

Causes and Effects of Youth Unemployment: A Case Study of Oye Local Government Area of Ekiti State, Nigeria

Rufus Boluwaji Akindola Oluwatumise R. Dada
Department of Economics and Development Studies
Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria

Abstract

This study employs qualitative and quantitative research methods to investigate the causes and effects of youth unemployment in Oye Local Government Area of Ekiti State. It was found that low level of education, the collapse of local industries, inadequate job creation and neglect of the agricultural sector by the State Government are largely responsible for youth unemployment in the local government area. The study also found that low standard of living and high crime rates are the direct results of youth unemployment and recommended the diversification of the economy to enhance the generation of full and part time job opportunities, including the revitalisation of collapsed local industries to absorb the growing number of unemployed youths.

Keywords: Youth, Unemployment, Oye-Ekiti, Local Government, Crime, Nigeria

1. Introduction

Developing countries are gradually gaining prominence in the world economy as emerging market share and responsibility within the global economy increases. Kahraman (2011) notes that youth unemployment is a challenging policy arena for developing countries, yet little empirical evidence is available to inform policy planning and development. Historically, teenagers have worked less than adults essentially because they are enrolled in school. It is evident though, that there is another group of youths who are not in school and not working, and it is this group, as CSSP (2002) further suggests, that has caused concern about how the labour market functions with respect to youth. Nonetheless, youth unemployment refers to the unemployment of young people classified by the United Nations as those between 14 and 28 years of age. Consequently, an unemployed person, according to Olakitan (2015), can be defined as someone without any physical means of livelihood but is actively seeking work. Unarguably, youth unemployment is a major issue in developing countries, including Nigeria where it affects young men and women with a potential for crime and social unrest. The recent social unrest and political uprising in the Middle East underscored the perils of high rates of unemployment, especially among the youths. Olakitan (2015) again states that, aside from terrorism, youth unemployment is one of the greatest threats to national security mainly because idle hands are the devil's workshop. In Nigeria, for example, some of the effects of youth unemployment are seen in political unrest, economic instability, drug abuse, crime, prostitution, human trafficking, terrorism and kidnapping (Olakitan, 2015). Similarly, Kahraman (2011) asserts that, both in France and Greece, there were suggestions in the media and public discussions that youth unemployment might have played a role in the eruption of social conflict as the two countries experience significant above average levels of youth unemployment as compared to other European Union countries. Corroborating these facts, the World Bank (2014) contends that youth unemployment is high in all regions of the world, much higher than adult unemployment. The World Bank further shows that, in 2010, the world average for youth unemployment was 12.6 per cent, roughly 2.5 times higher than that of adults.

Empirical evidence suggests that youth unemployment is much higher in Nigeria despite being the second largest economy in Africa. Interestingly, Nigeria is also the eight most populous countries in the world with a population of 167 million people and nominal GDP of \$207.116 billion (World Bank, 2012, National Population Commission 2013). Yet the country's current youth unemployment rate, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (2013), is over 25 per cent. In other words, over 25 million of the country's youth population of about 100 million is unemployed. For example, many graduate job seekers lost their lives recently in Nigeria during a nationwide recruitment exercise by the Nigeria Immigration Service. Yet in Port Harcourt alone, some 25,000 applicants were to participate in a recruitment interview at the 16,000 capacity Liberation Stadium. According to Olakitan (2015), over 500,000 young people applied for the 4,500 job openings. This shows that youth unemployment in Nigeria has reached a crisis point.

Unemployment assumed a greater dimension following the emergence of crude oil in Nigeria. By 1986, an estimated 3.7 million people were said to be unemployed with about 1.5 million youths joining the labour force annually. This, as Federal Office of Statistics (FOS, 1986) further argues, resulted in an urban unemployment rate of 10 per cent and rural unemployment rate of 4 percent. All the components of the labour force suffered from the scourge of unemployment of youths, especially graduates, retrenched civil servants and private sector employees. According to Aganga (2010), unemployment was high in the 1980s, but the available reports from various local and international bodies and the glaring evidence of joblessness in these decades are clear indications that there was no time in Nigeria's checkered history where unemployment is as serious as now. The

national unemployment rates for Nigeria between 2000 and 2009 are depicted in table 1 below.

Table 1: National unemployment rates between 2000 and 2009

2000	13.1
2001	13.6
2002	12.6
2003	14.8
2004	13.4
2005	11.9
2006	13.7
2007	14.6
2008	14.9
2009	19.4

Aganga (2010)

In respect of the age group, as at March 2009 in Nigeria, for persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, 41.6 per cent were unemployed, and for people between 25 and 44 years, 17 per cent were unemployed (National Bureau of Statistics, 2009)

The above evidence has set the contemporary contexts and provided the reason and motivation for this study. As already stated, Nigeria's unemployment crisis is a serious national problem. Yet young people continue to be among the hardest hit by the job crisis, especially in the rural areas such as Oye Local Government Area of Ekiti State. As a result, most parents are not only frustrated but also traumatised at seeing their sons and daughters turn into crimes and prostitution because of unemployment.

2. Statement of the Problem

Available figures from the Federal Bureau of Statistics (2008) show that Oye Local Government Area has a youth population of 53,842 and majority of these are unemployed. This shows that unemployed youths are alienated and government poverty alleviation programmes initiated by the National Directorate for Employment (NDE) has not in any way solved the problem of youth unemployment in the local government area.

3. Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study is to investigate the causes and effects of youth unemployment in Oye Local Government Area of Ekiti state.

The specific objective includes:

1. To ascertain whether or not youth unemployment has a negative effect on the society.
2. To examine government policies in respect to employment creation in Oye Local Government Area of Ekiti State.

In order to achieve the above stated objective, three major questions will be addressed:

1. What are the major causes of youth unemployment in Oye Local Government Area?
2. To what extent is youth unemployment a problem in Oye Local Government Area?
3. How effective has been government policies towards employment generation in Oye Local Government Area?

4. Scope of the Study

This study investigates the causes and effects of youth unemployment in Oye Local Government Area of Ekiti State. Oye Local Government Area was carved out of the defunct Ekiti North Local Government area on 17th May, 1989.

5. Justification for the Study

As at 2009, the Federal Bureau of Statistics (2008) put the unemployment rate in Nigeria at 19.7 per cent while youth unemployment was at 41.6 per cent. The aggregate unemployment increased to 21.1 per cent in 2010 and youth unemployment witnessed a little decline of about 3.8 per cent (Vanguard, 2012). The conclusion drawn from this evidence is that the rate of youth unemployment in Nigeria is high despite being blessed with crude oil and other natural resources.

6. Definition of terms

6.1 Unemployment

The International Labour Organisation defined unemployment as the share of the labour force without work but available for and seeking employment (World Bank, 2015).

6.2 Youth

The African Youth Charter defined youth to mean “every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years” while the United Nations (2015) defines ‘youth’, as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. However, The Nigerian National Youth Policy (2001) defines the youth as all young persons of ages 18-35 years.

6.3 Youth unemployment

Youth unemployment can be described a situation whereby people between the ages of 18-35 years who are willing and ready to work cannot find work.

6.4 Underemployment

The International Labour Organisation (ILO, 2007) describes underemployment as a situation whereby people are employed only on part time or at work that is ineffective or unproductive, with a correspondingly low income that is insufficient to meet their needs.

7. Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

7.1 Youth Unemployment

The concept of unemployment, like others in the fields of human Endeavour, has received various definitions and descriptions. This is because human beings view things from different perspectives. For example, the International Labour Organisation (ILO, 2007) defines unemployed persons as those who are currently not working but are willing and able to work for pay and have actively searched for work. The Nigerian National Youth Policy (2001) also refers to unemployment as the facts of a number of people not having a job and youth unemployment as the unemployment of young people between the ages of 18-35years. In the same vein, an operational definition of youth unemployment for this study will include underemployment, hence youth unemployment occurs when young people who are able and willing to work are without jobs, or cannot find work. It also occurs when young people undertake jobs that are contrary or lower than their academic qualifications or areas of specialization.

7.2 The Keynesian unemployment theory

The online Business Dictionary (2017) describes the Keynesian theory of unemployment as a situation whereby low wage rates, which aim at increasing employment levels fails because the economy is in recession and the employers are facing low demands for their goods and services. This implies that in the Keynesian theory, employment depends upon effective demand, which results in increased output. The Keynesian economists argue further that the number of unemployed workers exceeds the number of job vacancies, so that even if full employment were attained and all open jobs were filled, some workers would still remain unemployed due to some mismatch in the economy. Hence, Keynesian economists see the lack of demand for jobs as potentially resolved by government intervention. Their prescription for reducing unemployment is deficit spending by government to boost employment and increase in aggregate total demand. They further suggested intervention through an expansionary monetary policy that increase the rates, thereby leading to an increase in non-government spending (Harris and Seymour 2005).

7.3 The search theory

This is when unemployment is a result of employees quitting their jobs in search of new and better paid jobs. This involves a certain optimum time spent searching in order to find the best paid job (Harris and Seymour 2005).

7.4 Empirical Review

Youths refer to one of the most vital endowment or resources a country could possess, because they are mostly referred to as the leaders of tomorrow, therefore, there is a need for them to be established and fully empowered. However, the problem of chronic youth unemployment is evident in Nigeria. Every year, thousands of graduates are churned out for whom there are no jobs. Yet the relevant Government agencies such as the Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity and that of Youth Development have failed to formulate and implement effective pro-job creation policies to sufficiently galvanize the innate talents and overwhelming energy levels of these young Nigerian graduates (Gbosi, 1997).

The tide of youth unemployment in Nigeria has made them vulnerable to the manipulations of agents as evident in the increasing cases of violent crimes like kidnappings, assassination and different manifestations of organized crimes such as drug and human trafficking (The Sun, Sept 14, 2012). Also the recent Niger Delta crises which led to the vandalisation of oil pipelines started with a simple protest by the unemployed youths in the region appealing to government and oil companies to pay attention to their social issues (Adebayo, 1999).

8. Types of Unemployment in Nigeria

8.1 Seasonal Unemployment

Udu and Agu (2005) notes that seasonal unemployment occurs mostly in the industrial sector, and in the enterprise that are seasonal in nature. Such activities engage labour temporarily during peak periods. For example, during the rainy season, many men who are engaged in fishing and building may go out of work during bad weather. Fishing, for instance, is not usually done during the rainy season in many parts of Nigeria. During the Christmas season, shop owners and companies employ extra hands for the seasonal sales. These extra hands are usually relieved of their jobs when demand for products decreases.

8.2 Structural Unemployment

Structural unemployment results from persistent cyclical unemployment. This occurs when the economy suffers from long-term low aggregate demand (Udu and Agu, 2005). For example, there may be a permanent fall in the demand for certain products which may be due to a change in taste. The mud block industry in Nigeria is currently suffering from a permanent fall in demand because people prefer cement blocks to build their houses. This has resulted in unemployment in that industry. Technological unemployment which occurs as a result of replacement of workers by machines may also be considered structural unemployment.

9. Government Policies and Efforts Towards Reduction in Youth Unemployment

Various policies and programs have been initiated by government at various levels (Federal, State, and Local) over the years to ensure the reduction in youth unemployment. Even international bodies such as the World Bank and IMF have also contributed to the efforts directed at reducing youth unemployment. For instance, a Partnership Strategy that covers a four year period from 2014 to 2017 was approved in April 2014 by the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank to assist the Nigerian government. It focused on three key strategies that aim to foster development, reduce poverty and youth unemployment (The Guardian, Friday 24th of July 2015).

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). Another program initiated was the YOU-WIN 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).

Furthermore, government at the state level established various forms of employment-creating programs. For instance, Governor Kayode Fayemi, former Governor of Ekiti State, empowered 5,000 youths in Ekiti with N150 million to assist them in accomplishing their dreams in different sectors of the economy. The youths were members of the Batches A and B of the Ekiti Project Volunteers (EPV) Corps who had been engaged by the state government since July 2011. Moreover, Dr Fayemi launched another program known as Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) in Ado Ekiti in conjunction with the World Bank on 3rd of October, 2014. This program was designed to reduce youth unemployment and poverty in the state (Vanguard, 5th October, 2014).

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.

10. Methodology

10.1 Sample size and sampling techniques

This research adopted a random sampling technique to assign 150 questionnaires to the samples in each of the towns selected. Moreover, in order to minimize cost, six towns were selected for sampling. They included: Oye, Ayegbaju, Ilupeju, Imojo, Ayede and Itapa. Focus group discussion and face-to-face interviews were conducted to compliment the findings from the questionnaire survey. One focus group discussion was held in each of the selected towns. The selected participants for the interview included traditional rulers and other community leaders in the local government area.

11. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Table 2 shows the distribution of respondents by age and reveals that a majority of them are between 33 and 35 years of age representing 27.33%. This is followed by those between 24 and 26, 27 and 29 years of age at 18% respectively.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by age

Age of youth	Frequency	Percentages (%)
18-20	20.00	13.33
21-23	17.00	11.33
24-26	27.00	18.00
27-29	27.00	18.00
30-32	18.00	12.00
33-35	41.00	27.33
Total	150	100.00

Table 3 shows gender distribution of respondents with almost equal representation.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents by gender

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	72	48.0
Female	78	52.0
Total	150	100.0

Table 4 indicates that most of the respondents are single at 48.7% while those who are married represent 44.7% with divorced and separated sharing the remaining 6.7%. The findings suggest that most of the youths in Oye Local Government Area are either single or married.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents by marital status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	73	48.7
married	67	44.7
divorced	6	4.0
separated	4	2.7
Total	150	100.0

Table 5 presents the educational backgrounds of respondents and indicates that a significant proportion (41.33%) has only secondary education while those with post graduate qualifications are just 1.33%. The table further reveals that 11.33% represents those with B.Sc/BA/HND, 22.67 for those with NCE/OND/Nursing while 16.0% represents those with primary education and 7.33% for those without education.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents by highest level of education completed

Education	Frequency	Percentage
None	11	7.33
Primary School	24	16.00
Secondary School	62	41.33
NCE/OND/NURSING	34	22.67
BA/BSC/HND	17	11.33
Post Graduate or Professional degree	2	1.33

Table 6 shows that 46.2% of the respondents categorised their unemployment as perpetual unemployment caused by inadequate jobs, followed by those whose unemployment is seasonal based on the nature of their jobs (21.4%) while lack of startup capital for business stands at 10.3%, fictional unemployment at 8.3% and others at 12.4%.

Table 6: What best describes your type of unemployment?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
voluntary unemployment	2	1.3	1.4	1.4
seasonal unemployment	31	20.7	21.4	22.8
frictional unemployment	12	8.0	8.3	31.0
there are not enough jobs	67	44.7	46.2	77.2
others	18	12.0	12.4	89.7
no money to start business	15	10.0	10.3	100.0
Total	145	96.7	100.0	
Missing System	5	3.3		
Total	150	100.0		

Table 7 suggests that 94.7% of the respondents did not engage in any paid job for the past months. However, in an attempt to secure a job; 39% had written and submitted application for jobs, 25.3% applied in person while 23.3% tried starting a business and 12.3% used other methods which may not be specified here.

Table 7: The Percentage distribution of the respondents and effects of unemployment

Are you gainfully Employed?		
Yes	8	5.3%
No	142	94.7%
Total	150	100%
Did you actively seek work during the last four weeks?		
Yes		
No	146	97.4%
	4	2.6%
Total	150	100%
How did you seek work during the last weeks?		
Wrote Application	57	39.0%
Applied in person	37	25.3%
Tried to start own business	34	23.3%
Other Methods	18	12.3%
Total	146	100%
What best describes your type of unemployment?		
Voluntary unemployment	2	1.4%
Seasonal unemployment	31	21.4%
Frictional unemployment	12	8.3%
There are not enough jobs	67	46.2%
Others	18	12.4%
No money to start business	15	10.3%
Total	145	100%
Unemployment Duration		
less than 6 months	8	5.5%
6-12months	26	17.9%
one year and above	111	76.6%
Total	145	100%

The prolonged problem of unemployment in Oye Local Government Area has forced 30.6% of the respondents to rely on family support to ensure their survival as reflected in Table 8, while 21.8% engage in petty businesses, 16.3% are into okada business, 11.6% teach in private schools with low income, 6.1% are into farming, and 8.2% have nothing to do.

Table 8: Distribution of respondents by sources of income

Source of living		
Bike riding(okada)	24	16.3%
Petty business	32	21.8%
Farming	9	6.1%
Teach in private school	17	11.6%
family support	45	30.6%
Nothing	12	8.2%
Others	8	5.4%
Total	147	100%
Prior to being unemployed, what was your main profession or occupation?		
Registered nurse	6	4.1%
Personnel manager	6	4.1%
Accountant	8	5.4%
Teacher	18	12.2%
Mechanic	9	6.1%
Electrician	10	6.8%
Fashion designer	21	14.2%
Plumber	6	4.1%
Lecturer	5	3.4%
Ward maid	5	3.4%
Others	54	36.5%
Total	148	100%

Table 9 shows that 71.43% of the respondents cannot afford their basic needs while only 28.57% can afford this through family support and engagement in petty jobs.

Table 9: Distribution of respondents by basic needs

Are you able to meet your basic needs?		
Yes	40	28.57
No	100	71.43
Total	140	100

Tables 10 and 11 present the bi-variate analysis of the effects of youth unemployment and background characteristics of youths in Oye Local government Area.

Independent variable	Unemployment causes poverty				Total		Chi square and correlation $X^2=4.867$ $p=0.301$ $R=0.06$
	Agree Frequency / %		Disagree Frequency / %		Total Frequency / %		
Age	18	(94.74)	1	(5.26)	19	(100)	
18-20	14	(82.35)	3	(17.65)	17	(100.00)	
21-23	26	(96.30)	1	(3.70)	27	(100.00)	
24-26	37	(82.22)	8	(17.78)	45	(100.00)	
31-32	37	(90.24)	4	(9.76)	41	(100.00)	
33-35	132	(88.59)	17	(11.41)	149	(100.00)	
Total							

Gender		FREQUENCY/PERCENTAGE						
Male	68	94.4%	4	5.6%	72	100.0%	X ² =4.72, p=0.03	
Female	64	83.1%	13	16.9%	77	100.0%		
Total	132	88.6%	17	11.4%	149	(100)		
Education								X ² =17.3, P=0.008 R=-0.116
None	4		0		4			
		100.0%		0.0%		100.0%		
primary school	16		8		24			
		66.7%		33.3%		100.0%		
secondary school	58		3		61			
		95.1%		4.9%		100.0%		
NCE/OND/NURSING	29		5		34			
		85.3%		14.7%		100.0%		
BA/BSC/HND	17		0		17			
		100.0%		0.0%		100.0%		
post graduate or professional degree	2		0		2			
		100.0%		0.0%		100.0%		
Others	6		1		7			
		85.7%		14.3%		100.0%		
Total	132		17		149			
		88.6%		11.4%		100.0%		

Table 11.

Independent Variables	Unemployment is the cause of social vices in the society		Total	Chi-Square/ Correlation X ² = 11.0931 Pr = 0.026 R=-0.149
	Agree	Disagree		
Age of Respondent	13	6	19	Chi-Square/ Correlation X ² = 11.0931 Pr = 0.026 R=-0.149
		68.42	31.58	
18-20	12	5	17	
		70.59	29.41	
21-23	15	12	27	
		55.56	44.44	
24-26	37	8	45	
		82.22	17.78	
31-32	36	5	41	
		87.80	12.20	
33-35	113	36	149	
		75.84	24.16	100.00
Gender				
Male	61	11	72	X ² =6.00, p=0.014
		84.7%	15.3%	
Female	52	25	77	R=0.201
		67.5%	32.5%	
Total	113	36	149	
		75.8%	24.2%	100.0%
Education				
None	1	3	4	X ² =23.126, P=0.001
		25.0%	75.0%	
primary school	20	4	24	R=-0.011
		83.3%	16.7%	
secondary school	42	19	61	
		68.9%	31.1%	100.0%

NCE/OND/NURSING	30	4	34
	88.2%	11.8%	100.0%
BA/BSC/HND	16	1	17
	94.1%	5.9%	100.0%
post graduate or professional degree	2	0	2
	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Others	2	5	7
	28.6%	71.4%	100.0%
Total	113	36	149
	75.8%	24.2%	100.0%

12. Hypothesis

This study investigates the causes of youth unemployment in Oye local government and to ascertain if youth unemployment has a negative impact on the society or not at 5% level of significance. Thus the hypotheses are formulated as follow:

- i. Youth unemployment has no negative impact on the society
 Accept H0: if youth unemployment has no negative impact on the society
- ii. Youth unemployment has a negative impact on the society
 Accept H1: if youth unemployment has a negative impact on the society

12.1 Decision Rule:

Reject Ho if p-value is less than 0.05 and conclude that there is significant evidence that youth unemployment has a negative impact on the society, otherwise do not reject Ho.

The educational status of the respondents reveals that those with primary education are made up of 16.0% while 41.33% represents those with secondary school education and 11% for B.Sc/BA/HND. On the other hand, those with NCE/OND/Nursing constitute 22.67% while those with post graduate qualifications are just 1.33%. However, those with no education are 7.33%. This implies that almost 64.66% of the unemployed youths in Oye local government have a lower educational qualification of secondary school and below. With the current high competition in the labour market, the findings suggest that secondary school education is not enough to secure a decent and well paid job. In this case, low level of education can be seen to be one of the causes of youth unemployment in Oye Local Government Area.

Moreover, the findings show that inadequate jobs is also responsible for youth unemployment in the local government area as the highest percentage of the respondents (46.2%) categorized their unemployment as being perpetual caused by inadequate jobs. This is followed by those whose unemployment are seasonal (21.4%), while 10.3% lacks startup capital for business and 8.3% for fictional unemployment.

Test of relationship between the age of respondents and the question as to whether unemployment is the direct cause of poverty and low standard of living has shown no significant relationship with chi-square $X^2=4.867$, $p=0.301$ and no correlation coefficient $R= 0.06$. More so, gender responses showed a positive relationship with chi-square $X^2=4.72$, $P=0.03$ and positive correlation coefficient $R=0.178$, the educational status of the youths in Oye-Ekiti also indicated a negative relationship with the responses of participants with Chi-square $X^2=7.30$, $p=0.008$ negative correlation $R= -0.116$. Since the p-value for gender and education status is less than 0.05, this implies a significant relationship that unemployment is a direct cause of poverty and low standard of living in Oye-Ekiti as we reject the null hypothesis to accept the alternative hypothesis that unemployment has negative effects on the society. Moreover, youth unemployment can be seen as a direct cause of poverty and low standard of living since 71.43% of the unemployed youth are not able to afford their basic necessities of life.

Test of relationship between age of respondents and whether unemployment causes social vices in the society showed a significant negative relationship with chi-square $X^2 = 11.0931$, $Pr = 0.026$ and correlation coefficient $R= 0.149$. Therefore, the findings emanating from male and female respondents showed a positive relationship with chi-square $X^2=6.00$, $P=0.014$ and positive correlation coefficient $R=0.201$. The educational status of the youths in Oye-Ekiti also indicated a negative relationship with Chi-square $X^2=23.126$, $p=0.001$ negative $R= -0.011$. Since all the p-value is less than 0.05, it implies a significant relationship that youth unemployment is likely to increase the level of social vices in the society as the null hypothesis is rejected to accept the alternative that youth unemployment has negative effects on the society.

13. Findings from Focus Group Discussions and Face-To-face Interviews

One of the male participants reported that Oye Local Government is one of the sixteen local government areas in Ekiti State and that the main employers of labour are the state and local governments. He said Ekiti is far from

all industrial states and the more reason why youth unemployment rate is high.

He stated further:

There is not a single industry in Oye Local Government Area besides the Federal University that was recently established in the area. Most of the manufacturing industries are located in Lagos and Ibadan and are too far from Oye Local Government Area. The truth is that government policies towards youth unemployment have not been effective in Oye local government area because those policies are not targeted at job creation.

A female participant also stated thus:

The collapse of existing industries such as the Adegbemile grains factory along UBA road and the cassava mill factory along Imojo Ekiti road are the causes of youth unemployment in this local government area.

Many of the participants reported that the collapse of industries is an undeniable precipitating factor in the engagements of youths in other means of livelihood in the local government area. These include okada business, thugery, armed robbery and drug trafficking. The neglect of the agricultural sector is another factor constantly mentioned by the participants and those interviewed. They said Oye Local Government Area is an agrarian society with favourable weather condition. However, they claimed most of the youths are not interested in agriculture but in white collar jobs that are no longer available. One of the traditional rulers interviewed said:

Youth unemployment is a national phenomenon that is caused by poor government policies. If the government can encourage agriculture in this area, most of the youths will be gainfully employed. It is however sad that the youths of today are not prepared to go into farming and that is because the encouragement is not there.

A religious leader also lamented the inaccurate number of unemployed youths in Oye Local Government Area as he claimed that the number is much higher. He said unless the government knows the number of the jobless youths, it will be difficult to generate optimum employment opportunities for this category of young people who continue to commit various crimes in the local government area. He stated further:

The industries in the state have all gone because of the volatile marketing environment. As a result, many youths who were hitherto employed were simply laid off thereby increasing crime rates in this local government area. The other side to this problem is that the government does not have the actual number of the unemployed youths as it is more than what we read in newspapers and reports.

14. Conclusion and Recommendations

14.1 Conclusion

A total of 150 questionnaires were administered in the study area to 72 males and 78 females. The research questions were answered by the findings, which revealed the following factors to be responsible for youth unemployment in Oye local government area; low level of education, lack of industries, and inadequate job creation by the government. The effects of this can also be seen in low standard of living, poverty and increase in social vices among the unemployed youths as its test of relationship was significant at 5% level of significance.

The above results are consistent with the face-to-face interview and focus group discussions as participants reported that youth unemployment in the local government is caused by inadequate manufacturing industries and the collapse of existing ones, neglect of agriculture, poor government policies towards the generation of employment opportunities, un-conducive marketing environment.

14.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- The Ekiti state government should diversify the economy to enhance the generation of both full and part time job opportunities for the youths in Oye Local Government Area.
- The collapsed local industries should be revived to provide employment opportunities that will absorb the idle youths and prevent them from going into crimes.
- Efforts should be made by the government to encourage and support youths to practice mechanized farming in Oye Local Government Area since it is an agrarian environment with favourable weather condition.
- Government should make provision for low interest loans for the youths to commence small scale businesses.
- Formulation of policies that encourage youths to be job creators and self-employed rather than chasing white collar jobs in the already saturated labour market is critically important.

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