various policies in preventing and countering violent extremism in the country. Major approaches towards curbing the activities of Boko Haram Strong military and judicial steps such as strengthening their anti-terror laws with the passing of an amendment to the 2011 terrorism (prevention) act. An Act which granted coordinating bodies more power and outlines the specific counter terrorism functions of involved institutions. It provided law enforcement the necessary power to detain and prosecute terror suspects. It provided also specific guidelines for judges to follow when stipulating punishments for terror crimes. More so, the amendment permits death penalty for those found guilty in attempting to commit, or facilitating acts of terror (extremism and counter extremism).

Through science it is being shown to us that a family maintains and passes down its unique identity and culture from one generation to another. A child learns various traits from its birth. It learns to love, it learns to care, it learns good manners and ethics, but the child can also learn to be rude, irrational, insolent, impolite, fierce, ferocious and violent. Boyack (1997) stated that the Learning theory or transgenerational violence theory is based on the belief that violence is a learned behavior pattern. A child observes violence as an acceptable reaction to stress and then internalizes this as an acceptable behavior. The Transgenerational Theory as stated by Stewart Liebermann attempts to highlight

areas involved in the communication of acquired practices, behaviors and beliefs between human generations. He believes that the molding age of a child ends between Eight (8) to Fourteen (14) years old and they leave certain characteristics within each individual which are subsequently difficult or impossible to change. Stewart has it that those are critical periods of learning in infancy and childhood during which acquired behaviors, beliefs and practices are molded into the child. This molding process is qualitatively different from adult association learning. The learning seems to be incorporated into the 'wiring diagram' of the brain; that is, into the structural connections between various areas in the maturing cortex. These connections are fixed and can be modified but not changed once the period of maturation of a particular area is ended. Through molding, acquired communications are transmitted from one generation to the next in the trans-generational passage of family culture. The family plays a major role in the upbringing of a child and thus, there is a dire need to properly imbibe proper values into a child to avoid the child developing into one who does not value the dignity of human life. Towards attaining this feat, Education should be used a proper tool for molding and bring up a child.

Furthermore, Education whether formal or informal remains the vital sector towards having proper growth, development and the formation of any given person. The importance of proper education cannot be over emphasized towards the psychological, emotional and physical growth of an individual. There is a need to challenge structural conditions that provides a breeding ground for radicalization which in turn leads to violent extremism. Sources of radicalization by extremist include economic, political, psychological, historical and ideological conditions (Sani 2014). The education sector is often one of the most critical development interventions supported by governments and donors as a way of strengthening peace building efforts during post conflict recovery, as well as addressing long-term human development needs in fragile states (Samantha 2017). Thus, having proper and quality education can be used as a vital tool towards engaging in a trans-generational approach towards countering violent extremism in the North East. Education can be a vital tool towards the transgenerational approach for countering violent extremism in the North East. By embracing proper education, we engage in identifying the enabling environment for extremist to disseminate their ideologies and recruit supporters. The curriculum of schools in the North East needs to be revised. Abbas (2018) believes that To weaken the extremist abilities to recruit and radicalize vulnerably, governments at all levels, with the support from key actors should introduce monitoring and regulation of religious preaching and design and implement comprehensive programs to aid destitute children such as the almajiris. Education institutes, particularly universities represent a battle ground of ideas where many different ideologies, opinions and viewpoints are shared and debated. The educational system in the North East should be balanced with enhancements to the school curricula by engaging the youths outside the classroom. Activities such as sports, art, drama and theatre, debate and others,

specifically designed for a particular subset of vulnerable youths could help them develop positive interests, promote a sense of self-worth and self-confidence. These programs could be themed towards teaching children on the dignity of life, the sacredness of humanity, the dignity of labor and to help the child imbibe the value of tolerance towards their fellow human being. In most cases and as conventional as it is in many Nigerian homes, parents place value on a selected group of subjects such as Mathematics and other science related courses. The end result discourages humanities related subjects such as civic education or social studies. Towards creating a more sense of belonging civic responsibilities should be encouraged and taught to child from the early years of reasoning. Prof. Jonathan Cithen-Mazer stated that fundamentalists radicalize youths by lighting a fire to the individual to the extent that they feel obligated to do something about it. Towards curbing this we need to ensure that schools are safe places for students and also for teachers.

The final step towards the trans-generational approach is by community mobilization, participation and engagement. This step should be long termed rather than something that should be done immediately. Firstly, it should be done by building trust between officials and community members in order to establish a relationship of collaboration. This process would put everyone on the same page and for everyone to have the ability to guide one another. Secondly, by identifying leaders which could also be their community leaders who have ability to mobilize the people to attend sensitization programmes. Furthermore, women and youths should be seen as key targets in this process. Although Global Counterterrorism Forum believed that the age range of youths being recruited into Boko Haram and other terrorist groups was from 15-25, SITE Intelligence group released a video on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2020 of an 8year old child killing a young Christian man named Ropvil Dalyep, who hailed from Plateau State but was a student of the University of Maiduguri. Towards this effect, it is suitable not to limit the sensitization to any age group. Communities are to be empowered to develop a counter narrative to the violent extremist narrative and amplify the alternative message through all forms of media ranging from social media, Television, Radio etc. as these create forums and platforms by which radicalization takes place. Authorities should work with the communities to identify the specific locally persuasive counter-narratives that refute or negate the narrative advocating violence as the answer to perceptions of injustice inflicted on self, family or community. Traditional intelligence-gathering system should be developed between the authorities and the local community where by Intel is being gathered, evaluated and then appropriated actions are being taken.

### **Conclusion**

The tendencies of violent extremist activities to become long, messy, and difficult to eliminate should be considered as a strong incentive to develop a sociological will towards the expeditious ending of Violent Extremism in the

North East by contentiously pursuing the transgenerational approach. In a long term approach, there is a logical interlocking nexus between democracy, poverty and insurgency in the North East. The Nigeria Situation in present time has made it extremely difficult to instill confidence to convince the people that democracy is the best system of government. It is therefore imperative that we develop a more participatory system of government that listens to people and acts immediately. Rural industrialization does not have to be situated in major cities alone but should be spread across local areas to provide means of livelihood for the people. There is a great need to provide houses, food and improve on space to build. Towards countering violent extremism in the North East we need to ensure that life in the remote towns of the North East is as entertaining as its cities as well as providing jobs. A means towards achieving this can be through innovations to promote the locality. Rather than persisting with the usual military approach in countering violent extremism, the trans-generational approach provides a system of embarking on countering violent extremism from child birth. There is a need to create for children especially in the North East the foundation for proper reasoning in which values for human life, dignity of labor and patriotism are embedded. Also, through this process we engage in proper and quality education free from the bias of religion, community mobilization, participation and engagement.

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