



SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT  
IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:  
A STUDY OF SELECTED STATES IN THE SOUTH-EAST OF NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the socio-economic implications of youth unemployment in the development of Nigeria using selected states in the South-East geo-political zone of Nigeria as case study. The study adopted survey design approach. An item structured instrument which was developed to reflect the options of strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree and undecided, popularly referred to as modified likert scale of five (5) points was used to elicit information from the respondents. There were also secondary data on unemployment rate in Anambra State. The statistical tools of analysis in the study were percentage, ordinary least square (OLS) for simple regression, Pearson product moment correlation coefficient, t-test for independent large sample that is ( $n \geq 30$ ), among others. All tests were carried out at 0.05 level of significance. A sample of 783 comprising business owners and town union executives was selected from the state chosen for the study. Major findings of the study include the following: unemployment in the states studied increased with time and the social effect of youth unemployment in Nigeria significantly affects economic development negatively. The study revealed also that insecurity had serious negative influence on business investment and the development of Nigerian economy. It was equally found that entrepreneurship education and the development of the agricultural sector could effectively mitigate the rising level of unemployment in Nigeria. The study concluded that the negative effects of rising unemployment hamper the growth and development of Nigeria. It was recommended that the government should appraise the entrepreneurship programme with a view to repositioning it. It was also recommended that the government should invest in the development of infrastructure, provide enabling environment for those who want to engage in self-employment programmes to succeed. It was also recommended that the government should use the huge surpluses it has amassed over the years from oil sale, to pay unemployment allowance in Nigeria among other recommendations.

*Keywords:* Unemployment, Environment, Infrastructure, Development.

