

**THE EFFECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN NIGERIA: INTERFACE BETWEEN YOUTH
UNEMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL VICES**

KENETH MELA

**Department of Public Administration
Federal University Gashua,
Yobe State, Nigeria
E-mail: kenethmela228@gmail.com
GSM: +2348032799614**

&

MUHAMMAD GARBA AHMAD

**Department of Public Administration
Federal University Gashua
Yobe State
+2348038672568
Email: mgarbaspecial@gmail.com**

ABSTRACT

One of the greatest challenges facing the Nigeria economy is unemployment which has maintained a rising trend over the years. The youth population of any nation represents the driving force for development. However, for the youths to become useful resources, they must be gainfully employed. The youths are also the most volatile when their energies are misdirected or channeled into wrong endeavours. Unemployed refers to people who are willing and a capable of work but are unable to find suitable paid employment. Available data show that youth unemployment is very rampant in Nigeria and this has contributed immensely to their involvement in criminal activities or social vices. The general objective of this study is to identify the causes of youth unemployment and assess the relationship if any between youth unemployment and social vices in the study area. The paper argues that social vices such as armed robbery, kidnapping, political thuggery, prostitution, drug abuse, exams malpractice and other criminal activities found among the unemployed and jobless youths in the country have contributed greatly to the slow pace of development in Nigeria. This paper undertakes a theoretical grinding of critical issues under study, adopting a review of periodic publications, journals and related secondary materials. Hence, the researcher used qualitative method in the study. The study revealed that, there were many causes of youth unemployment and that, social vices are also related to the effect of unemployment. The study also revealed that addressing youths' unemployment will stem the tide of social vices and foster rapid development in Nigeria.

Key Terms: Youth, Unemployment, Social Vices, Development, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Unemployment and poverty are so intertwined that one can easily confuse one for the other. Although, it is possible for one to be employed and still be poor, this is likely to be a case of underemployment. Thus, by unemployment, it includes those underemployed. Unemployment and underemployment reflect the failure to make use of an important factor of production, labour, for fostering economic growth in Nigeria. Low returns to labour as well as high unemployment indicates poverty.

Youth unemployment is a consequence of several factors. One significant factor is that of population growth. Our country Nigeria has continued to experience high rate of population growth. The increasing population growth has produced an overwhelming increase in young population thereby resulting in rapid growth of labour which is outstripping the supply of jobs. Related to the rapid population growth is the massive rural- urban migration by the young people.

Unemployment in Nigeria has affected the youth and the economic development of the country from a broad spectrum of socio-economic perspective. According to the UN Report (1999), the high degree of geographical mobility of youth in Africa in the form of rural to urban migration has been influencing youth unemployment. Thus, in Nigeria, youth migrate to the cities more than other migrants. But unfortunately, job opportunities in the country is limited. Thus, the urbanization rate of the youth has continued to create unemployment in the country. It is obvious that unemployment especially that of youth in country impedes progress in several ways. Apart from the economic waste it brought to the country, it also constitutes social vices like crime, commercial sex work, drug abuse.

According to Ezie (2012), cited in **Anthony Abayomi Adebayo** (2013), the unemployment situation in Nigeria is disturbing and even more disheartening that the country's economic condition cannot absorb an optimal proportion of its labour force. This situation has contributed to the increase in crimes and other social vices experienced in our society in recent time, because an idle mind is always the devils workshop.

Conceptual Clarifications

Unemployment describes the condition of people who are without jobs Okafor, (2011). The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines the unemployed as the number of the economically active population who is without work but available and seeking work, including people who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work World Bank, (1993).

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2009), the labour force of a country is a set of people or citizens who are willing and are able to make available at any given point in time their efforts for gainful employment, while the unemployed are the individuals with no work, but are looking for work.

Fajana (2000) refers to unemployment as a situation where people who are willing and capable of working are unable to find suitable paid employment. (Patterson et al, 2006) defined it as a situation in which people who are willing to work at the prevailing wage rate are unable to find jobs

In terms of scope, Okafor, (2010) observed that unemployment is a global trend, but occurs mostly in developing countries of the world, with attendant social, economic, political, and psychological consequences. Thus, Oyebade, (2003) added that massive youth unemployment in any country is an indication of far more complex problems. Nigeria's unemployment can be grouped into two categories: the older unemployed who lost their jobs through retrenchment, redundancy or bankruptcy; and the younger unemployed, most of who have never tasted what it is to be employed.

Causes of Youth's Unemployment

Rapid rural-urban migration

This is the situation in which young people move from the rural areas to the urban centres in Nigeria in search of greener pastures. Many of these youths are fleeing from the poverty in the rural areas. This can be explained in the light of the push-pull factors. The push factors include the pressure resulting from man-land ratio in the rural areas and the existence of serious underemployment arising from the seasonal cycle of climate **Okafor**, (2011). Since the industries and social amenities are concentrated in the urban areas, youths migrate into the urban areas to seek employment in the industries and ministries, as well as enjoy the comfort which the social amenities offer.

Rapid population growth

Nigeria has continued to experience high rate of population growth. The increasing population growth has produced an overwhelming increase in the youth population thereby resulting in an attendant increase in the size of the working age population. With the 2006 population census in Nigeria, the nation's population was estimated to be 140,431,790 and projection for the future indicates that the population could be over 180 million by the year 2020, given an annual rate of 3.2 percent National Population Commission and ICF Macro, (2009). This made Nigeria the most populous nation in Africa. The growth in population rate has resulted in rapid growth of the labour force which is far higher than the rate of jobs supply.

Inappropriate school curricula

According to Akeke and Oladunjoye, (2011) cited in **Anthony Abayomi Adebayo** (2013), many graduates in Nigeria lack entrepreneurial skills to facilitate self-employment. Various scholars have argued that as far as the formal sector is concerned, the average Nigerian graduate is unemployable, because of lack of necessary skills needed by the employers of labour for a formal employment. Based on this assumption, curricula and training programmes are generally tailored towards preparing young people for formal sector jobs. But since these jobs do not exist, there is often a mismatch between the skills possessed by the job seekers and the available jobs.

Rapid expansion of the educational system

Following the deregulation of education Nigeria, government has been encouraging the opening of private schools and universities. However, the aggressive creation of more private and public-funded institutions has not been followed or matched with a commensurate job absorption strategy for the many graduates from these educational institutions. Whereas tertiary institutions have grown at multiple progression, jobs and employers have grown at arithmetic progression **Ajufo**,(2013). This has led to the increase in the supply of educated manpower which outstrips the corresponding demand for them. This has contributed greatly to the problem of youth's unemployment in Nigeria.

According to **Manning and Junanka** (1998), the total number of graduates turned out by higher institutions in Nigeria in 1986/87 was 73,339, which rose to 131,016 in 1996/97. For **Musari** (2009), about 4.5 million youths enter the labour market every year without any hope of getting employment for life sustenance. Getting jobs for the astronomical increase in the number of graduates produced in Nigeria has been a problem because the economy is too weak to absorb them.

Decline in the manufacturing sector

According to **Okafor**, (2011) the capacity of the manufacturing sector to absorb youths into its workforce has been hampered by the continuous decline in the sector. In 2009, over 837 factories have collapsed and closed shops. About half of the remaining operating firms have been classified as "ailing", a situation that poses serious threat to the survival of the manufacturing sector in the country in the next few years. In a similar direction, according to a survey carried out as part of its membership operational audit in January 2010 by the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), the 837 figure represents the cumulative aggregate of firms that have shut down operations in 2009 across the country **Okafor**, (2011).

Corruption

High level of corruption in Nigeria has robbed the country of developing a vibrant economic base in spite of her abundant natural resources. Massive corruption is perpetuated in every sector and has permeated the entire social structure of Nigeria. Funds meant for development projects which could have generated employment have been misappropriated, diverted, or embezzled and stashed away in foreign banks. Endemic corruption has robbed the country of the chance of using more than \$500 billion dollars estimated revenue from the sale of oil in the last 50 years to develop a vibrant economy that would have created jobs for the youths in the various sectors of economy **Okafor**,(2005).

Lack of Political Will

The neglect of vocational/technical education has been robbing the nation of the potential contributions of its graduates to national growth and economic development. The inability of policy makers to make rational and informed decisions continue to affect the rate of progress of the Nigerian Nation. As Dike (2006a) has noted, the underdevelopment status of Nigeria could be linked to the neglect of its educational institutions. Although science and technology has been a part of Nigeria's National Policy on Primary education (NPE) since 1981 Moja, (2000).

Skewed Budgetary Allocations

After China and India, Nigeria is the fastest growing economy in the world with a growth rate of 7.2% (Yusuf, 2012). This figure is expected to increase to double digit growth typical of the Asian tiger economies. As cited in **Anthony Abayomi Adebayo** (2013) This growth rate is being achieved despite the energy challenges, financial crisis and global economic meltdown. Although Nigeria's economy is projected to continue growing, poverty is likely to get worse as the gap between the rich and the poor continue to widen. One reason may be attributed to the perennial defective leadership, corruption and poorly articulated policy implementations. For example, the Federal Government's share of distributable revenue is 54%, states 25% and local government 19%. Out of the share accruing to the Federal Government, only about 20-30% go to capital expenditure, while the rest go to recurrent and overhead. On the other hand, states like Lagos allocate between 40-45% to capital expenditure annually. It can be argued that there is an inverse relationship between income and capital expansion. Therefore, by committing more resources to infrastructure you indirectly impact on incremental incomes of the citizenry.

Poorly Coordinated Intervention Programmes

Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) argued that the problems of mass unemployment, low productivity high inflation and poverty will depend on how speedily it is able to develop the millions of its labour force into a knowledgeable and skilled people needed for the required change. Skills acquisition as a veritable vehicle to promote employment generation has been a part of the policy thrust of past Nigerian governments. However, most intervention programmes have been poorly coordinated and in some cases either overlap or contradict one another. Beginning with the Directorate of Food Road and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Family Support Programme (FSP) and now the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategies (NEEDS), SEEDS and even the establishment of People Bank of Nigeria (PBN) are some of the intervention programmes that were intended to promote employment generation. Most of the past intervention programmes were implemented as ad-hoc. Poorly coordinated and marred by corruption and inefficiency. Consequently, rather than reduce unemployment, the reverse seem to be the case. The Nigerian Living Standard Survey (NLSS, 2006) estimated the poverty level at 54%, implying that approximately 75 million Nigerians were unemployed.

Incidence of Social Vices in Nigeria

Social vices are fast becoming national and global trends. Social vices cut across ethnic nationalities, races and even religious cleavages. Some of the social vices include but not limited to examination malpractice, cultism, prostitution, drug addiction, political thuggery, targeted assassinations, armed robbery, pipe-line vandalism, vandalism of electricity installations, cyber-crimes, one chance etc.

These vices are at variance to social norms and values which include beliefs, attitudes, honesty, hard work, customs and traditions, ideals and skills which a society cherishes and passes on from one generation to another via formal and non-formal education.

In the course of this research work, only few of the social vices will be discuss briefly.

Examination Malpractice

Tests and examinations are very important in the school system. It is examinations that are used as criteria for placement of citizens in society. Its natural tendency is to establish a meritocracy in which power, earnings and status depend **Umaru and Babuje**, (2012).

The quest to pass public examinations conducted by examining bodies like the West African Examinations Council (WAEC), National Examinations Council (NECO) and Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) by hook or crook emphasizes the importance of examinations to students.

Cultism

A cult is a belief system in a local god. The Oxford Concise Dictionary of Sociology as cited by **Nwoke** (2006) defines cult anthropologically as a set of practices and beliefs of a group in relation to a local god. These activities relating to the local god are highly secretive as members always swear oath of secrecy. Secret cults or societies are those organizations which completely conceal their rules, the names of their members, their signs, passwords from outsiders and the members take oath of secrecy and are often under the threat of severe punishment in the case of its violation **Ogbonnaya**, (2012).

Cultism is an extension of violence in the Nigerian society. **Gimba** (2002) states that university students and graduates earn much money by taking part in crime-related services and contracts. **Sexual offences**: this involves having sex without the consent of the other person (rape). Certified cases of venereal diseases and pregnancy, possession of pornographic literature and use of contraceptives and abortion.

Drug offences: The drug offences committed by unemployed youth ranges from smoking of cigarettes and Indian hemp, keeping or using drugs allegedly to aid memory, keeping or using drug for regular diseases, but not prescribed by a doctor, keeping or using drugs to prevent or abort pregnancies, sniffing tobacco and drinking excessive alcohol.

The Interface between Youth Unemployment and Social vices

Social vices are deviant behaviours such as illicit sex, drug addiction, evil or immoral behavior such as murder, examination malpractice, thuggery and such other criminal tendencies while youth unemployment, according to **Patterson et al**, (2006) is a situation in which people who are willing to work at the prevailing wage rate are unable to find jobs. It is one of the macro-economic problems which every responsible government is expected to monitor and regulate. The higher the unemployment rate in an economy the higher would be the poverty level and social vices challenges. Unemployment is one of the developmental problems that face every developing economy in the 21st century, and Nigeria is not exempted. Its impact is felt more by the youths, leading to youth unemployment.

Social vices and youth unemployment are associated with a combination of economic, governance, security and social conditions that can have unpleasant influence on quality of life in the country. At a very minimum, these factors impinge on basic service delivery

Since the return of Nigeria to democratic rule in 1999, the country has been facing national security challenges especially in the North Eastern Region. Incidences of bomb blasts, kidnappings, armed robbery, political assassinations, Boko Haram insurgencies. All these incidences of social vices are therefore, linked to inadequate employment opportunities to teeming youth population in Nigeria area.

Nigerian youths are living under disease conditions. Nigeria has the second highest HIV/AIDS burden in Africa and the highest tuberculosis burden in the world, **Ploch**, (2011). This problem of HIV/AIDS ascited in **Lumana S. Sha** (2014) has great correlation with the prevalent dangers of unemployment among the Nigerian youth.

In Yobe State, the cause of social vices are linked to denial of employment opportunities to a section of the state. **Genyi and Euginia** (2013) state that peace and security of Nigeria has been seriously compromised because of the inability of government and other relevant stakeholders to provide quality education to some sections of the country. Human restiveness occasioned by Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen clashes with sedentary farmers, kidnappings, targeted assassinations, arson and such other social vices are stretching the nation beyond its elastic limit. Without good employment (education) for all and sundry, the

nation may be dragged to the precipice beyond which there could be chaos in the country. Youth employment is therefore the only instrument that can be used to bring about national cohesion and integration that will lead to national development.

Youth unemployment leads to anti-social behaviours such as: emergence of street children, involvement of youth in crimes and in armed conflict (militancy in the Niger Delta, and currently the Boko Haram crisis which is fuelled by youth unemployment and poverty in addition to religious and other related factors), and increased prostitution among young women, as well as exposure to HIV/AIDS **Alabi & Alanana**(2012).

In the Niger Delta, lack of employment opportunities was highly correlated with the high incidences of youth restiveness and conflicts UNDP, (2006). An unwholesome aspect of youth unemployment and underemployment in many cities in Nigeria is visible 'idleness', whereby youth congregate at bars and eating places to drink, watch football matches, converse or smoke marijuana, for substantial parts of the day **Chigunta F.**(2002). Such places encourage the development of street gangs and criminal activities.

The youth denied of legitimate means of livelihood, grow up in a culture that encourages criminal behaviour. They survive by engaging in various activities such as petty trading, casual work, borrowing, stealing, pick-pocketing, prostitution, touting and other illegal activities (such as internet and financial frauds in Nigeria). Some have become drunkards, others are on drugs such as marijuana Indian helm and other related drug abuse Somavia J.(2012).

Unemployed youth roaming the streets have been given various names in different cities, such as "Area Boys" *Yan-iska, kwanta kwanta* e.t.c in Nigeria **Somavia A.A.A**(2012). The nagative effect of these names lured them into an act of social vices. Hence, names do encourage people's characters both negatively and positively.

Youth unemployment has also promoted 'gangsterism'. Many youth engaged in violence, armed robbery, kidnapping, car snatching, illegal bunkering and fuel sales, and illegal importation of arms, most of which have reached alarming levels in several Nigerian cities. In the South-South Zone especially, youth have formed different gangs engaged in kidnapping, blowing up of oil pipelines, oil bunkering and operation of illegal refineries, and other criminal activities. Hundreds of jobless and poor youths have died from explosions trying to scoop petrol from broken oil pipelines or overturned oil tankers **Vremodia P. Diejomao**(2012).

Among young women, lack of employment opportunities has contributed to increasing feminization poverty. It has also encouraged prostitution as a means of survival in several towns and cities Somaya (2011).

Furthermore, youth unemployment has encouraged 'trafficking in women and girls' across international borders to engage in prostitution. Girls trafficked from Nigeria come mainly from Niger Delta states such as Edo State, Delta, Imo and other states in the Southern part of Nigeria **Alabi & Alabi** (2012). However, the above scenarios clearly portrayed the link between youth unemployment and social problems in Nigeria which impedes development. Youth should be made a priority group for employment and poverty reduction programmes.

Attempts at Curbing Youth Unemployment in Nigeria

Accordingly Chinedum, (2006), cited in Emeh, Ikechukwu Eke Jeffrey (2012), observed one of the fundamental steps taken by the Nigerian government to reduce the problem of unemployment in Nigeria was the establishment of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), which was established in November 22, 1986 with the general objective of promptly and effectively fighting unemployment by designing and implementing innovative programmes, which are directed towards the provision of training opportunities through the guidance and management support services to graduate farmers and small scale entrepreneurs. The objectives of NDE spanned across the following programmes: Agricultural development programme; Youth employment and vocational skills development programme; Special public works; and Small scale industries and graduate employment programme

The aim of the agricultural programme, he furthered is to generate employment for graduates, non-graduates and school leavers in the Agricultural sector, with emphasis on self-employment in agricultural production and marketing. The programme is monitored by a team of Agricultural professionals in the Agricultural department of the directorate. However, factors which include inadequate funding and late release of funds from the federation account among others have impaired the effectiveness of the NDE agricultural programmes Chinedum, (2006) cited in Emeh, Ikechukwu Eke Jeffry (2012)

Also the SURE-P was introduced in February 2012 with a focus on the management and investment of Federal Government savings derived from proceeds accruing from the partial removal of the subsidy on petroleum products. The SURE-P is the flagship of recent efforts to provide job opportunities to graduates of tertiary institutions. It is more or less a range of activities and pragmatic schemes, including the Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS), Community Services Scheme (CSS), Vocational Training Scheme (VTS), and Community Services, Women and Youth Empowerment (CSWYE).The Guardian, (Friday 24 July 2015)

Another program initiated was the YOUWIN program which was designed to create job opportunities specifically for graduates of tertiary institutions that elect to go into business as entrepreneurs. Participants were required to develop and execute their own business ideas that will provide them with jobs and other unemployed youths who may or may not be graduates The Guardian, (Friday 24 July 2015)

N-Power is a scheme under the National Social Investments Programme of the Nigerian federal government geared towards job creation; alleviate poverty and empowerment initiatives through volunteering services. It is also aimed at imbibing on Nigerian youths the learn-work entrepreneurship culture between the ages of 18-35 FGN (2018).

According to Olawole (2018), cited in **Bison G, Daniel Bisong** (2019) the goals of N-Power programme includes; reducing the rate of unemployment in the country, facilitate the transfer of entrepreneurial, technical skills and employability ability and to bring solution active public service and government diversification policy. The programme is divided into three components viz, n-tech, n-health, and n-agro as well as other subsidiary non-graduate scheme as n-build, n-knowledge and n-teach respectively.

Despite all the efforts, youth unemployment remains high. It is obvious that the failure of some of these programs could be attributed to different challenges including inconsistent policies, poor planning, complex structures, inadequate funding, unimpressive responses from would-be trainees, and unqualified resource personnel handling the training programs.

Theoretical Foundations

The relevant theory for this study is the anomie theory as propounded by Emile Durkheim. Durkheim introduced the term in his book, *The Division of Labour in Society* in 1893. He believed that the specialized division of labour and the rapid expansion of industrialized society contained threats to social solidarity. He used the term Anomie to describe the condition of deregulation occurring in the society. He posits that the general procedural rules of a society, the rules of how people ought to behave, have broken down. This state of normlessness easily leads to deviant behaviour **Haralambos and Holborn**, (2007).

Thus, anomie refers to the breakdown of social norms and a condition where those norms no longer control the activities of the members of the society. Without clear rules to guide them, individuals cannot find their place in the society and have difficulty adjusting to the changing conditions of life. This in turn leads to dissatisfaction, frustration, conflict, social vices and deviant behaviours.

Tard was one of the earliest writers to establish a relationship between crime and environment. He believes that people learn crime through imitation or contact with criminals in their environment. He holds that unhealthy exposure to certain environments would induce criminality Anthony A. Adebayo (2013)

While agreeing with Tard, **Dahrendof** (1976) argues that poverty as a social condition plays a vital role in crime. The poor are led to crime because of their relative deprivation and acute sense of want. As a result, the social environment of the poor and jobless in Nigeria often leads them to social vices. Therefore,

the unemployed in the country experience low self-esteem, deprivation, frustration and acute want. This condition may lead the unemployed youths to deviant behaviours like crime and other social vices in the society.

Conclusion

No nation can achieve growth and development in an atmosphere of violent crimes. Hence, the role of Nigeria's government must include the formulation of policies and laws that could help improve the economic and social wellbeing of its teeming youth and deter criminality.

However, there is a need to increase jobs through small enterprises and poverty alleviation schemes. Economic growth and development in Nigeria is not the only solution to curb unemployment as the official statistics illustrate that previous unemployment did not decline economic growth.

Other solutions such as the provision of right skills to youth should be given an importance. The study concludes that there is a link between youth unemployment and social vices in Nigeria and that, feeling of deprivation produce frustration and could be expressed through social vices. Therefore if factors that are responsible for youth unemployment in Nigeria are addressed, social vices will be reduced if not totally eradicated.

RECOMMENDATION

In order to curtail, the menace of youth unemployment and social vices in Nigeria, the following recommendation were suggested:

- Government must play its constitutional role by creating enabling socio-economic and political environment including the provision of infrastructure to make the industrial climate investment friendly. The government must also have the political will to fight the scourge of corruption which is discouraging foreign direct investment (FDI) because of the added cost to doing business in Nigeria
- Globally, modern information and communication technologies are offering significant opportunities for job creation. The government should therefore explore how the ICT industries can provide new jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities for young persons.
- In many parts of the world, apprenticeships are becoming significant training areas for youth, with the added possibility of a job offer upon completion. The federal government should therefore re-evaluate its National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NOAS) and possibly expand it to the rural areas. To encourage enrolment, trainees should be provided with stipends. Public enterprises on the other hand should be encouraged to take on apprentices.
- The Nigerian government should initiate and partner with the private sector to develop a functional microcredit scheme for the poor, especially the unemployed youths. The microcredit movement has shown clearly that lack of access to capital through restrictive institutional practices is a major obstacle to giving the poor greater capacity to improve their own standard of living (Curtain, 2001:6). Such a microcredit scheme should be robustly organized to enhance transparency and accountability in its management and flexibly structured to avoid unnecessary institutional bottlenecks and measures that prevent youths from accessing such credit facility.
- In an era of globalisation characterized by rapid economic growth without job creation, financial crisis, and market or policy failures, there is the urgent need for the Nigerian state to introduce a robust social security scheme to take care of unemployed youths, enhance livelihood security, and ensure the redistribution of income as well as risks.
- The Nigerian government must play its constitutional role in combating unemployment and poverty among youths. It is absolutely essential for the government to have a link with financial institutions such as micro finance bank, in order to establish functional and efficient microcredit scheme for the youths. The banks may be authorized to allocate a certain percentage of their loan facilities for the unemployed youths to start a business. Therefore, this will significantly reduce youth

unemployment and poverty and also assist in minimizing rural-urban migration among youths. Such a microcredit scheme should be strongly planned to improve transparency and accountability in its management, and organized in a flexible way to avoid unnecessary protocol and measures that prevent youths from retrieving such credit facility.

- The three tiers of government in Nigeria that is local, state and federal government need to have partnerships with some development agencies worldwide to build and fund entrepreneurial skill acquisition and vocational education centres. A deliberate effort must be made by the policy makers to establish more technical schools and technological village in all the six geopolitical zones, to engross the youths that are graduated from tertiary institutions of learning without employment. In addition, the National Directorate of Employment (N.D.E) must be empowered to increase its capacity in providing vocational skills to unemployed youths. In the same direction, the government should make a comprehensive overhaul of our educational curriculum to make sure that entrepreneurial skills and vocational training are integrated into the programmes of tertiary institutions in order to enable graduates to sustain a living by self-engagement.
- The increasing rate of unemployed youths in Nigeria necessitates the creation of more employment opportunities. Therefore, there is the need for the government to have a comprehensive list of all unemployed youths in the country, with different educational background and skills. The data obtained in all the states and local government areas could be used by the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and employment creation agencies to place appropriately each and every applicant in the jobs, where they are capable. This will definitely reduce youth poverty.
- Moreover, the Nigerian government should allow for the establishment of private sectors. This could be through the provision of socioeconomic infrastructures particularly in the rural areas such as housing, electricity, roads and telephone. Another way to create youth employment is by means of agriculture. The youths should be reinvigorated to take part in agriculture with recent equipment and improved yield crops. The government should establish agricultural centres in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria that could employ thousands of youths. These agricultural centres could be serviced and supported by small scale industries. For example, setting up of canned tomato industry in a centre where there is large-scale irrigation of vegetables like Kura irrigation centre in Kano state. This will stimulate the production of tomatoes and also influence non-farm related jobs.
- Although the problem of youth unemployment and poverty is not unique to Nigeria, the situation is due to the colossal mishandling of national resources instead of shortages of national wealth needed to address the societal problem. There is also the need to strengthen all institutions that encourage efficacy, responsibility and transparency in the supervision of national wealth, by giving them all the necessary support to fight against money laundering, bribery and embezzlement of public funds in the country. For instance, institutions such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) as well as the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC), etc.
- The absence of well-articulated policies that guide employment strategies and programmes compounded the problem of youth unemployment and their absolute poverty. Unreliable and inaccessible data is one of the major reasons for the failure of policies in Nigeria. To initiate economic development and youth employment through expanded job creation, there is a need for the government to put in place a reliable and accessible database. This will enable the policy makers to know the number and distribution of youths that need jobs and the quantity and type of infrastructures that are needed. Since no government can adequately provide jobs for all its citizens, governments should create infrastructures that boost and withstand self-employment and entrepreneurship.
- The youths in Nigeria urgently need moral reorientation. The country must do everything possible to help the youths in this regard. The moral decadence of the society, where the ethos of fairness, impeccable character and other standards of good behaviour have been abandoned for greed and

loose morals is deplorable. The youths who are the leaders of tomorrow are the first casualty of this degeneration. Re-orientation for the youths is needed to reduce the attitude of becoming rich in any way possible, which lures many of them into crime and other deviant behaviours. The display of affluence by many elites in the society who drive in cars bought with fraudulent wealth is corroding the principles of hard work and endurance in the youths of today. There is, therefore, the need for religious organizations, civil society, traditional institutions and non-governmental organisations to engage the youths in moral reorientation that preaches sincerity, honesty, justice and fairness as well as believing in fate. Similarly, the same organizations should preach against corruption, get-rich, quick and occultism in order to put youths in the right direction.

- There is the need to make available adequate sporting and recreational services for the youths in order to allow them to give expression to their talents. The provision of sporting facilities in urban and rural areas will assist the youths to discover themselves in the field of sports such as football, volleyball, basketball, Lawn tennis and golf among others. These facilities will engage these youths and eliminate them from trouble. Numerous youths could engage in profitable careers in sports. To this end, government and other stakeholders should strive to put in place adequate sporting facilities for the youths.
- The National Youth Development Policy was enacted in 2001 as an authorized statement of the prominence of the youth in National development. There is the need to review this policy in order to fill the existing gaps. There are agencies that are supposed to be established for the youths, which have not been done. A review of this policy will seek to address these lapses. To review the policy, this would require the active participation of youths from all over the country and should take into consideration the contemporary issues impinging on youth empowerment in Nigeria such as HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and youth restiveness, which were not as prominent when the policy was adopted. There is the need to initiate the process of policy review after certain years, with serious inputs from youths and all stakeholders.
- Unemployed youths themselves have a greater role to play in eradicating unemployment and poverty in Nigeria, because government alone cannot successfully deal with the problem. In order to solve unemployment and poverty, their support and cooperation are required toward this direction. Unemployed youths should be trained to be tolerant and hardworking in their quest for employments by engaging in activities that will make them earn a living in order to remove them out of poverty. Therefore, employment cannot be possible if youths are lazy and unable to put any meaningful effort into making themselves self-employed.
- The attention of the youths should be drawn in order to exercise patience and be self-contentment. They should learn to endure and be self-satisfied with the little jobs they are doing in order to make themselves self-reliant. The idea of self-reliance is an important step in fighting unemployment and poverty in the country through confidence building by providing them with moral and financial support. And also to let them realize that government jobs are not forthcoming. They have to engage themselves in small scale business so that they can earn a living.
- In order to address the problem, youths should try as much as possible to apply the skills learned into practice; so as to assist them sustain a living and fight poverty. The majority of educated youths who acquired vocational training do not want to apply the skills obtained during their studies, but they preferred lucrative administrative work in the offices either by the government or private organizations where they would be paid higher salaries. This situation would not assist youths in contributing to national development.

REFERENCES

- Adebayo A** (1999). Youth unemployment and national directorate of employment self employment programmes. *Niger. J. Econ. And Soc. Stud.* 41(1): 81-102.
- Alabi, T. and Alanana, O.O.** (2012), Unemployment and Poverty: The Twin Fertilizer for Youth Criminality. *Global Journal of Social Sciences*, Vol 2.(No.2)
- Ajufo B. I** (2013). Challenges of youth unemployment in Nigeria: Effective career guidance as a panacea. *Afr. Res. Rev.* 7(1); 307-321.
- Anthony A. Adebayo**(2013) Youths' unemployment and crime in Nigeria: A nexus and implications for national development. *International journal of sociology and anthropology*, Vol. 5(8), pp. 350-357, December, 2013, DOI: 10.5897/IJSA2013.0452 ISSN 2006- 988x © 2013, Academic Journals <http://www.academicjournals.org/IJSA>
- Bison G, Daniel Bisong** (2019) Impact assessment of the N-power Scheme: A study of Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State. *Journal of public administration and welfare research* Vol. 4 No. 1 2019 ISSN 2504-3597
- Chigunta, F** (2002) Socio-economic situation of youths in Africa: Problems, prospects and options: A paper presented at the youth employment summit, Alexandria, Egypt, pp.1-13.
- Dahrendof R** (1976). *Class and class conflicts in industrial society*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
- Emeh, Ikechukwu Eke Jeffry** (2012) Tackling youth unemployment in Nigeria; the Lagos state development and empowerment programmes initiatives. *Afro asian journal of social sciences*. Volume 3, No. 3.4 Quarter IV 2012 ISSN: 2229 – 5313
- Federal Government of Nigeria** (2018). *Investing in our People: A Brief on the National Investment Programme in Nigeria* Social
- Genyi, G. & Euginia, M.** (2013). Good governance: Atidote for peace and security in Nigeria. *European Journal of Business and Social Sciences*, 2(2), 56 – 65.
- Gimba, A.** (2002). The notebook on violence and cultism. *Nigerian Tribune 21st Oct. p. 16* International crisis Group (2010). Northern Nigeria: Background to conflict. *Africa Report*, 168. Retrieved from <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/Africa/WestAfrican/Nigeria/168-northern-nigeria-background-to-conflict.ASPX>.
- Manning, C. & Junankar, P.N.** (1998). Choosy youth or unwanted youth: A survey of unemployment. *Bulletin of Indonesian economic studies*, 34(1), 55-93.
- National Population Statistics and ICF Macro** (2009). *Nigeria demographic and health survey, 2008*. Abuja: Nigeria.
- Nwoke, B.** (2006). *Education for youth empowerment*, Enugu. Africa marketing development formulation.
- Ogbonnaya, N.O.** (2009). *Social and political contexts of educational administration*. Nsukka. Chuka educational publishers.
- Okafor, E. E.** (2011). Youth unemployment and implications for stability of democracy in Nigeria. *Journal of sustainable development in Africa*, 13(1).
- Ploch, L.** (2011). Nigeria: Elections and issues for congress. Congressional research service (RL339664).
- Somavia, J.**, 2012, "The youth employment crisis: Pathway to a better future". Editorial, the *world of work*, magazine of the international labour office, No. 74, May 2012
- Somaya A.A.** (2011) "Trends and determinants of job search intensity of unemployed females: Evidence from Egypt", *mediterranean journal of social sciences*. Vol 2, No 3. September 2011
- The Guardian Newspaper**, July 2015.
- Umaru R. I & Babuje, D.G** (2012). Examination malpractice: A canker worm in the Nigerian educational circle. *Contemporary issues in education (ed)* 336 -343

- Vremudia.P. Diejomaoh** (2012): African youth empowerment programmes: Guidelines for accelerating implementation. (UNDP/african union commission Addis Ababa2012)
- Musari A** (2009). Youth and the national youth employment action plan, Abuja, *Guardian Newspapers*, March 19.
- Okafor E.E** (2011). Youth unemployment and implication for stability of democracy in Nigeria. *J. Sustainable Deve. Afr.* 13(1): 358-373.
- Okafor E.E** (2005). Executive corruption in Nigeria: A critical overview of its socio economic implications for development. *Afr. J. Psychol. Stud. Soc. Issues.* 8(1): 21 41.
- Vremudia. P. Diejomaoh** (2008):National development planning, markets, anddevelopment in Nigeria (Nigerian Economic Society Annual Public Lecture March 2008), for a further elaboration on the role of development planning, the market, the privatesector, and the need for a human centred development strategy for Nigeria.