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**Influence of Leadership and Governance on Moral Value of School Children's Social Development amidst insecurity In Mangu Zone of Plateau State**

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***Abstract***

*Leadership and governance of today has been influenced due to high increase in insecurity, and other social vices to an alarming rate, especially in Nigeria and other parts of Africa also due to decadence in moral values. It is a phenomenon which spans the physical, psychological, economical and other aspects of the individual and extends to social circle. Leadership and governance if not given appropriate attention will yield into a national problem of enormous proportion; as well creates fear in educating children in Nigeria and no place for moral value to an extent. Absence of good leadership and good governance has given rooms for insecurity in the country which has made parents to withdraw their children and wards from schools due to negligence in leadership and good governance, while affected children have social imbalance to pursue their*

*education. Therefore, this study examined the causes of bad leadership and good governance as it influence the moral value of school children in Mangu zone of Plateau state. The population for this study was 120 early childhood professionals from 10 districts in Mangu Area council of Plateau state. Simple random sampling was adopted to select the target population of 70 early childhood education professionals in Mangu Area council of Plateau State. A 70 self designed questionnaire was designed as an instrument to obtain information from the selected respondents: Influence of leadership and governance strategies on Moral Value of School Children Social Development Inventory. (ILGSMVSCSDI). Two research questions guided the study and research questions were analyzed using frequency, percentage and mean, as well, hypotheses were analyzed using t-test and analysis of variance (ANOVA) at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, it was recommended that Nigerians should avoid tribalism, nepotism, ethnic jingoism in order to elect credible leaders. Community leaders should collaborate with the school authority, government and significant others in adopting the current and effective strategies in maintaining peace and instilling moral value which will help to reduce insecurity and improve good leadership and good governance in the country, as well teachers should inculcate acceptable values to the children.*

**Keywords:** Leadership, Governance, Moral Value, School Children, Social Development

## Introduction

Childhood education is aimed at promoting the holistic development of children from birth to adolescent stage. It prepares the children well to face the challenges at adolescent to adulthood. Childhood education is any programme that is designed to promote children's intellectual development, socio-emotional development, language development, physical development and literacy from birth to adolescent (Adebanjo & Amusan 2023). This simply implies that childhood education paves way for over all development of the child from birth to maturity. This cannot be true if the environment is not conducive for proper training and upbringing and of which could be attributed to

leadership and governance of the country.

The issue of leadership and governance in Nigeria has caused a general problem of enormous. Addressing this issue of management of safety in Nigerian schools is quite germane giving growing incidence of bad leadership and bad governance resulting in kidnapping across Nigerian schools at all levels and destruction of lives and properties Nzewi (2014). Leadership is a matter of intelligence, trustworthiness, humanness, courage, and discipline (Igbo, 2023). Governance is the act or process of governing and overseeing the control and direction of a country. Leadership worthiness and good governance are two identity and they are pragmatic strategies aimed at accomplishing a country desired goals economically, socially, politically and otherwise. Absence of quality leadership and good governance attracts insecurity, social and economic instability thereby creating negligence on moral values and influences social development of the school children in the environment.

Morality as a concept is elusive and highly nebulous to give a particular definition to. the descriptive definition of morality is that morality is a set of conduct put forward by any actual group and acceptable by the members of that group or the society Gert, in Adedigba and Wahab (2015). This is in line with Akande and Jawondo (2008) that morality is referred to as behaviours or actions that are considered by most members of a group to be right. This simply clarified that morality is the principles concerning right and wrong or good and bad behaviours. Despite the difference in the ways of life of the people of Nigeria, there are some standards or principles which are considered desirable by every Nigerian. Such standards may be moral or ethical. For example, honesty, hardworking, tolerance, respect for others, cooperation, justice, trustworthiness, prudence, integrity, fairness, patriotism, unity, obedience to the laws, etc. are usually thought of by many as principles or standards that Nigerian society, collectively, holds as valuable, and therefore wants her members to imbibe (Ajiboye, 2003). Moral values however, can be described as the upholding and displaying of certain beliefs, ideas, rules and regulations or behaviours which are generally considered good, right and accepted by the society and to which every member of that society is bound. When this moral values are out of place in the society it tends to generate social vices such as insecurity, this insecurity has caused a lot of

damages to the populace in Mangu. Schoolchildren have become victims of circumstances which have affected their behaviours and social interactions also as a result of decadence in moral values.

For moral values to be upheld all hands must be on deck especially in the area of governance and leadership of the country because when there is total breakdown of law and order at the top of affairs of the nation, injustice, discrepancies in the sharing of democratic dividends which tends to affect the moral standard. These can lead to series of social unrest and being victims of unknown circumstances. School Children who are victims and live in an insecurity prone environment as a result of bad leadership and bad governance face many challenges and risks that can last throughout their lives. Leadership and governance have been recognized as imperative for the attainment of the political, economic and social objective of any political institution. It is a truism that the quality of leadership and overall governance in a country directly affects the level of political stability and development that such country enjoys. Bad governance and poor leadership only result in underdevelopment and political instability (Ologbenla, 2007). It is on the recognition of the imperative of leadership and governance to a country that Nnabulife (2010) avers that the survival of a system rests with leadership community.

So, leadership and governance works together to avert social unrest. Perhaps, Maserumule and Gutto (2008) define governance as the process of decision or policy making, and the process by which decisions and policies are implemented. Although, Kaufmann, Kray, and Mastruzzi (2006) offers a comprehensive definition of governance, according to them, governance is the traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised which include the process by which governments are selected, monitored and replaced; the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies; and the respect of citizens and the state for the institutions, economic and social interactions among them. With that, Governance and leadership have been identified as indispensable for social change, economic growth and human development of a country (Mangu, 2008). Leadership in its simplest form is the ability to inspire, direct, motivates and encourages others positively to targeted ends. Quality leadership and governance promote national security; preserve core values of society, the territorial integrity and

physical wellbeing of the citizen. Therefore, leadership and governance are seen as a road map for peaceful coexistence and absence of it or low quality leadership and bad governance affects the general populace, thereby causing serious problems. These, problems that emanates from leadership and governance styles ranges from insecurity, destruction of public properties, in sighting violence, moral decadence and affects social development of the child.

The people of Mangu zone of Plateau state has been in such ugly trend for a decade now and it has created rooms for social menace in the zone and it could be attributed to negligence in good qualities of leadership and governance. This chronicle of low quality leadership and low quality governance level has resulted to protest, attacks on educational institutions which has become a major setback to achieving Nigeria educational goals and children social development. (Anyagwu & Onuoha, 2021). In line with Nzewi (2014) that highlighted various activities of societal unrest in country in the last five years stated that more than 29 school children and teachers was killed in Baja community secondary school in Borno State as a result of attack by gunmen in 2013. In 2021, over 100 school children, mostly girls were kidnapped by bandits at the federal government college Birnin – Yaur, Kebbi state. Over eight hundred (800) classrooms in Yobe State were destroyed leading to the closure of all schools across the State. Recently, twelve (12) boys were abducted in a private school in Lagos and ransom were paid before they were released and federal Government College Kwale, Abuja were forced to close because of attack on presidential security advance team in June, 2022 as they were on transit to Daura in Katsina. Recently in Mangu zone of Plateau state the bandits and armed herdsmen invaded the zone killed about 120 people including children as well rendering them homeless. Over 30 persons were killed between 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2024 to 25 January 2024 with many injured and many houses burnt when assailants attacked Kwahaslalek village, a community in the Mangu Local Government Area. Governor Caleb Mutfwang has since imposed a curfew in the LGA within that time which lasted for a month. Plateau State has been badly hit by blood-thirsty marauders and over 200 killed during Christmas Eve 2024 in attacks in the Bokkos and the Barkin Ladi local government areas. Many houses and farm produce were also burnt in the overnight attacks and

scores were injured (Obewo-Isan, 2024). Indigenes of the zone has been denied the opportunity to carry out farm work due to fear of being attacked and has resulted to people fleeing from that zone despite of Nigeria army presence and hunger. This is a desperate embarrassment to the leadership and governance of the country.

The leadership and governance in the country has attracted social unrest and issues in Plateau state particularly in Bokkos, Bassa, Jos north, Wasse and especially in Mangu, all in Plateau state which are affecting the academic activities and introducing the incidence of moral value decadence. Oku (2016) further buttress that there are several related incidences in the North but not only in the north west, but especially in the north east, and north central Nigeria, there are violent agitations, oil bunkering, cultism and kidnapping related issues in the south-east and south-south Nigeria which have instilled justifiable fears on the safety of children, and their social development. Perhaps, these could be attributed to the impact of leadership and governance. This is because leadership and governance encompasses the ability of a state to protect its internal values from violence, financial pressures, religious conflicts and crime (Dambazu & Igbo, 2015). Leadership and governance are the critical issue bedeviling the Nigerian democratic experiment. The crisis of leadership is a big minus for the democratic project. The two major sides of the leadership and governance are freedom from want and freedom from fear. These include conducive learning environment, economic, food, health, environment, personal, community and political security. Leadership and governance have severe adverse impacts on physical, psychological, health and social development of children as well can affect moral values. There are many consequences which often reflect on the lives of children who are victims of insecurity due to bad governance Akintude and Selzing (2016). These consequences of low quality leadership and inconsistency in governance could lead to decadence in moral values, poor academic performances, drug abuse, imitating wrong models, affects social development of the child etc.

The result of the above situation has made parent to be more concerned about the social development of their children and safety of sending their children to school and affect the teachers who are care givers because of unsafe environment. Educating children and impacting of moral values

requires perfectly safe environment when there are quality leadership and good governance to ensure that effective learning is achieved because It is universally believed that Education is a powerful weapon which can be used to correct decadence especially moral and values decadence in the society through re-orientation of the people, most especially youths. Nzewi (2014) assert that the perception or fear of insecurity influences children social development and balance. This perception can affect children social development, learner's school attendance, cause poor performance and affect general wellbeing of learners. For these reasons, failure to research into this problem may result in serious emotional, behavioral, developmental, or academic problems owing to the danger insecurity poses on daily basis and the development of children, this could be attributed to decadence in moral values in Nigeria which has actually put a stop or slow down nation Building in Nigeria (Mbaba, Odo & Omabe, 2021).

Children's daily activities include playing, reading, eating and sleeping among others, and they need to interact and communicate with parents, siblings, teachers and peers as well as others in the society as explained in kids matter. Social development involves learning and values, knowledge and skills that enable children to relate to others effectively and to contribute in positive ways to family, school and the community (Alamike, 2015). Social development enables the children to interact freely and acquires moral values in order to become well adjustable individual. This method of acquiring new knowledge and acquisition of moral values is often pass on to children directly by those who cares and teach them, although indirectly through social relationships within the family, friends as well as through the children participation in the culture around them ( Ezulike, Ukeje & Ughasoro, 2023). As children develop socially, they actually respond to the influence around them and play an active role in adjusting the relationship pattern. Friendship and relationships with others become more important to children as they grow and begin to learn, getting along with others but when there is existence of insecurity in a settlement or environment then the social development is endangered. Also when there is adequate security and conducive environment as a result of the impact of good leadership and governance the children will learn positive friendship skills that will improve better



relationships with others of which will benefit their mental health and wellbeing.

With the above, Hartup (1992) claims that the single best childhood predictor or adult adaptation is not intelligent quotient IQ, school grades and not classroom behavior but, rather, the adequacy with which the child get along with other children. The moral values and socialization process of children can seriously be affected by insecurity both at home and in school. This is supported by Pelton in Ahmed (2017), which states that being a victim of insecurity or being residing in insecurity prone environment can terrorize children and significantly disrupt child socialization but when there are good leadership and governance of the country the incidence of insecurity will not emerge. This is because when there is quality leadership and governance there are high possibility that moral values of school children will be maintained to achieve social development. Some scholars have started to consider the exposure to insecurity and hostile environment due to the state of leadership and governance as a form of psychological maltreatment which can significantly affects the moral values of school children and society in general because children born in a hostile and un-conducive environment will grow up thinking that such behaviors seen in that locality is a way of life. Although, Clara in Ahmed (2017) avers that victims and children found in insecurity prone locality is more likely to end up in violent or abusive relationships as an adult and the destructive cycle continues. This indicate that many children who grow up in such locality because, bandits, kidnappers, rapist, school dropout and always ready to hurt their own partners or children, pass on violence from one generation to another end as well become depressed and have low self-esteem and negative high self-esteem as well as depriving them from upholding moral values. This moral values is cherished and acceptance standard of behaviour Amadi (2016). This simply implies that moral values are a principle, a standard or a quality that is considered worthwhile desirable. Therefore, moral values are standard used to judge behaviour and choose among various goals that will allow children attain their potentials and improve their social development. But if the insecurity is not properly put on hold it may go a long way on improving decadence in moral values because children and adolescent will see it a part of life.

Many studies have been carried out to know the causes of insecurity and its effects among children and adolescents for example; Anyaogu and Onuoha earned out research on educating children amidst insecurity and Covid-19 Pandemic in Nigeria: the management best practices and Oyibe, Nwafor and Chukwu (2021) achieving sustainable national security through effective social studies pedagogies and related study and Ahmed (2017) on perception of childhood education professionally on the causes of domestic violence and its effects on pupils' social development, insecurity and its effects on school children's social development: perception of early childhood education professionals (Ezulike, Ukeje & Ughasoro, 2023). But none has been carried out on Influence of Leadership and Governance on Moral Value of School Children's Social Development amidst insecurity In Mangu Zone of Plateau state there is need for justifiable need for the study.

### **Statement of the problem**

In Nigeria today leadership and governance have another dimension especially in Plateau state where many families have abandoned their ancestral home, schools' activities affected and particularly affect their moral values and social development. Children are now afraid to go to school this has implored them into indoors which is capable of putting them into psychological trauma and capable of affecting their social development. Most children have seen these as normal way of life since is often happens at times join the hoodlums at younger age this could have resulted in the decadence of moral values among the school children. Teachers and care givers which aims at assisting the individual regain their psychological trauma and inculcating children to adopt good moral standards are being affected because of the leadership and governance styles which has resulted in insecurity situation has not given the schools a conducive atmosphere for teaching and learning. The children social development has been a source of concerns to teachers, care givers, parents and public in general. The leadership and governance of Plateau state if not properly handled, will generate problems to children's not only their social development but generally. Therefore, this study seeks to determine the influence of leadership and governance on moral values of

school children's social development in Mangu Local Government of Plateau State.

### **Purpose of the study**

The purpose of this study is to examine the influence of leadership and governance on moral values of school children social development amidst insecurity in Mangu Zone of Plateau State.

The study specifically sought to:

- i. ascertain the leadership and governance strategies of which may result to insecurity in Plateau state.
- ii. obtain the influence of leadership and governance which may results in decadence of moral value on school children social development.
- iii. examine the leadership and governance strategies on maintaining the moral values on school children social development.

### **Research questions**

- i. What are the leadership and governance strategies of which may results to insecurity?
- ii. What are the influences of leadership and governance strategies may results to decadence in moral value on children's social development.
- iii. What are the leadership and governance strategies on maintaining the moral values on school children social development?

### **This study tested the following hypothesis:**

H<sub>0</sub>1: there is no significant difference in perception of early childhood education professionals on the leadership and governance strategies which may cause insecurity in Mangu zone of plateau state.

H<sub>0</sub>2: there is no significant difference in leadership and governance strategies which may cause decadence in moral value on school children social development.

### **Methodology**

The deceptive survey design was adopted in this study for the investigation on the influence of leadership and governance strategy on moral value of school children social developmental single self designed instrument on influence of leadership and governance strategies on moral value of school children social development (ILGSMVSCSD) was adopted for the study. The total population for the study was 120 education professionals in 10 districts in Mangu district of plateau state.. Simple random sampling were utilized to obtain 70 early childhood education professionals as a respondents for the study in each of the 10 district in Mangu district with a total 70 respondents. Three research questions were used for the study. Face and content validation of the instrument was done by two expert one from measurement and evaluation unit of the educational psychology of the federal college of education, Pankshin and one from early childhood and primary education department of the federal college of federal college of education, Pankshin for clarity and appropriateness. The corrected version of the validated instrument was tested for reliability using test and re-test method. The data from the test re-test was analyzed using Alpha which determines the reliability index of the instrument at 0.08 consistency in measuring what is supposed to measure because of a coefficient of 0.08 is high and accepted. The data were also analyzed using mean and standard deviation. The results were presented below.

## Results

1. Research question one: **Table 1:** What are the leadership and governance strategies that will results to insecurity which affects moral value of school children social development?

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	MEAN	Remark
1	Poor of accountability	7(10.0)	25(35.7)	32(45.7)	6(8.6)	2.45	Accepted
2	The level of Poverty	23(32.9)	21(30.0)	2(2.9)	2(2.9)	3.49	Accepted
3	Inability of government to settle tribal differences among the inhabitants	12((17.1)	31(44.3)	34(48.6)	6(8.6)	2.70	Accepted
4	Poor provisions of basic amenities.	11(15.7)	36(51.4)	17(24.3)	6(8.6)	2.74	Accepted
5	Poor implementation of reliable policies that will promote peaceful coexistence.	40(57.1)	26(37.1)	2(2.9)	2(2.9)	3.49	Accepted
6	Political differences among the politicians	11(15.7)	36(51.4)	17(24.3)	6(8.6)	2.74	Accepted

### Weighted mean 2.897

The table above clearly shows the indicates the leadership and governance strategies that may results to insecurity.

The respondents agreed that following are the causes of insecurity as a result of poor leadership and bad governance; poor accountability (2.45), poverty level (3.49), inability of the government to settle tribal conflicts on time (2.70), poor provision of basic amenities by the Government (2.47), poor implementation of reliable policies that will promote peaceful coexistence in plateau (3.49), political differences among the politicians (2.74). The implication of the above happenings is that early childhood education professional believes that poor accountability), poverty level (3.49), inability of the government to settle tribal conflicts on time, poor provision of basic amenities by the Government, poor implementation of reliable policies that will promote peaceful coexistence in plateau, political differences among the politicians.. it is apparent that poverty had the highest mean indicating the numeric strength that the professionals believed that poverty is the major cause of insecurity in Nigeria which is in

line with Obi (2022) that bringing people out of poverty will improve the leadership and governance which will drastically reduce the insecurity level in Nigeria thereby making the school conducive for academic activities. Perhaps, it is further explained that, generally, that good leadership and governance brings security of lives and property which in turns improves socio- economic activities as well affects positively moral values of school children, sustains classroom instructions and improves children social development

**Research question two; Table 2;** what are the influences of poor leadership and governance negligence which will result in effect of moral value on school children social development

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	MEAN	Remark
7	Killings of parents with their innocents children	27(38.6)	28(40.0)	12(17.1)	3(4.3)	3.13	Accepted
8	Corruption	25(37.7)	27(38.6)	14(20.0)	4(5.7)	3.04	Accepted
9	Illiteracy	5(7.1)	23(32.4)	34(48.6)	8(11.4)	2.36	Accepted
10	Insensitive to religious sentiment	11(15.7)	36(51.4)	17(24.3)	6(8.6)	2.74	Accepted
11	Poor remuneration of security personnel	25(37.7)	27(38.6)	14(20.0)	4(5.7)	3.04	Accepted
12	Exposing the children to acquire arms	40(57.1)	26(37.1)	2(2.9)	2(2.9)	3.49	Accepted

Analysis from the table above showed that high mean scores which were above 2.50 is criterion mean for decision.

This implied that the above item are the influences of poor leadership and governance negligence that can cause decadence in moral value on school children social development insecurity on children social development which is in line with Ezulike, Ukeje and Ughasoro (2023) that being a victim of insecurity or residing in insecurity prone environment due to poor leadership and governance strategies can terrorize children and significantly disrupt child's socialization.

Therefore, it significantly shows that the above reflects the effects of insecurity and decadence in moral values on children social development.

**Table 3. Research question 3:**What are the leadership and governance strategies on maintaining the moral values on children social development?

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Remark
13	Improve on the creating of the enabling environs teaching and learning.	10(14.3)	27(38.6)	22(31.4)	11(15.7)	2.51	Accepted
14	Educating children and residents on religious, ethnic and political tolerance.	15(21.4)	33(47.1)	14(20.0)	8(11.4)	2.79	Accepted
15	imple.	29(41.4)	36(51.4)	3(4.3)	2(2.9)	3.31	Accepted
16	Implementation of proactive government strategies that will facilitate the development of communities.	8(11.4)	33(47.1)	20(28.6)	9(12.9)	2.57	Accepted
17	Employment of security personnel to safeguard all the schools.	7(10.0)	37(52.9)	18(25.7)	8(11.4)	2.61	Accepted
18	Equal and equity in distributions of democracy dividends.	26(37.1)	33(47.1)	8(11.4)	3(4.3)	3.17	Accepted

Table 1 above presents the mean rating of the respondents in respect to the leadership and governance strategies in maintaining and improving the leadership and governance strategies in promoting moral values of school children's social development educating a amidst insecurity in Pankshin. From the above table item 13 to 18 scored above the mean score of 2.5 which are accepted. This indicates that the respondents all agreed that all the strategies presented can be adopted by to allow sensitive government to improve moral value of school children and accelerate their social development in the society. Therefore, it significantly shows that the above reflects the influence of leadership and governance on in moral values on children social development in Pankshin.

**Table 5:** Male and female professionals' perception on the influence of poor leadership and governance strategies that may cause insecurity that may affects moral values of school children's social development in Mangu zone of Plateau state.

Gender	N	Mean	Std deviation	t	Df	Sg	Remark
Male	28	29.96	7.6	995	68	0323	Not significant
Female	44	28-41	6.12				

The table above shows no significant difference in male and female professionals' perceptions of the influence of leadership and governance on moral values of school children social development amidst insecurity in Mangu ( $t = 995$ ,  $df = 68$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ). it reveals the differences in male and female professional perception on the influence of leadership and governance on moral values on school children's social development amidst insecurity.

### Hypothesis two

There is no significant difference in male and female perceptions of the influence of leadership and governance on moral values of school children's social development

### Discussion of The Findings

Based on the mean scores of the findings, it revealed that leadership and governance strategies have impacts on moral value development and sustainability among the school children in Mangu Zone of Plateau state. Efforts should be be intensified and strategize on security to avoid incessant attacks to communities which has resulted to loss of their ancestral home to herders as well disrupt academic activities and social development of the children. This is as a result of leadership and poor governance. Based on the findings, leadership and governance in the state should aims at bringing people out of poverty and providing an enabling environment c for communities to embark on faming and academic activities by intensifying on security apparatus. There should be programmes from time to time to educate people on tolerance and dangers of causing social menace to the society such as kidnapping, killings etc.



similarly, government should also improve on economic policies and counseling adolescents and residents on security tactics this will help to improve moral values of school children.

Therefore, it becomes necessary that teachers and care givers in schools should adopt mo strategies to improve and impact good morals at early age. The findings is in line with Ikwumelu, Oyibe and Eluu (2013) who state that and maintain that sustainable national security could be maintain through effective orientation and re-orientation of the populace to maintain peace, tolerance and love by the National Orientation Agency and professional counselors and psychologist, teachers, care, counselling group, individual and pear education as identified by the study, can be used to maintain peace and change the individual from undesirable to desirable behaviours. This is in agreement with Okeke (2009) who said that guidance is a variable tool used to change the undesirable behavior of the individual into the acceptable behavior. The implications of findings are not in isolation to other findings.

### **Implications for early childhood education professionals**

The remains of this ugly scenario and all the issues associated with the influence leadership and governance strategies on moral values of school children has ugly consequences not on moral values but as well on psychological and emotional effects. Later in life children who are victims of insecurity or grew up in an insecurity prone locality tend to behave in undesirable manner thinking that is a way of life. Inability to resolve conflict in Mangu zone of plateau leads to killings, burning of shops, destructive protest, people houses, destruction of farms, exposes children to social vices and have difficulty in establishing close relationship among the community dwellers..

Consequently, Good leadership and governance, social support, psychotherapeutic strategies are requires for social and psychological adjustment. Care givers with the Guidance counselor in their schools should try to pro active by organizing talks and give sensitization to the people through mass media and school programme.

Therefore, the role of early childhood professionals in this aspect is to ensure that schools environment is child friendly and children's are taking care of, as well employs preventing measures either through their

school authority, parents, government, communities and security agency especially in this era of security challenges and decadence in moral values. Counselling can assist in this area by helping the school authority in organizing programmes, giving advice, counselling in order to save lives and make future of education in Nigeria great as well to uphold the moral values of African society.

### **Conclusion**

Leadership and governance strategies in Nigeria has become a formidable challenge for the economic sustainability and peace in various community in Nigeria, this is because non existence of conflicts provides avenue for sustainable economic activities, school programmes and other social activities in the country. This has become one of the reasons while early childhood education or care givers should catch them young by inculcating good morals using appropriate teaching pedagogies. This will help maintain moral values among the people later in life. Good leadership and good governance pave way for democratic dividends and when this dividends are appropriately provided their will be less conflicts among the people in communities as well provides a conducive environment for care givers to carry out their programmes in school. Good leadership and governance strategies such as Provision of basic amenities, good accountabilities, adequate security strategies etc. and implementation of skill programme are of benefits for economic sustainability and conflicts free environment. But if these are not properly checked it will creates enabling environment for conflicts as well makes children and women to be a target to be abducted from school either to be used as Boko Haram, bandits, for ransom, or informants etc. perhaps, this enamors challenge has caused children a lot of set back and their social development being affected living them traumatized.

Operationally, good leadership and good governance provides enabling environment for Children growth and development, conflicts free environment and help to improve economic sustainability, as well improves security architectures in Mangu zone of Plateau state.

## Recommendations

With the view of the effects of insecurity and decadence in moral values on children's social development it requires

1. Urgent attention and interception from leadership circle of Nigeria and trusted foreign countries in order to ensure the total development of children.
2. Nigeria Government should eschew ethnic, political and religion jingoism and put a stop to the political and ethnic quagmires in the country so that children will be free to study in their various schools.
3. Teachers should learn how to model, healthy relationship with their pupils and organize re-orientation program and rehabilitation exercise in collaboration with the host community and government to change the psychology of the victims and children affected with the security situation.
4. Government should improve economic standard of the country to remove people out of poverty as well improve security architecture of the country so as to enforce disciplinary measures on terrorists, bandits and improve moral values on the entire citizens and Communities in Mangu should not take laws into their hands, issues with the herders should be reported to the community leaders first for them to communicate to appropriate quarters.

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## Evolving Capacities of Children: A Practical Demonstration of its Classroom Workability

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### Abstract

*Children need protection to enhance autonomy and allow their capacities to evolve. This term has been given many definitions, diverse perspectives, its challenges and limitations to children especially very young children who were seen as too young to exercise their rights in making decision on what pertains to them. Ever since the ratification of evolving capacities of children by the UN, little or nothing has been done in putting this principle into practice in the classroom of young children especially in Nigeria. This could be as a result the concept not having a particular definition that underpins it. This paper therefore analyses a practical demonstration of this concept using a privately-owned early Childhood Education School in Portugal as a case. The paper adopted an analytical method. The data was gathered through direct observations. The study concluded that teachers should not only read or memorise the rights of the child as it regards the evolving capacity of a child but should also put into practice in*