



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.

1. INTRODUCTION

Unemployment has become a major problem bedeviling the lives of Nigerians particularly the youth, causing increased militancy, violent crimes, kidnapping, restiveness and socially delinquent behaviours. Youth unemployment is devastating to the individual and the society as a whole. According to Omotosho (2009), Nigeria's current economic under performance is erratic and short of expectations, such that 66% of her citizens, educated youth especially, live below the international poverty line of just \$1.00 a day or \$365.00 a year. An indication that the nation over the years, has gradually disintegrated from its highly buoyant and respected position among developing nations of the south.

Available records (ISHR, 2006; Ipaye, 2008) show clearly that in the two decades of post-independence of Nigeria as a sovereign nation 1960s and 1970s, unemployment and its attendant consequences; poverty and lack among others, were not of national concern as they are today. The nation's agricultural, industrial and the then bubbling public service sectors were able to effectively absorb most of the labour force. The agricultural sector, for instance, generated about 70% of the nation's employment opportunities and accounted for about 8% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (ISHR, 2006). However, with the advent of petroleum products and the crude oil in the mid-1970s, the economy was further strengthened as it grew at an unprecedented average of over 11% per annum.

A large proportion of the youth who are unemployed however, have negative consequences, which include psychological problems of frustration, depression, hostility and gradual drifting away from the acceptable behaviours in the society (Okafor, 2011). The menace of unemployment has increasingly been recognized as one of the socio-economic problems currently facing many developing countries like Nigeria and Africa as a whole. In the light of the above, unemployment which has indeed become a pathetic situation calls for urgent attention, to address the socio-economic effects accompanying it.

Unemployment is a social issue that every country deals with within their respective capacities. Even the most advanced economies as well as the emerging ones still battle with the issue of unemployment, especially that of the youth. About 75% of those who are willing to work cannot find gainful employment in Nigeria, especially among graduates of tertiary institutions. As a result of the massive unemployment situation, many youth have taken to illegitimate means of surviving including robbery, kidnapping, drug and child trafficking.

Idleness has pushed many youth including graduates into various deadly crimes in the society with socio-economic implications for the development of the country. Every year, new sets of graduates and school leavers add to the stock of unemployed youth, resulting to increased frustration and aggression against the society. The situation appears to have gone beyond remedy. The youth occupy a prominent place in any society. They are among the greatest assets any nation can have. Apart from being the leaders of tomorrow, they outnumber the middle aged and the aged. The youth are the foundation of a society, their energies, inventiveness, character and orientation define the pattern of development and security of a nation.

If these positive attributes are channeled properly, they will greatly benefit not only economic prosperity of the nation but also enhance the moral values of the youth. In the light of the above, this study seeks to examine the socio-economic implications of rising youth unemployment for national development. The main objective of the study is to examine the socio-economic implications of rising youth unemployment on the development of Nigeria. But more specifically, the study seeks to:

- Establish the social effect of youth unemployment on the development of Nigeria.
- Ascertain the degree to which youth unemployment determinants affect the socio-economic development of Nigeria.

- Assess the extent to which the existing policy initiatives aimed at addressing youth unemployment has affected the socio-economic development of Nigeria.

1.1 Research Questions

- What are the social effects of youth unemployment on the development of Nigeria
- To what extent do youth unemployment determinants affect socio-economic development of Nigeria?
- To what extent has the existing policy initiatives aimed at addressing youth unemployment affected socio-economic development of Nigeria?

1.2 Hypotheses of the Study

The following null-hypotheses which were tested at 0.05 level of significance being the probability of type I error, were formulated to guide the study.

- The social effect of youth unemployment in Nigeria does not significantly affect development negatively.
- Youth unemployment determinants do not to a large extent affect socio economic development of Nigeria positively.
- The existing policy initiatives aimed at addressing youth unemployment has not significantly affected socio-economic development of Nigeria.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines the unemployed as the number of all economically active population who are without work but are available for and are seeking work, including those who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work (world Bank, 2008). Fajana (2000), refers to unemployment as a situation where people who are willing and capable of working are unable to find suitable paid employment. It is one of the macro-economic problems which every responsible government is expected to monitor and regulate. He stated further that the higher the unemployment rate in an economy, the higher would be the poverty level and associated welfare challenges for the government.

Shaha (2012) defines unemployment as a situation where an active part of the population are willing and able to participate in economic activity to earn their living as well as contribute to nation's building, but could not find any. He noted that this group of people in the society are economically dislocated thereby making them very vulnerable to social disorder and all forms of crime. Also in trying to explain the concepts of economic growth and development, Wikipedia (2012) noted that economic development refers to the quantitative and qualitative changes in the economy. Such actions can involve multiple areas including development of human capital, critical infrastructures, regional competitiveness, environmental sustainability, social inclusion, health, safety, literacy and other initiatives. From the foregoing explanation, it would be understood that economic development is not synonymous with economic growth. Whereas economic development is a policy intervention endeavor with the aims of economic and social well-being of the people, economic growth is a phenomenon of market productivity and rise in GDP. Consequently, economic growth is one aspect of the process of economic development.

In this section, efforts were made by the researcher to review related works done by scholars in this area of study with the aim of establishing how varied these works are with this present one, so that consistency as well as gap identification can be achieved. Three major areas were identified as the areas of concern in this study and they include the causes of rising youth unemployment in Nigeria, the socio-economic implication of rising youth unemployment for economic growth and development as well as the prospects and

challenges of entrepreneurship education as a viable option for effectively tackling youth unemployment. The empirical review therefore, covered these three main areas of the study.

Ajaegbu (2012) in his study of rising youth unemployment and violent crime in Nigeria found that violent crimes such as murder, armed robbery, kidnapping and other kinds of terrorism are the most inhumane crimes that have continued to plague Nigeria. The study found also that this has been responsible for the economic set-back Nigeria has been having. The study equally found that the violent crimes are primarily caused by the rising youth unemployment. A finding which was made possible by the use of Ted Gurr theory to explore the proximate and ultimate causes involving the youth in violent crimes. The study concluded that if factors that create the feeling of deprivation and frustration created by unemployment are addressed, Nigerian youths will not engage in violent crimes.

In a related development, Ezie (2012) in his study examined the causes of youth unemployment and its socio-economic implications in Nigeria. The study found that the main cause of youth unemployment in Nigeria are adoption of untimely economic policy measures, wrong impression about technical and vocational studies, the neglect of the agricultural sector, poor educational planning and poor enabling environment. The explanation of the causes of youth unemployment was on neo-liberalism that created economic and social dislocations. The paper argued that many anti-social activities such as political thuggery, militancy, restiveness and other social vices evident among the unemployed and jobless youths are real danger to the stability of the country. The study suggested that effective policy measures such as re-prioritization of agricultural sector, reformation of educational system, not necessarily the popular entrepreneurship education where everybody seems to be heading to but the entire system. Also, the author stressed that provision of enabling environment will drastically reduce unemployment and poverty which is now causing problem for the nation.

Eneji, Lafia and Weiping (2013) carried out an empirical study on socio-economic impact of graduate unemployment on Nigeria and the vision 20:20:20. The methods of analysis used in the study were graphs, tables, percentages and multiple regressions. The study combined primary and secondary data. Major finding is that vision 20:20:20 will not be entirely smooth sailing in the 8years ahead, as there are many aspects of the vision parameters including employment that have failed to live up to people's expectations. Rural-Urban development is imbalanced; rich- poor gap is yet to be bridged. It is difficult for the unemployed and farmers in many poor areas to receive good medical services and education. The study suggested agriculture and tourism as Nigeria's priority sectors for employment creation. It equally recommended encouragement of entrepreneurship among the youths, infrastructure construction for rural and urban geography, stable polity, and maximum security for all among others.

Akpan and Etor(2013) did a study on university lecturers' perception of entrepreneurship education as an empowerment strategy for graduate self-employment in the south-south Nigeria. As a descriptive survey design, out of a population of 4,389 academic staff from four universities, 480 lecturers were selected using simple random sampling technique. The result of the study showed that lecturers were positive in their perception of the relevance of entrepreneurship education as an empowerment strategy for graduate self-employment. Other findings include the high rating of information skills as what the students should acquire in their preparation for entrepreneurship, followed by financial management skill and risk taking skill as well. However, large class size, inadequate funding and poor mindsets of students towards entrepreneurship education were rated as major constraints to effective entrepreneurship curriculum content delivery.

Premised on the findings, it was recommended that government should provide adequate funds to universities to enable them establish and equip entrepreneurial development centers for practical works. Also adequate teaching personnel both in quality

and quantity should be employed to teach entrepreneurial courses in universities. Kaegon and Nwogu(2012) carried out a study on entrepreneurship education in Nigeria universities as a panacea for unemployment in Nigeria. As a survey design, the study sampled 1,200 Nigerian university undergraduates from a population of 12,800 from three universities in Rivers State. Results from data analysis showed that entrepreneurship education is greatly needed among Nigerian university undergraduates as a panacea for the rising unemployment. The study equally revealed that entrepreneurship education has been confronted by many challenges among which are poor services rendered by the entrepreneurial development centers across the universities in Nigeria, poor funding of entrepreneurship programmes, lack of qualified instructors, etc.

On the basis of the findings, the study recommended that periodic training and retraining, workshops and seminars, should be organized for the lecturers and the students on entrepreneurship education from time to time. It recommended further that the entrepreneurship centers should be strengthened by way of adequate funding and provision of requisite equipment to enable the center provide desired services to the lecturers as well as the students. Anyadike et al., (2012) wrote on entrepreneurship development and employment in Nigeria, the problems and prospects. The paper took a study of Nigeria's ever growing unemployment situation and how it increasingly dwindles the potentials of the country, especially as it affects the youths and their future. The study made use of secondary sources of data generated from current articles from ardent scholars on entrepreneurship development and government statistical documentations, the findings made from the study include lack of awareness of the philosophy as well as essence on the part of the students of what entrepreneurship education is all about. It found further that the curriculum for the programme was grossly inadequate hence the apparent lack of interest the students have consistently shown towards the programme since inception. It recommended that the government should make entrepreneurship encouraging to the people by inculcating it into the educational curricular in every strata of the educational sector. Government should also utilize a re-modeled NYSC scheme to educate the youths more on the importance, essence, and need for entrepreneurship development especially on a practical basis. There should be means of supporting these entrepreneurship projects cutting across all spheres of the country and also create enabling environment for entrepreneurship to thrive by ensuring social security and adequate infrastructural facilities.

In a study titled entrepreneurship development as panacea for unemployment reduction in Nigeria, Akanwa and Akpanabia (2014) observed that the relationship between unemployment and entrepreneurship has been shrouded with ambiguity not minding the position of literature from scholars which claims that higher levels of entrepreneurship reduces unemployment. Primarily, the paper examined the need for promoting employment in Nigeria through the development of entrepreneurship. It made use of secondary data from scholars and authors in the field. The paper found that government has not shown enough commitment towards the development of entrepreneurship among the students and the nation at large. It also observed that government is yet to make deliberate efforts to encourage the culture of entrepreneurship that will illicit the necessary mindset of eventual reduction in the level of unemployment situation in the country.

Most of the reviewed works, reveal that there are conflicting reports of the real position of youth unemployment and the most effective measures of addressing it. Moreover, most of the earlier studies had adopted qualitative approach as the empirical review had shown. A study adopting quantitative approach has therefore become imperative as it will serve as key mediator among the conflicting results.

3. THE NATURE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN NIGERIA

Every economy is characterized by both active and inactive population. The economically active refers to population willing and able to work and include those actively engaged in the production of goods and services, while those who are unemployed are regarded as inactive (Akanwa and Akpanabi, 2013). They had also postulated that the concept of unemployment is perhaps ambiguous. They had preferred the term unemployment to be used in relation to any of the factors of production which is idle and not being utilized for production. However, with reference to labour, there is unemployment if it is not possible to find job for all citizens who are eligible, able and willing to work. In line with this, Fajana (2000), defines unemployment as a situation where people who are willing and capable of working are unable to find suitable paid employment. In other words unemployment of labour occurs in an economy if there are people who are capable of working and who are qualified by age, custom, and other factors to work but who cannot find job. Hence, the degree of unemployment varies from country to country.

Adelodun (2006), notes that statistics of Nigerian unemployment seems to consist, not of uneducated, rural populations, who have been uprooted from failing agricultural production resulting from absence of mechanization and decreasing income, but also of some highly educated population as well, who normally, would form the core of the productive vanguard in a developing country. In other words, many of Nigeria's unemployed and consequently poor are well educated even by European and American standards. Nigeria's unemployed, underemployment and low productivity constitute a vicious cycle that explains the endemic poverty ravaging the country.

The nature of unemployment in Nigeria is such that affects the job seekers within the ages of 20-24 and 22-24 years. However, there is less incidence with the ages of 15-19, 55-59 and 65 years and above (NBS, 2013). The age distribution of unemployment in Nigeria signals a great threat to the domestic economy and the survival of the Nigerian nation. This is because many energetic youths with dynamic resources, wonder about without gainful engagements. The nature of unemployment in Nigeria is such that with a population of about 170 million people according to NPC (2011) population projection, the share of the unemployed for the age groups 15-44 years is about 65%. Thus indicating that youth unemployment is severe in Nigeria and it is already causing a threat and huge challenge to the government. There is then a demand that all resources available be effectively mobilized towards its reduction. Although there are many policies and programmes in place to boost the desired economic growth and development yet the overall condition seems very gloomy.

4. SOCIAL EFFECT OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Unemployment means that a person or group of people who are able and willing to work could not find any as various definitions of the phenomenon have shown. It is a dangerous situation, especially when it involves the youths. This is because the youths are active and very creative and if the creativity is allowed to be used in the negative, the result is often very unpleasant for both the unemployed and the society at large. The social effect of youth unemployment in Nigeria, like most other African countries could be very severe and threatening to the citizens and the economy as a whole. The unemployment episode has caused so many challenges to the survival of the Nigerian Nation (Ezie, 2012). While some of these consequences bother directly on the unemployed, others like epidemics are limitless in effects.

Ajafo (2013) had observed that youth unemployment poses a risk to the Nigerian society. The consequences of the problem if no major corrective initiatives are taken could be disastrous for the nation. She argued that youth unemployment has national and global effects, notable among which are increased violence, crime, drug abuse and other illicit engagements such as political thuggery, kidnapping, human and drug trafficking all of which are hindrances to economic growth and development. As she noted, desperation can drive many people into living outside the law in order to survive and as a means of expressing dissatisfaction at the apparent neglect of their very existence. Furthermore, the negative effects include poverty, psychological problems of frustration, depression, hostility, abduction, murder, armed robbery, and all manner of criminal behaviours causing general insecurity of life and property (Adebayo, 2009; Egbuna, 2001; Alanama, 2006 and Okonkwo, 2010).

From the point of view of Eneji et al (2013), one of the major problems is the uneven distribution of infrastructure between the urban and regional geography, such that graduates are not motivated to stay in the villages and rural areas and to be self-reliant. They all migrate to the cities in search of white-collar jobs. They noted that many graduates consider agriculture as an inferior source for gainful, long term employment. Urban unemployment is worse than the regions, because after completing their compulsory one year National Youth Service Scheme (NYSC), the graduates are crowded, jobless in the urban squalor. This has created multiple socio-economic problems in the cities and the regions, very vulnerable to criminality. They remarked that unemployment has severe social, economic and psychological consequences on the graduates, their families and the nation. This is because after the graduates have failed to find suitable jobs, to their qualifications and training, they resort to any kind of job in the informal sector. Consequently, aggregate consumption, production, savings and investment are negatively affected. They concluded that the unemployed graduates also suffer social loss of responsibility, identity and respect.

Uwem and Ndem (2012) note that social impact of graduate unemployment is severe, given that the traditional African culture of being “your brother’s keeper” is eroded. In the traditional African culture, the concepts of brother, father, mother, sister, uncle etc were extended beyond their English meanings to accommodate all family members, bonded associates, and kinsmen. However, the notions of scarcity, thrift, and greed popularized largely by the received capitalist ideology and its narrow “commonsense” of profit and competition have engulfed the African culture and broken down the social mechanism of self-help, community efforts, which the African governments have not been able to replace with viable social security network as it is in the developed countries. Many poor unemployed are suffering in silence.

Eneji et. Al., (2013) had also pointed out that most of the best brains leave the country for Europe, North America and even East Asia to better their lots. After completing their postgraduate studies in these continents, they remain there on paid jobs. They do not return home to give back to their own system because they might not be given the opportunity to do so. Therefore, brain drain or human capital flight becomes a cause of unemployment and also a result of unemployment.

Okechukwu (2012) notes that death rate attributable to violence in Nigeria is estimated at 60.9 per 100,000 people, a situation which is twice the African rate. Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) observed that crime and violence have been increasing in many parts of Nigeria among unemployed young people. The causes as put by Ajaegbu (2012), are not farfetched as studies have associated increase in violent crime in Nigeria to rising youth unemployment. Even the accelerated level of prostitution, armed robbery, rape, terrorism and all manner of unruly behaviours can largely be attributed to the incidence of youth unemployment, he contended. Edward(2011), notes that the problem of violent crime in Nigeria has been exacerbated by high rate of youth unemployment and

economic hardship which has pushed many jobless youths some of them graduates into various degrees of deadly crimes.

Furthermore, a study of children and youths in organized Armed Violence in Nigeria, reported that disenchantment and frustration of young people due to mass poverty and unemployment, has increased the number of aggrieved youths and resulted in the emergence of 'area boys and almajiris' syndrome who target the very society that alienated them (Ibrahim, 2012). The survey concluded that armed militant groups in Nigeria namely O'odua peoples congress (OPC), Egbesu Boys, Bakassi Boys and to some extent , Boko Haram were made up of youths within 16-17 years(35%), 18-19 years(20%), 21-22years(25%), and 23-25years and above (20%). Approximately, 60% of them were unemployed (Oxford Research Group,2012).

5. EFFECT OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT DETERMINANTS ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In recent years, several factors have been identified to be responsible for the problems of unemployment in Nigeria. Apparently, the level of unemployment is highly dependent on the overall status of the economy (Awogbenle and Iwuamadi, 2010). Nigeria is endowed with diverse and infinite resources, both human and material but years of negligence and adverse policies have led to the under utilization of these resources. These resources have not been effectively utilized in order to yield maximum economic benefits (Echebiri, 2005).

In the study of unemployment in Nigeria, Adebayo (2009), Alanama (2006), Echebiri (2005), Ayinde (2008), Morphy (2008), and Awogbenle & Iwuamadi (2010), have identified the main causes of youth unemployment in Nigeria. The first is the readily expanding higher education facilities in Nigeria as a result of the growth in youth population without corresponding demand for their services in the economy. The higher institutions, the universities, polytechnics and colleges of education produce graduates yearly. There has been the problem of suitable employment for the variety of graduates who are turned out by these higher institutions every year. Ordinarily, this should not have been a problem but the reality is that the Nigerian economy is too weak to absorb this large number of graduates (Onwubiko, 2011). Furthermore, there is no vibrant manufacturing sector which has the capacity to absorb unemployed youths in Nigeria as there are over 1,200 collapsed industries in Nigeria and over 57 factories have been closed down in 2009. About half of the remaining operating firms have been classified as 'ailing,' a situation that poses a great threat to the survival of manufacturing in the country in the next few years (Onwubiko, 2011).

Another factor is the rapid population growth. Going by the 2006 population and housing census in Nigeria, the nation's population was at 140,431,790 and projection into the future shows that the population could be over 180 million by the year 2020, given the annual growth rate of 3.2% (National Population Commission and ICF Macro, 2009). With this population, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and also the country with the largest concentration of black people in the whole world. It is argued that the high population growth rate has resulted in the rapid growth of the labour force which as the supply side is far outstripping the demand side of the labour market. Youths move to urban areas with the probability of securing lucrative employment in the industries. In addition to this, there is the concentration of social amenities in the urban centers. This means that the rural areas are neglected in the allocation of social and economic opportunities, they noted. In another development, it has been found that the majority of graduates in Nigeria lack employment skills, which arises as a result of inappropriate school curricular. Analysts have argued that in Nigeria generally, the skills that job seekers possess do not match the needs and demands of employers (Mcgrath, 2000, Kent and Mushi, 2006). They maintain

that, the education system in Nigeria has its liberal bias which indeed over supplies the labour market with graduates who do not possess the skills required by employers. Many graduates in Nigeria lack entrepreneurial skills to facilitate self-employment (Oladele, et al, 2011).

Scholars like Ezie (2012) and Ajaegbu (2012) are of the opinion that the agricultural sector which used to be the leading provider of employment in the 1960s and even 1970s to the tune of about 60% of the total employment has been neglected. This situation according to them could be largely blamed on the discovery of oil in commercial quantity in Nigeria. This development took attention away from the sector which has been the main stay of the economy. A situation of low capacity to employ many job seekers as the oil sector where the attention has shifted to could only employ very few hands. The resulting effect is the large number of job seekers who have no place in the oil industry. Even with the expansion of the industry, unemployment has continued to grow at an alarming rate.

6. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Agnew (1992, 2001 and 2006) explains the link between unemployment and crime. It is called the general strain theory (GST). This approach focuses attention on how objective experiences, subjective interpretations and emotional reactions can all be linked to crime. He emphasizes how negative experiences can lead to criminal behaviour. His theory outlines several categories of strain into which unemployment falls, including goal blockage, failure to achieve positively valued goals, and presentation of negative stimuli. Agnew observes that strain will more likely result in crime when it is viewed as unjust or when it “involves the voluntary and intentional violation of a relevant justice norm”.

Strains that threaten core goals, needs and values are seen as central and more likely to provoke criminal response. He outlines the major sources of economic strain that will have a significant impact on crime: unemployment, relative deprivation, and monetary dissatisfaction. Unemployment would surely increase an individual's motivation to commit crime to overcome financial difficulties. He stated also that those on the margins of society are more likely to be monetarily dissatisfied or relatively deprived, living in “poverty in the midst of plenty” and these can both lead to crime. Unhappiness with one's current financial situation is seen as important because it is linked to the “reality of the moment” and not some abstract future often suggested by measures utilized in early work on strain theory and this dissatisfaction is more likely to pressure or propel people into crime (Cornkovich, 2000).

7. METHODS AND MATERIALS

Survey research design was considered most appropriate for the study. It involves studying the conduct of any given investigation. Survey method makes use of instrument like questionnaire, interview schedule and observations, to collect data.

The population of the study comprised two groups of people namely, business owners and the president generals and secretaries of town unions of the selected states in the South East geo-political zone of Nigeria. The selected states are Anambra, Ebonyi, and Enugu being the states of the old Anambra State. In Anambra state, 1,451 of such businesses undertaken were identified, in Ebonyi state, the figure is 793 and in Enugu state it is 1,157, giving a total of 3,401 businesses. As regard the town union executives that is president generals and secretaries, the number is 354 for 177 communities in Anambra state, 114 for Ebonyi state and 205 for Enugu state, giving a total of 674 town union executives from the three states. Therefore, the population of the study is 4,075 persons. Table 1 below shows this distribution.

A formula developed by Borg and Gall (1973) was found to be quite suitable for the estimation. It is given by;

$$n = (Z\alpha)^2 (e) [N]$$

Where:

n= sample size to be determined

Z α = 95% confidence level (1.96)

e= error margin (α) 0.05

N= population of the study

Substituting we have:

$$n = (1.96)^2 (0.05) [4075] = 3.8416 \times 203.75$$

$$n = 782.726$$

$$n = 783 (\text{nearest whole number})$$

Table 1: Distribution of the sample across the selected states of Anambra, Ebonyi and Enugu

S/N	State	Description of Respondents	Population	Sample Proportion	Percentage of Total
1.	Anambra	Business owners	1,451	279	35.6
		Town union executives	354	68	8.7
2.	Ebonyi	Business owners	793	152	19.4
		Town Union Executives	114	22	2.8
3.	Enugu	Business owners	1,157	222	28.4
		Town Union Executives	206	40	5.1
		Total	4,075	783	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2014

The sampling technique used in selecting the units of observation was systematic random sampling. As a probability sampling technique that makes use of random start and sampling interval it was considered the most appropriate for the study. From the sampling frames (list of all categories of the population) that we have constructed, the actual selection of the participants was done. Being a systematic sampling method, we began with a random start which we made 1 in all the cases. From the random start, every 5th number was selected subsequently as the sampling interval until the sample size was exhausted. Only those that fall within the sample were given copies of questionnaire to complete and the process turned out to be successful one as the non-response rate was just 32 which equal 4.1%. Unlike the simple random sampling, the systematic sampling method ensures an even distribution of the items in the population.

An item structured instrument was developed by the researcher to reflect such options as strongly agree (SA)-5 points, Agree (A) – 4 points; disagree (D) – 3 points, strongly disagree (SD) – 2 points and undecided (UND) – 1 Point. This is popularly called the modified five (5) point's likert scale. It presents the extent to which a respondent agrees or disagrees with a statement relating to the subject matter of the study.

The instrument was validated to determine whether it is appropriate for the needed measurements in the study. It was both face and content validated. This was achieved by giving some copies of the instrument to some experts in questionnaire drafting. Minor omissions pointed out by the experts were reflected in the final draft. The reliability of the instrument was established by the researcher through a method known as test re-test. The process involved administering 50 copies of the instrument to a group of carefully selected respondents outside the study area within the south-east of Nigeria. After an interval of two weeks, the instrument was administered a second time to the same group of people, the first and second responses were gathered and analyzed using spearman rank order correlation coefficient. The coefficients for the five sections of the research questions were 0.88, 0.68,

0.80, 0.60 and 0.97 respectively. Thus, showing an average coefficient of 0.79 meaning that the instrument is 79% reliable and consistent. This was considered quite adequate for the study.

The researcher adopted direct questionnaire administration method. It involves distributing the research instrument personally of the study by the researcher and her two research assistants who had been trained for the purpose. Out of the 783 copies of questionnaire that were distributed, 751 which is 95.9% response were completed and returned. The 751 represents 626 of business owners and 125 town union executives across the three states.

The data gathered from this study were analyzed using matching statistical tools. In this regard, percentage analysis was used to answer the research questions; ordinary least square approach (increase/decrease) was used to determine the trend movement of unemployment in Anambra State. Also the Chi-Square (X^2), Pearson product moment correlation coefficient test for independent large sample that is ($n \geq 30$) and the t-test for significance of correlation coefficient were used in analyzing the data. All tests were carried out at 0.05 level of significance. It is the probability at which we were willing to risk type I.

8. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The analysis was carried out in two sections namely, answer to the research questions through percentage analysis of the Likert scale and the test of hypotheses. Whereas hypothesis one was tested with chi-square (X^2) and hypothesis two and three were tested with t-test for independent large sample ($n \geq 30$). All tests were carried out at 0.05 level of significance.

Research Question one

Research question one was raised to assess social effect of youth unemployment on economic growth and development of Nigeria. The opinions of the respondents were presented in table 2. The analysis on table 2 shows that overall, 39.0% of the respondents strongly agreed with all the items, 51.9% merely agreed, 4.4% disagreed, 2.7% strongly disagreed and 1.9% did not have any opinion. But apart from the average responses, there are noticeable variations within the items. For instance, 39.8% and 51.5% strongly agreed and merely agreed with item 3 respectively whereas in item 4, 40.1% and 49.0% strongly agreed and merely agreed respectively. Also, for items 5 and 6, whereas 6.0% and 4.0% disagreed and strongly disagreed in item 5 respectively, 4.4% and 2.5% did so for item 6. The variations within the items did not reveal any particular trend but it is sufficient to note that some items scored higher or lower percentage than the average. It is also significant that over all, respondents' opinion suggest that youth unemployment has some serious negative implications for economic growth and development in Nigeria.

Table 2: Social Effect of Youth Unemployment on Economic Growth and Development of Nigeria

ITEM	Alternative responses					
	SA	A	D	SD	UND	Total
When a person or group of people are unemployed, it means they are not contributing anything to the growth and development of their economy, GDP gap.	279 (37.2)	401 (53.4)	40 (5.3)	20 (2.7)	11 (1.2)	751 (100)
Unemployed person's access to money is quite limited therefore it is difficult to make effective demand.	281 (37.4)	403 (53.7)	33 (4.4)	19 (2.5)	15 (2.0)	751 (100)
The youth are most likely to find expression else where in the negative if gainfully employed in the society.	299 (39.8)	387 (51.5)	32 (4.3)	20 (2.7)	13 (1.7)	751 (100)
Unemployment has pushed many good brains to Europe, North America and even Asia in search of opportunities.	301 (40.1)	368 (49.0)	29 (38.6)	33 (4.4)	20 (2.7)	751 (100)
Unemployed youth are handy tools in the hands of unscrupulous and disgruntled politicians who use them to cause instability in the polity.	322 (42.9)	329 (43.8)	45 (6.0)	30 (4.0)	25 (3.3)	751 (100)
The resources which otherwise would have been utilized in the provision of needed services to the people are being used in the fight against insurgency and provision of relief materials for the displaced persons.	281 (27.4)	403 (53.7)	33 (4.4)	19 (2.5)	15 (2.0)	751 (100)
Rather than being source of growth stimulation and economic development, the army of unemployed remains political threat to the well being of the economy.	288 (38.3)	405 (53.9)	31 (4.1)	17 (2.3)	10 (1.3)	751 (100)
An illicit money and high profile crime overstate the GDP of a nation.	298 (39.7)	400 (53.3)	29 (4.4)	14 (1.9)	10 (1.3)	751 (100)
Foreign direct investment (FDI) is seriously threatened by insecurity arising from the unemployed youth in Nigeria	281 (37.4)	403 (53.7)	33 (4.4)	19 (2.5)	15 (2.0)	751 (100)
Insecurity as a result of violent crimes committed by the unemployed youth has set Nigeria back by many years.	300 (39.9)	402 (53.5)	27 (3.6)	12 (1.6)	10 (1.3)	751 (100)
Total	2930	3901	332	203	144	7510
Percentage (%) of Total	(39.0)	(51.9)	(4.4)	(2.7)	(1.9)	(100)

Source: Research Survey 2014

Research Question Two

This research question borders on the perceived factors that have increased youth unemployment in Nigeria in recent years. The opinions of the respondents are presented on table 3.

The mean scores on table 4 shows that business owners strongly agreed with items 2,4,5, 9 and 10 and merely agreed with the rest of the items. As for the town union executives, they strongly agreed with items 2, 9 and 10 and merely agreed with the rest. It is interesting to observe that no respondent disagreed with any item thus, showing that there is little or no variation in the opinions of the two categories of the respondents. Furthermore, this result is an indication that the measures raised in the items are substantially supported by the respondents.

Table 3: Mean Ratings of the Respondents on the Effect of Youth Unemployment determinants on Socio-economic development of Nigeria

ITEM	Business Owner			Town Union Executive		
	X ₁	SD ₁	Decision	\bar{X}^2	SD ₂	Decision
The educational system in Nigeria does not equip Nigerian graduates with adequate skills and tools necessary for them to meet societal needs.	3.80	1.10	Agreed	4.01	0.72	Strongly agreed
The current proliferation of higher educational institutions and those seeking higher education for white-collar jobs is the main factor responsible for the problem.	4.20	1.02	Strongly agreed	3.87	1.21	Agreed
The rate of graduates being turned out rises faster than the expansion of job opportunities.	4.30	0.73	Strongly agreed	3.93	1.23	Agreed
The demise of the small and cottage industries which operated in both the formal and informal sectors, as a result of SAP is a major problem.	4.10	1.01	Strongly agreed	4.07	0.85	Strongly agreed
There is undue attention to the oil sector which offers limited employment capacity to the disadvantage of the agricultural sector with huge potential for employment.	3.66	1.03	Agreed	3.92	1.25	Agreed
Poor security environment has continued to hamper investment drive thereby reducing the prospects of employment generation.	3.70	1.50	Agreed	3.66	1.24	Agreed
Many job seekers who would have embarked on self employment programmes are unable to do so because of hostile production environment.	3.81	1.14	Agreed	3.74	1.27	Agreed
Young school leavers and graduates who would have loved to go into self-employment are hindered by poor state of infrastructure, especially electricity.	3.90	1.21	Agreed	4.60	0.26	Strongly agreed
Insecurity makes Nigerian business environment very unattractive therefore the investors that would have provided job opportunities are prevented from coming.	3.62	1.42	Agreed	3.51	1.40	Agreed
Corruption by public office-holders has prevented many intervention programmes meant to combat unemployment to fail in their mandates.	4.10	1.00	Strongly agreed	3.63	1.40	Agreed

Source: Research Survey 2014

In table 3, it could be seen from the mean ratings of the respondents that business owners strongly agreed with items 2, 3, 4 and 10 while town union executives strongly agreed with items 1, 4 and 8. The two categories of the respondents showed substantial agreement in their pattern of response with very little variations. The average mean for the business owners is 3.92 with a standard deviation of 1.12 while that of town union executives is 3.89 with a standard deviation of 1.08. It is an indication that almost all the respondents perceived the factors causing unemployment the same way.

Research Question Three

Research question three identified effective policy measures that can address the issue of youth unemployment in Nigeria. The opinions of those sampled in this regard are presented in table 4.

Test of Hypotheses

All hypotheses formulated to guide the study were tested in this section, with the appropriate statistical tools. All tests were carried out at 0.05 level of significance.

(a) Hypotheses one

The results of the corresponding research question to this hypothesis as presented in table 5 shows that 90.9% of the respondents agreed with the items which border on social effect of youth unemployment on economic growth and development. Therefore, the researcher sought to determine the extent the phenomenon can be a problem to the economy both socially and economically. Hypothesis three therefore tested the social effect of youth unemployment on the economy of Nigeria. Accordingly, the null and alternative hypotheses were stated as follows:

- H₀: The social effect of youth unemployment in Nigeria does not significantly affect economic development negatively.
H₁: The social effect of youth unemployment in Nigeria significantly affects economic development negatively.

To test the hypothesis, the data presented on table 5 was used. Chi square (χ^2) test was applied on the data. In this situation, influence of insecurity is measured on the growth and development of the economy based on the perception of the respondents.

Table 4: Mean Ratings of the Respondents on Effectiveness of aimed Policy Measures addressing Youth Unemployment on the Socio-economic development of Nigeria

Item	Business Owner			Town Union Executive		
	X ₁	SD ₁	Decision	X ₂	SD ₂	Decision
Entrepreneurship education provides students with the capacity to recognize opportunities and utilize them when they exist.	3.51	1.40	Agreed	3.4	1.32	Agreed
It provides the students with ability to anticipate and respond to societal changes.	4.20	1.02	Strongly agreed	3.75	1.40	Agreed
Government should adequately fund and effectively implement the entrepreneurship development to enlist the cooperation of the target beneficiaries.	3.74	1.50	Agreed	3.62	1.42	Agreed
If government can provide the needed infrastructure such as electricity and good road network, the youth can help themselves greatly.	4.10	1.62	Strongly agreed	3.93	1.44	Agreed
Entrepreneurship development is a catalyst for economic development and job creation in any society.	4.60	1.52	Strongly agreed	3.82	1.40	Agreed
Education policy which will emphasize requisite skills development needed in today's world of work will help the youth.	3.81	1.14	Agreed	3.62	1.41	Agreed
Entrepreneurship and innovation are increasingly being recognized as important drivers of employment generation and wealth creation.	3.90	1.24	Agreed	3.51	1.21	Agreed
Developing entrepreneurial skills among students at all levels must be made an issue of priority to educational policy-makers and practitioners.	3.70	1.44	Agreed	3.66	1.03	Agreed
Entrepreneurship education / development has a lot of challenges which must be tackled for the programme to make meaningful impact on unemployment.	4.30	0.70	Strongly agreed	4.10	1.01	Strongly agreed
Supportive agricultural programmes will give the youth employment in both the rural and urban areas.	4.25	1.10	Strongly agreed	4.60	0.25	Strongly agreed

Source: Research Survey 2014

Table 5: Summary of Chi-Square (χ^2) Test for Hypothesis I

Variable	Sample size (n)	Degrees of freedom (df)	Chi-square (χ^2)		Significance level (α)	Decision rule
			χ^2 Cal	χ^2 Crit		
Insecurity, economic growth and development						Significant
Respondent	751	36	74.158	43.773	0.05	Rejected

Note: χ^2 cal means value of χ^2 calculated and χ^2 crit means values of χ^2 critical.

Decision Rule

At 0.05 level of significance and 36 degree of Freedom (df), the calculated value of $\chi^2(74.158)$ is greater than the critical value of $\chi^2(43.773)$. Consequently, the null hypothesis was rejected while the alternative which suggests that social effect of youth unemployment significantly affects economic development in Nigeria negatively was accepted.

(b) Hypotheses two

This hypothesis helped the researcher to evaluate the perception of the respondents on the factors considered to have led to increase in youth unemployment over the years. Accordingly, the null and the alternative hypotheses were stated as follows:

H₀: Youth unemployment determinants do not to a large extent affect socio-economic development of Nigeria positively.

H₁: Youth unemployment determinants to a large extent affect socio-economic development of Nigeria positively.

To test the hypothesis, t-test for independent large sample that is, ($n \geq 30$) was used. The choice of t-statistics was informed by the fact that there are two means belonging to the two categories of the respondents which arose from the ratings presented on table 3. This statistical tool was applied on the means and standard deviation of the respondents presented on table 3. Table 6, gives a summary of this.

Table 6: Summary of t -Test Result for Hypothesis II

Respondent	N	\bar{X}	SD	Standard error (Se)	Df	Cal. t value	Crit. t value	Sig. Level α	Decision rule
Business Owners	626	3.92	1.12						Not Sig.
Town Union Executive	125	3.89	1.08	0.106	749	0.283	1.960	0.05	Accepted

N= 751, P < 0.05

t-test analysis

$$t = \frac{X_{BO} - X_{TUE}}{\sqrt{\frac{S_{BO}^2 + S_{TUE}^2}{n_{BO} + n_{TUE}}}}$$

Where:

X_{BO} = Mean of Business Owners

X_{TUE} = Mean of Town Union Executives

S_{BO}^2 = Variance of Business Owners

S_{TUE}^2 = Variance of Town Union Executives

n_{BO} = Number of Business Owners in the Sample

n_{TUE} = Number of Town Union Executives in the Sample

Decision Rule

At 0.05 level of significance and 749 degrees of freedom the calculated t-value (0.283) is less than the critical t-value (1.960). Since there was no weight of evidence against the null, it was consequently accepted while the alternative which suggests that youth unemployment determinants affect socio-economic development positively was rejected.

(c) Hypothesis three

Hypothesis three sought to find out if the existing policy initiatives aimed at addressing youth unemployment has significantly affected socio-economic development of Nigeria.

H₀: The existing policy initiatives aimed at addressing youth unemployment has not significantly affected socio-economic development of Nigeria.

H₁: The existing policy initiatives aimed at addressing youth unemployment has significantly affected socio economic development of Nigeria.

To test the hypothesis, t-test for independent large sample that is, ($n > 30$) also known as t-test for difference in means, was applied on respondents mean ratings and standard deviation presented on table 4 which is a summary of table 7. The same reason that informed its usage in hypothesis two informed its usage here. The test was done at 0.05 level of significance and 749 degrees of freedom (df).

Table 7: Summary of t-test Result for Hypothesis three

Respondent	N	\bar{X}	SD	Standard error (Se)	Df	Cal. t value	Crit. t value	Sig. Level α	Decision rule
Business Owners	626	4.01	1.27						Not Significant therefore accepted
Town Union Executive	125	3.80	1.19	0.118	749	1.780	1.960	0.05	

N= 751, P < 0.05

Decision rule

At 0.05 level of significance and 749 degrees of freedom, the calculated t-value (1.780) is less than the critical t-value (1.960). Consequently, the null hypothesis was accepted and we concluded that the existing policy initiatives aimed at addressing youth unemployment has not significantly affected socio-economic development of Nigeria.

9. CONCLUSIONS

The study reveals that the social effect of youth unemployment significantly affects Nigerian economy negatively in many ways. For instance, when a person or group of people is unemployed, the implication is that the person or persons are not contributing anything to the growth and development of the economy. The likelihood of finding expression elsewhere is almost certain for those who are unemployed. The unemployed youth are handy tools in the hands of disgruntled politicians who use them to cause instability and social disorder in the system. The insecurity caused by the unemployed youth prevents foreign direct investment which has been found to directly relate to economic growth, especially in developing countries such as Nigeria.

The factors that have caused high level of youth unemployment in Nigeria and those that are re-enforcing it are outlined below: the educational system which does not equip the graduates with adequate skills and tools necessary for them to be employable in

modern day's organizations. The proliferation of higher education institutions which turn out graduates annually without the provision of corresponding employment opportunities, that is, the absorption capacity of the economy is very low compared to the number seeking paid employment. Also worthy of mention is the demise of the small and cottage industries which operated in both formal and informal sectors of the economy as a result of the deregulation, currency devaluation and the liberalization programmes brought about by SAP. A policy that pushed many people back into the labour market. Investments that would have created employment opportunities are prevented due to high level of insecurity and poor enabling environment. Huge deficit in infrastructure, especially electricity and high cost of doing business which have prevented many job seekers who would have embarked on self-employment programmes, are serious issues. The neglect of agriculture which used to be the life wire of the economy as a result of the discovery of oil in commercial quantity. Nigeria has experienced what is known as resource curse as a result of undue attention to the sector without really exploring the downstream of it to create employment opportunities for the teeming unemployed youth and add value to the economy.

In the area of policy options for effective solutions to the menace of youth unemployment, the respondents agreed unanimously that entrepreneurship education and development of the agricultural sector is the way to go. This is because, entrepreneurship education will help the youth to develop skills and acquire the necessary knowledge for starting and managing self-employed ventures that can even make them become employers of labour. On the other hand, agriculture can be developed to realize its full potentials with incentives to attract the youth.

Unemployment is a global phenomenon that affects each nation depending on the status of the economy. That is to say, there is no nation without element of unemployment. However, Nigeria's situation appears to be getting out of hand. Findings from the study indicate that youth unemployment has been rising steadily in Nigeria at a very high rate. This has wider implications for the economy. As unemployment increases, the negative effects that go with it also increase thereby hampering the growth and development process of the nation's economy.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

From the analysis, findings and conclusions of this study, the following recommendations were made:

- Findings from this study reveal that there is little data on the number of people that are unemployed in Nigeria. Therefore accurate and up-to-date data are very necessary for any meaningful planning to take place. The government should embark on a nationwide census of the unemployed to ascertain the actual number which will be updated annually through effective and continuous registration of the unemployed. This will make implementation of any intervention programmes aimed at combating unemployment very effective.
- There is the need to start massive investment in the development of infrastructure which are largely lacking especially in the rural areas, infrastructures such as electricity, access roads, water supply among others to stem the rural-urban migration which has created much urban problems. With this, the unemployed will find life more meaningful in the rural areas where they can engage in agricultural activities and other entrepreneurial activities.

- Entrepreneurship education was identified as a viable option for combating the huge problem of youth unemployment in Nigeria. The challenges of effective implementation of the programmes are enormous. The government should fund the programme adequately and provide all the necessary materials and equipment needed for the programme to succeed. The agricultural sector was also identified as having the capacity to contribute to the reduction in the number of unemployed youth. This is only possible if the sector is properly developed and incentives created to lure the youth to it. Such incentives would include but not exclusively provision of credits at zero interest rate, supply of improved seeds at no cost, provision of agricultural extension workers, release of cultivators at no cost, etc., to the farmers.
- The government should use part of the surpluses recorded every year to pay unemployment allowance to the unemployed after they might have established the real number from the suggested census

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