NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSES AND ACTION ON TERRORIST ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE STATE

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Abstract:

After decolonization from British rule, terrorism was major challenge for Nigeria. This state is a Muslim rule state and according to population census two major religious groups Muslims and Christian founding there. In Northern Nigeria a group named Boko Haram was founded in 2002, which is a terrorist group and works to purify Islam. This group displaced more than two million people from their families and also killed thousands of people. Nigeria Government declared this group as a terrorist group and fought against this group. This study addresses the policies of Nigerian Government to tackle this group and will explore the contextual factors that are root cause of Boko Haram terrorist activities and what aim it tries to achieve.

Independent variable: Nigerian government

Dependent variable: BokoHaram, terrorism

Introduction:

The federal republic of Nigeria's geographical location is in the western Africa on the Gulf of Guinea. It is in the west between Benin, and in the east between Cameroon. Chad and Nigeria are in the North (Douglas and Phillips, 2004, p. 10). The Nigeria's river lower course flows south into the Gulf of Guinea through the eastern part of the country. The southern lowlands are built on Southern coast by swamps and mangroves, and forests. Such lowlands are south east mountainous and north plain. Inland part of Nigeria includes hardwood forests.

The country' territory is 923,768 square kilometers, of which the water bodies occupy some of 13000 square kilometers. Nigeria has five major geographical regions. The first area is low lying coastal zone along Guinean Gulf. The second is the plateau and hills region to the north of the coastal zone. The third is the gorge of the river Nigeria- Benue. The forth area is a plateau extending. Mountainous is the fifth zone along the eastern frontier that includes the highest point of the country, Chappal Waddi, its highest is 2,419 meters.
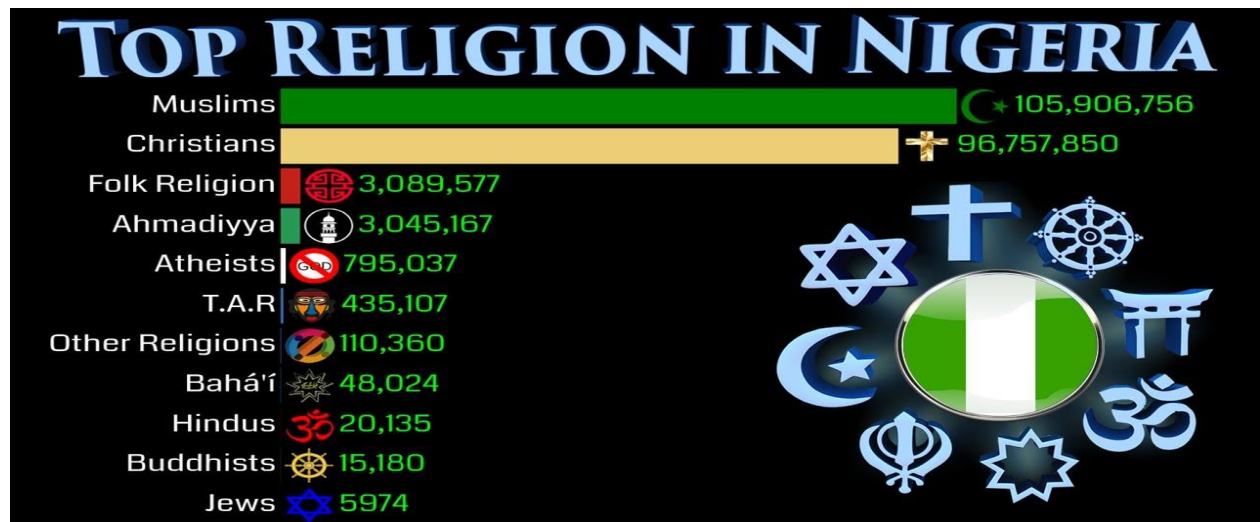
Nigeria's capital is Abuja, which is in central Nigeria. Its population is around 6 million. Other cities include logos, Ibadan and Kano. Nigeria has many cities; their population is more than one million. The network of road in the transport sector is 194,394 kilometers. Railways stretch across an area of 3,557 kilometer.

Source: https://www.enchantedlearning.com/africa/nigeria/

Nigeria has 36 states. Seven state of which has 35,786,944 in population. These seven states are located in the most populated north-west region. The south west region is the next heavily populous area with six states and a population of 27,266,257. South- south region have six states and its population are 21,014,655. The north-central region has seven states including Abuja's Federal Capital Territory have a population of 20,266,257. The population of the six states in the north-east region is 18,971,965. The total population of the five states in the south-east region is 16,381,729 kano state has population about 17,000,682. Oyo, katsina and rivers are the four states with over five million populations. Nasarawa and Bayelsa have less than 2 million populations. The twenty-state population is between 2 and 5 million. 50% Nigeria's populations are Muslim, 40% are Christians and 10% population observes no religion or traditional indigenous religion. The predominant sect of Islam in Nigeria is Sunni

and among Christians 26 percent are Protestants, 18.25 are African Christians and 13.45 percent are Roman Catholics.

Source:

In 1960; the Nigerian Federation officially gained its freedom from UK on October 1960. The Nigerian Federation joined the commonwealth of nation on 1 October 1960. On October 1, 1960 the Federation of Nigeria appointed Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, member of the northern People's Congress as prime minister.

In 2001, terrorist's incident has risen over the years following the terrorist attack against the United States of America, on September 11, 2001. Over the years, several nations have been identified as pro-terrorism countries like Nigeria, possibly a refugee for terrorists vulnerable to attack of terrorists. Economic disparities, societal inequalities and political turmoil are the main factors which play an important role in the development of terrorism in the Nigeria.

According to Schmid, (2004) terrorism may be described in various ways, such as criminality, war, religion and propaganda. Terrorism is a sustained violence, employed by covert individual group for peculiar, political and criminal reasons, whereby-contrary to coups-the immediate object of violence is not the target. In general terrorists select their victims from the targeted population to convey their message. Contact mechanisms which have danger and violence based messages between victims and terrorists and main target. These danger and violence based messages are used to exploit the main target, rending it a goal of fear, a target of request, or a target of publicity depending on whether intimidation, manipulation, or propaganda is specifically pursued.

Nigeria has tragic and long historical background between groups and ethno religious crime. In 1991, since the return of democracy, Plateau state has several outbursts of bloody violence between different communities. Kaduna and Kano's town centers have been and the Bauchi district of TafawaBalewa has been experiencing a simmering conflict for many decades. These disputes are due to the religion differences and tension between Muslim and Christian resident blocs. There is also a history of Muslim sect. this Muslim sect grow in the northern Nigerian cities. For instance, in the 1980 the Maitatsine sect, who heretically argued that Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) was not Allah's messenger, founded itself in Kano's slums. The group was very brutally sponged out, with group women and children attacking with bows, arrows and knives on heavily armed forces. The group dispersed over the course

of a decade, and was eventually removed. The failure of security services and government institutions creates a political circumstance in which definite threats to stability are not discussed until violence is certain. Under these circumstances Boko Haram was established (Andrew, 2012. P 65).

12, February 2012 a report published in Sunday Tribune claims that information available to the various security agencies suggested that contrary to the commonly held perception that the Boko Haram began around 2003, the group has existed since 1995. In 1999, it possibly preserved a mysterious presence, Mustapha Modujon, widely known as name of Muhammad Yusuf, took over the group's leadership. Mallam Muhammad Yusuf was said to have successfully radicalized the group and opened it to foreign collaboration, particularly with Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb, which was to be extra judicially executed in 2009 while in the police custody. Muhammad Yusuf's murder in police custody added the vendetta angle to the fight. Therefore, it is not shocking that the police and other security forces were primly oriented on reprisal by this terrorist group. Contrary to the official circles' assumption that Muhammad Yusuf's death in police custody in 2009 did not contribute to the group eclipse unlike that of Maitatsine. His supporters spread in other parts of the area to form the existence of Bokoharam (Nnamdi, 2015).

In 2004, it has been identified that the leaders of the Boko haram formed ties with Algerian Salafist movement which is now common with the name of Al Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb. Al Qaeda trained its member in fightinf, gun and in the use of improvised explosive devices (Nnamdi, 2011). Government has reported that Al Qaeda contributes funds to finance the activates of the group of Boko Haram. In August 2011, "Boko Haram leadership traveled to Saudi Arabia to negotiate financial and logistical operations with Al Qaeda" (Connell, 2012). Government also has reported that 40 million Naira transferred from an Algerian militant organization to Boko Harm in Nigeria (Nnamdi, 2011)

In the Hausa language Boko Haram means "education is prohibited". It is not registered name. It is given to the community by its founder. It's a media thought deriving from public understanding of the group's activity. But the group has proven to be highly adaptable, quickly adapting its strategies and modifying its goals at the request of a dynamic leadership. BokoHaram is a Islamic group that claims that a gang of fake, crooked Muslims has captured the northern politics. This sect plans to start a Jihad towards them and the federal Republic of Nigeria. This sect has mission to develop a movement of Islamic extremist in Nigeria. Its aim to establish the pure Islamic state ruled by Sharia law by whatever means and whatever human cost, which brings in the angle of terrorism. He soon built his own mosque in Maiduguri, which for his ideology became the group's headquarter as well as propagation hub.

In 2010, the target of Boko haram includes police, churches, officials, newspaper and schools. Strategies include bike drive by shootings; the use of roadside bombs and suicide bombings. In august 2011, this group bombed the UN compound in Abuja and killed 23 people. It also carried out a series of deadly assaults on the Nigerian government. By doing this act, that group sprung on the world's map

Source: https://www.britannica.com/topic/Boko-Haram

In 2013, there was a significant increase in Boko Haram's terrorist attacks which wounded and killed several people of innocent polices, military officers, civilians, public officials and leaders of the community. UN Humanitarian agency revealed attacks have killed more than 1200 people between May and mid December, a number which does not include extremists killed during targeted military operations.

January 2012- August 2013, more than 50 attacks were done on churches and Nigerian Christians. In 2014, Nigerian people faces many terrorist attacks on Civilians almost 2,o53 people killed in this bombing. Boko Haram almost estimated 95 attacks in different places

In 2015, Boko haram planned attack and killed almost two thousand people.

In 2016, A village Dalori of Nigeria which was the point to put bombing in Nigeria. In case of bombing 86 people lost their lives and 96 were injured. In 2017, Boko Haram planed attacks on armed forces and killed six army officers.In 2018, More than one Hundred students were kidnap by Boko Haram.Some analyst say Boko Haram has been branching out in the Sahel to build alliances in other global jihadist movements. The pace at which the group was able to manufacture explosive devices and suicide bombs which was deliver outside assistance. Yet there is no evidence to indicate that the group plans to challenge and target western interests within or outside Nigeria.

Methodology:

For this purpose qualitative research method is used. The foundation of this article is a review of counter-terrorism literature, reports, and journals, which will be used to help analyze response of government toward the counter-terrorism operations against the Boko Haram sect.

Hypothesis:

The Nigerian government's policies and activities have significant impact to decrease the level of Boko Haram terrorist activities.

Literature Review:

This literature review related to the study of Boko Haram in Nigeria as a terrorist group. It leftovers a very strong issue not only for Nigeria but to the entire region. Most of the

literature that exists on Nigeria's Boko Haram tricks is made up of government reports, journal articles, and scholarly writings.

This review includes the literature which discusses the roots and drivers of terrorism and terrorist groups, which is important information for developing a counter-terrorism strategy.

Onapajo and Uzodike, (2012) aims to study Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria Man, the state, and the international system. According to them, after the terrorist's outbreak at Boko Haram in Nigeria in July 2009 there have been growing question on the country's phenomenon. This research paper is being developed to understand the Boko Haram fear phenomenon in Nigeria. This uses the theoretical levels common within the field of international relations to describe terrorism at major three stage: individual state and international. Both are investigating that Boko Haram terrorism is rooted in the ideology and motivations of its founder and members, the failures of the Nigerian state and the international system's modern religious terrorism trend. At the state level, it should be re- emphasized that the government needs to react actively to its people's plight. According to them, rising deprivation and unemployment rates should be addressed seriously. Security issues in the country do need to be accorded some severity. In the age of neo-liberal globalization, the government must also ensure adequate security of domestic cultures and economics. Furthermore, the international also needs to provide substantive cooperation with Nigeria to develop its state ability and also to counter the country's scourge of terror, including the threat from Boko Haram. (Hakeem Onapajo and Ufo Okeke Uzodike, 2014)

This article explores Boko Haram's origins and possible future by focusing on why the group flourishes mainly in certain parts of Nigeria. It also focuses at the responses of the Nigerian and American Government to security threats that emanate from the terrorist activities of Boko Haram. Article also discusses the consequences for peace in Nigeria and the USA of the group's continued existence. The analysis gives US and Nigeria government guidelines for reducing the risks from Boko Haram. (Kulungu, 2019)

The present study examine the differentiation and resemblance between the Boko Haram and Islamic state to enhance the growing debate about the danger they present to international study. By using the theory of relative deprivation, the author suggests that both group members are closely related to each other in the use of fundamentalist Islamic ideology to mobilize socially, economically and politically aggrieved societies for violence through hybrid warfare against unequal status quo powers. But they different from one another in organizational structure, strategic objectives and financing. Such discrepancies derive from the two groups' different strategic outlook. Boko haram has its concentration on reform in Nigeria and Islamic state wants to establish an Islamic caliphate. Understanding the differences and similarities are important in order to effectively counter the threats to security that both faces. (ANTWI-BOATENG, 2017)

According to Onapoja, Uzodike and Whetho, (2012) the Boko Haram militants are the self-described members of Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)'s teaching for preaching, striving. They continue to terrorize Nigeria, with devastating effects. This article explores at the essences of Nigerian Boko Haram terrorism. This claims that Boko Haram does have a international aspects, showing that its purpose and goals exceed Nigeria and Boko Haram has links at international level for its operation. This article is summarized within the international framework of the charged debate about the concept of terrorism and the current

phenomenon of religious terrorism.(Hakeem Onapajo , Ufo Okeke Uzodike and Ayo Whetho, December 2012)

This article analyzes the challenge and threat of jihadism. Nigeria, Mali, Niger, Algeria and to lower degree in Cameroon are those states who faced the threat of jihadism. This research paper shows that west Africa is at risk to infiltrated through jihadist group, it is very important to increase the ability of the main regional players in counter-terrorism: the economic Community of the West African State and African union wants to defeat the jihadist's desire to establish the Islamic Caliphate. For this purpose, African Union and Economic group of people of the West Africa State strengthen their relationship with their foreign partners and civil society actors to build stability in the region. This research also focuses on the initiative and counter-terrorism policies which are employed by the United States, Africa Union and Economic Community of the West Africa State. They promote those policy recommendations involving long term commitments by the global community and regional and civil society actors. These policy recommendations involve long term commitments in the fields of development, security and peace building. (Maiangwa, 2014)

Onuoha, (2010) evaluates the history of Boko Haram group, its revolutionary ideology and the damage done by the July 2009 uprising. The author explores that Nigerian military forces are admirable because they have been able to control the incidents before it spread to other violent states of Northern Nigeria. He also finds that it remains uncertain that government of Nigeria will adopt the effective steps to make sure long-term stability and protection by avoiding the potential relapse sectarian conflict. (Onuoha, 2010)

Knoechelmann, (2014) investigates why the Nigerian Counter-Terrorism policy toward Boko Haram has failed. The disappearance of 276 schoolgirls in early 2014 was the subject of any global news network. This disappearance was only one assault in a string of assaults that Boko Haram has perpetrated over the past decade. He explores in his study that Boko Haram is misidentified by the government of Nigeria as simply a political terrorist's group that disregards its ethnicity's history and relation.This misassumption has contributed to a military-only reaction that disregards structural as terror causing factors. The final aspect of this study clarifies the application of armed action has led to a systematic response to justice by the usage of the Kalyvas, concept of indiscrimination aggression. (Knoechelmann, 2014)

Connell, (2012) explores thatBoko Haram is the uprising movement in Niger and united state classify the Boko Haram is a Foreign terrorist organization. This article investigates that to be or not to be. The aim of the Boko Haram is to impose the sharia-based constitution instead of demo artic Nigerian government. It might have meant a transition, when it attacked on the headquarter of UN in Abuja, Nigeria. In contrast to the Nigeria delta Emancipation movement, a Nigerian grassroots movement group, and define terrorist organizations, al Shabaab and al-Qaeda Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram is being examined as a way of determining whether Boko Haram is fundamentally a foreign terrorist organization. (Connell, 2012)

This research paper explores the impacts of the insurgency atmosphere generated in Nigeria by the Boko haram group. The present research also discusses the danger faced by Boko Haram and its consequences to the security of the country. The author find out that Boko haram rebellion has an impact on Nigerian people's economic lives (Ogomegbunam& David, 2014).Among other issues, the paper suggests the need for government to strengthen the condition of security with all resources at its fingertips to help locate, disrupt, forestall and

convict terrorists from Boko Haram. (Odita Anthony Ogomegbunam, Akan David, May-Jun 2014)

Ajayi, (2012) looked at the roots of the Boko Haram insurgency through how it turned into a terrorist organization from a Muslim extremist. As a reason for the emergence of radical religious movements, roots factors such as violence, crime, faith Politization and general socio-economic malaise afflicting the country are intensified. International relations and funding for the Boko Haram movement and its terrorist acts are also discussed in this article. Author finds out in this article it takes a long time when the menace of Boko Haram can be wiped out. Its action can be reduced and suppressed in the short run by improving military operations, although more profound remedial steps can be undertaken to deter Boko Haram or a victimized group from reoccurring terrorists' attacks in the future. (Ajayi, 2012)

In this research, the author investigates the negative impact of Boko Haram actions on the external image of Nigeria. The authors also explore the essence and complexities of Nigeria's security concerns. In neocolonial societies, terrorism is used for addressing international gaps. It considers a common thing in these neocolonial societies. The alternative's proliferation seems ancient as political past of Nigeria. It also focuses on the internal issues within political framework that strengthens the issues deterioration and the current uprising against government of Nigeria. (Adeyemi-Suenu, 2015)

The present research investigates on the casual factors and central problems in Nigeria due to Boko Haram. It shows that insurgency in Bokoharam is due to a poor combination of poor governance in Nigeria, including inefficient and wasteful parastatals, widespread corruption, severe lack of development, insecurity, unequal distribution in northern Nigeria, said by system Human needs and state fragility. Defense situation is wearing end is due to collapse of national intelligence and defense agencies. This research paper further highlights the reaction of government impasse at Boko Haram and concludes that, when government of Nigeria change the crises condition of state, danger is unable to dissipate. (Uzodike, UfoOkeke; Maiangwa, Benjamin, 1 January 2012)

Nigerian state has tradition of wars such as inter and intra ethnic conflicts, theological tension, civil wars and others. In recent years, Northern Nigeria is significantly affected by violent conflict. This region is grounded zero due to poverty eroding, failure of development, and Islamic jihadist rebellion. In 2004, the Boko Haram group that has plagued the area since 2009 kidnapped no less than 276 schoolgirls in Borno country. Due to this action Boko Haran got the attention of world, sparking of anger at international level which roused support from national and international level. This incident is also considered sign of brutal conflict in Nigeria. The state of Nigeria fails to free the kidnap girls, this failure become a reason to start the complain of "Bring back our girls" at international level. This research focuses on the challenge the essence, dynamics, politics and rescue operations that define the kidnapping of the girls. It explores the actions of "bring back our girls" movement at national and international level. It also discusses the post traumatic services which are planned for safe girls and plight of those remaining in prison.(Omilusi, 2019)

Njoku, 2015 examine an important dimension of Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria as consequences of Boko Haram terrorism in northern Nigeria against women. It also discusses the history of Boko Haram and find out the reason of terrorism due to Boko Haram in Nigeria. As a result, author find out the reason of terrorism in Nigeria due to Boko Haram are kidnapping of women and girls, terrorist organizations used women as pawns, the infliction

of systematic fear on women, women used as wartime labor, the deprivation of women from education and livelihood. This paper suggest that education is the only resources for breaking the cycle of poverty in region, military forces provide protection to communities, particularly for girls and women. To achieve this purpose, it is necessary that government of Nigeria collaborate at international system. (Osita-Njoku, (Osita-Njoku (2015).)

Sampson, (2013) Discuss the policies and actions of Nigerian government which are against the attacks of Boko Haram. The present study argues that it is necessary to design comprehensive counter-terrorism policy and implement it, otherwise terror attacks of Boko Haram will continue to develop the conflicts between people and state. Consequently, this article suggests strengthen the democratic government and expanded the involvement of people in politics.(Sampson, 2013)

In 2009, July and August are those months which recorded a number of attacks by Boko haram sect. This militant group attempts the terror attack on Muslim and Christian. This article examines the role of international forces on the terror activities of this sect. it revealed that several of the sect leaders came from the nearby state of Nigeria. Through anarchism theory, this article shows that several members of the Boko Haram went to Afghanistan to get training in making the suicide bombs from AL-Qaeda. It suggests that international forces play an important role in instability of national security and peace. It suggests that Nigerians and beyond will make a contribution in controlling the role of foreign forces.(Ani, Kelechi Johnmary, 2013)

Democracy is a political structure which is accepted by the most of Nigerians. They also want to maintain it. The programmer is believed to ensure stability and to foster prosperity. It considers the solution of many problems. Latest security issues, though, are manifestations and continuity of Nigeria's vibrant democratic developments and the opportunities for democracy. This article reflects on explaining about the failure of democratic government in Nigeria. This government fails to control the terrorism which is wide speared by Boko Haram and other jihadist movements. In regards to the rise of terrorism due to Boko Haram certain aspects of democracy as implemented in Nigeria are observed, still democracy has some methods with certain factors which can be used for manifestation of terrorism. (Lere Amusan, Samuel Oyewole, 2014)

Duke, Agbaji and Bassey, (2017) analyzes the level of corruption in armed forces of Nigeria, this level of corruption able to disrupt a war against terrorism by Boko Haram in Nigeria. It shows misery, corruption and injustice are responsible for the growth of Boko haram in Nigeria. After the death of Muhammad Yusuf's death in 2009, Abubakar Shekau has followed a more radical ideology and strategy to the sect. Boko Haram is responsible for 1.3 million people relocation and murder of 20,000people. This article argues that corruption has deepened in the armed forces of Nigeria and weakened war against Boko haram by stealing of security budgets, the procurement of under- standard arms, the development of bogus military agreement and the lack of logistical support for and desertion of frontline soldiers. The paper suggests that government of Nigerian will strengthen the anti-graft agencies and anti-graft war, the introduction of countervailing steps and vigilant monitoring of defense contracts, to create the jobs for unemployed youth especially in the north area is necessary to launch socio-economic empowerment programs. (Out Offiong Duke, Dickson David Agbaji and Okon Bassey, 2017)

With the assassination of Osma bin laden and other Al Qaeda leaders' kingpins, the occurrence of international terrorism seems to be decrease. The 'war on terror' has been hailed as a huge achievement. Nigeria and other African countries' experience show that when international terrorism may be decrease, the prevalence and extremism of militant groups with possible relations to Al-Qaeda seems to be increase. This article examines how Nigerian government will react to uprising of Boko Haram terrorist group. It shows that uprising of Boko Haram which generates the insecurity in the region. This uprising becomes a reason of government failure and fragility of government. It concludes that Nigerian government should adopt a human security approach to deal with the uprising issue ofBoko haram as terrorist group. (Iro Aghedo and Oarhe Osumah, 2012)

Present research discusses the formation, demands and methods of operation of Boko haram. It also asses the responses of government of Nigeria to the threats of Boko Haram and how should response it. This article also discuss the socio economic approach and help to understand the Boko Haram problems which are beyond the religious agenda and analyze the group's growth in the sense of Nigeria's regulated local economic grievances and political history.(Agbiboa , 2014)

Conclusion:

The present study concludes that the government's present solution, which is primarily focused on resolving the effects of terrorism, is insufficient and needs a plan resolving the root cause and causes of terrorism in order to overcome the crises. Such a policy includes a government-wide method in which the military extends its activities to limit the sect's operational space. Nigerian government faces multi-dimensional facts of terrorist activities in lower level. Poverty and unemployment are the main reason of terrorism, when people could not full fill their basic needs; they involve such type of activities. So, Government should take serious step to overcome all these roots of evils. There is also need to solve the terrorist activities with political dialogue somewhere. To save the future of young population group in state, Nigeria government should take steps of social mobilization and create awareness on social harmony. Many children in Boko Haram groups have innocent, government must take serious steps for better education of their children.

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