Poverty and Ignorance as Correlates of Youths Social Restiveness Behaviour in Rivers and Bayelsa States of Nigeria: Implication for Counselling

Ordu, Sunday N. Ph.D, JAMABO, T. Ph.D
Department Of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education,Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Abstract
This study investigates poverty, ignorance and gender as correlates of youths social restiveness behavior in Bayelsa and Rivers States of Nigeria. Two research questions and two hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. Correlational research design was used for the study. The population consists of all youths (male and female) from ten local government areas of Bayelsa and Rivers states of Nigeria (5 local government areas from Bayelsa and 5 local government areas from Rivers respectively) estimated to be about 5000 youths. The sample size of 500 youths was used for the study selected through purposive random sampling technique from the selected local government areas. Researcher self made questionnaire titled “Youth Social Restiveness Behaviour Questionnaire (YSRBQ) was used for data collected from the subjects. Regression analysis statistics was used to answer and analyze the two research questions and two hypotheses formulated for the study at 0.05 level of significance. The result shows that poverty and ignorance are significant predictors of youth social restiveness behaviour though, poverty is stronger. Gender was not significant. Conclusions were reached, implication for counselling made and recommendations stated.

Introduction
Poverty is derived from the French word ‘pauvre’ meaning poor. Poverty simply means the state of lacking material possessions, that is, of having little or no means to support oneself. Anyone lacking the means necessary to remain alive is in poverty. In Nigeria, poverty can be defined in absolute or relative forms for example, the subsistence groups (farmers, fishermen and petty traders) are good example of absolute poverty while the relative group are all persons earning less than 25% of the median income.

Poverty in Nigeria remains significant despite high economic growth. It first, started during the British Empire. Nigeria has one of the world highest economic growth rates, geometrical in nature over the last decades. It has a well-developed economy with plenty of natural resources such as oil. Although it retains a high level of poverty, with 70% of people living on below ₦10 daily, showing a decline in equity. There has been attempts at poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria such as National Accelerated Food Production programme and the Nigerian Agricultural and Co-operative Bank 1972, Operation Feed the Nation 1976, Green Revelation Programme 1979, Directorate of Food, Road and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) 1988, Family Support programme and Family Economy Advancement Programme 1993 and finally, National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPWP) to replace the previously failed Poverty Alleviation Programme. However, these programmes have largely failed to overcome the three reasons for its formation hence persistent poverty, income inequality, ethic conflict and political instability. Income inequality in Nigeria worsened from 0.43-0.49 between 2004 and 2009. This was correlated with differential access to infrastructure, and amenities. It is worthy to note that there are more rural poor people than urban poor. The results from the composition of Nigeria Economy is based on energy, oil and agricultural sectors. Oil exports contributed significantly to government revenues of about 15% GDP despite employing only a small fraction of the population while agriculture contributes to about 45% of GDP and employs close to 90% of the rural population.

Oil revenue is poorly distributed among the population with higher government spending in urban areas than rural, high unemployment rates renders personal income more divergent. Moreover, the process of oil extraction has resulted in significant pollution which harms the agricultural sector.

With the return to civilian rule in 1999, militants from religious and ethnic groups have become markedly more violent. This unrest has its roots in poverty and economic competition. Its economic and human damage further escalate the problems of poverty.

The depth of ignorance of human beings about personal knowledge of themselves and the possibility of the modern day behavior changes has been enormous.

Ignorance is a state of being uninformed, (lack of knowledge). In Nigeria, ignorance of the citizens is greatly compounded by the level of illiteracy and general poor educational service available in the country. For example, the knowledge of modern computer and how to use its facilities for enhancing behavioural and human interpersonal relationship has been a major problem due to lack of skills and technical know-how, hence resulting to social restiveness of youth behaviour.
Poverty and ignorance in Nigeria socio-cultural environment among its citizens is very clear and wide spread sending signal of insecurity on daily basis. The practice of kidnapping of individual and asking for huge sum of money as ransom for the release of their victim has suddenly added terror to an already fear prone environment through institutionalized incidence of armed robbery, intertribal wars, Boko Haram bombing, Jesse fire disaster of late 1990s, pipeline in a northern suburb of Lagos 2006 vandalization, petrol tanker accident at Okogbe in Ahoada East Local Government Area of East-West Road in Rivers State on 13th July, 2012 and regular conflicts.

Unstable political environment has not really been stable. Although, there is a form of democratic government in practice, yet not really been stable to provide the citizens with the expected level of peaceful and economic stable environment, such as incidence of political assassination, armed robbery, rape and youth disturbances involving male and female (social restiveness behaviour).

Research Questions
The following research questions guided the study:
1. What is the correlation of poverty and ignorance in youth’s behaviour towards social restiveness in Bayelsa and Rivers State.
2. Does gender moderate the correlation among youth’s poverty, ignorance and their social restiveness behaviour.

Research Hypotheses
The following Research Hypotheses were tested in this study at eh 0.05 level of significance.
Ho₁ There is no significant correlation among youth’s poverty, ignorance and their social restiveness behaviour.
Ho₂ There is no significant correlation among youth’s poverty, ignorance, gender and social restiveness behaviour.

Methodology
Design: This study is a correlational research design. A correlational survey research is one in which a group of people or items are studied by collecting and analyzing data from only few people or items considered to be a representative of the entire group (Ordu, 2006).

Population of the Study
The population of this study comprised of 5000 youths who are living in 10 Local Government Area of Bayelsa and Rivers State of Nigeria. (Bayelsa 5 L.G.A., Rivers 5 L.G. A.). (Source: Independent Electoral Commission registration Chart).

Sampling Technique
A sample of 500 youth randomly drown from the 10 local government area of Bayelsa and Rivers states were selected using purposive sampling technique for the study. 50 youths from each of the local government area selected.

Instrumentation
The research instrument for the study is the “Youth Social Restiveness Behaviour Questionnaire” (YSRBQ) developed by the researcher to elicit information from youth in respect of incidence of youth restiveness behavior. It contains three sections A and B. The section A contains information on the demographic characteristics of the respondents such as gender, age, religion, either group qualification or socio-economic status. The Section B of the instrument measured youth restiveness variables. The reliability of the instrument - YSRBQ (which is an estimate of its consistency and stability) was determined by the researcher through a Cronbach Alpha reliability technique (a). The coefficient alpha obtained was 0.80 which was found significant at 0.05 alpha level. Therefore, considered reliable for the study.

Administration
The questionnaire was administered personally by the research. The questionnaire were collected from the respondents on the spot and the raw scores were analyzed.

Data Analysis
The multiple correlation and Regression Statistics was used to answer all research questions and test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significant.

Results
The various results of the research question and the hypotheses of the study are presented below:

Research Question One: What is the correlation of poverty and ignorance in youth’s behaviour towards social restiveness in Bayelsa and Rivers State.

To answer this Research question, a regression of poverty and ignorance on youth’s behaviour towards social restiveness was done as presented in Table 1 below:
Table 1: Correlation of Poverty and Ignorance on Youth Attitude Towards Social Restiveness Behaviour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model 1</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>SEB</th>
<th>Beta</th>
<th>t</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constant</td>
<td>33.97</td>
<td>1.88</td>
<td>22.82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>-.026</td>
<td>.03</td>
<td>-.041</td>
<td>-12.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ignorance</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>.02</td>
<td>.28</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Predictors constant – Poverty, ignorance
(b) Dependent variable – Social Restiveness Behaviour.
Significant, P < 0.05

Table one above shows that poverty and ignorance were significant predictors of youth’s behaviour towards social restiveness (t-value for poverty = -12.56 and ignorance = 9.00, P < 0.05).

The Beta weights of -.41, for poverty and .28 for ignorance indicated the degree of change on youth’s behaviour towards social restiveness produced by a unit change in poverty and ignorance respectively. This implies that poverty is the stronger predictor of youth behaviour towards social restiveness though in an inverse direction.

**Hypothesis I:** There is no significant correlation among youth’s poverty, ignorance and their behaviour towards social restiveness.

Table 2: Correlation of Poverty, Ignorance and Youth’s Behaviour Towards Social Restiveness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model 2</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>R Square</th>
<th>Adjusted R Square</th>
<th>Std Error of the Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>.55</td>
<td>.33</td>
<td>.33</td>
<td>7.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANOVA*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode 2</th>
<th>Sum of Square</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Mean Square</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regression</td>
<td>52468.01</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21789.00</td>
<td>381.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residual</td>
<td>37311.44</td>
<td>1287</td>
<td>54.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>126179.45</td>
<td>1289</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Predictors (constant) poverty, ignorance
(b) Dependent variable: Social restiveness behavior.
Significant (P < 0.05)

Table 2 above shows that F = 381.27, P < 0.05 is significant. The proportion of variance in the social restiveness behavior attributable to the joint impact of poverty and ignorance was 33% (adjusted R² = .33). Therefore, the null hypotheses which stated that there is no significant correlation among youths poverty, ignorance and their behaviour towards social restiveness was rejected.

**Research Question 2:** Does gender moderate the correlation among youth’s poverty, ignorance and their social restiveness behaviour. A Regression of poverty, ignorance and gender on social restiveness behaviour was carried out to answer the research question 2 on table 3 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model 3</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>SEB</th>
<th>Beta</th>
<th>t</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constant</td>
<td>66.683</td>
<td>12.375</td>
<td>5.389</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>-.290</td>
<td>4.012</td>
<td>-.003</td>
<td>-.072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ignorance</td>
<td>.585</td>
<td>.756</td>
<td>.038</td>
<td>.774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>-.0115</td>
<td>.778</td>
<td>.001</td>
<td>-.015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Predictors (constant) Poverty, Ignorance and Gender
Dependent variable: social restiveness behaviour
* Significant (P < 0.05)

Table 3 above shows that poverty, ignorance and gender are not significant predictors of social restiveness behaviour, t-valued for poverty = -.072, ignorance = .77.4, Gender = -.015 respectively.

**Hypothesis Two:** There is no significant correlation among youth’s poverty, ignorance, gender and social restiveness behaviour. The data presented in table 4 were used to test hypothesis 2.

**Table 4: Multiple Regression of Poverty, Ignorance, Gender and Social Restiveness Behaviour.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode 4</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>R Square</th>
<th>Adjusted Square</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Std Error of the Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>-.036*</td>
<td>.001</td>
<td>-.005</td>
<td>7.8413</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANOVA*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Sum of Square</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Mean Square</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regression</td>
<td>38.913</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12.971</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residual</td>
<td>30497.199</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>61.486</td>
<td>.211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30536.112</td>
<td>499</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Predictors (constant) poverty, ignorance and gender
Dependent variable: Social Restiveness Behaviour.
The findings and conclusion reached in this study have far-reaching implications for the counselling profession and our education system in Nigeria.

Implication for Counselling

The findings and conclusion reached in this study have far-reaching implications for the counselling profession and our education system in Nigeria.
Since social restiveness behavior has become the talk of the day among Rivers and Bayelsa states youths in Nigeria, preventive counselling approach to curbing restive behavior among youths should be applied right from primary school. Poverty alleviation programmes should be encouraged and effectively managed.

If preventive approach to tackling youth restiveness behaviour is to be effective, more professionally trained counsellors should be employed to render effective counselling services to the teeming population of youths in Rivers/Bayelsa States and Nigeria at large.

Individual or group counselling mode should be utilized by counsellor to re-orientate youths who have been identified as likely culprits of restive behavior.

Recommendation

Youths seminar and workshop which could help to minimize social restiveness behavior should be organized and youths of various sort should be encouraged to attend.

The states government should without further delay come out with a policy statement on the employment of the citizenry to stop unemployment of its youths.

Schools should be equipped and youths educated to curb ignorance in the society.

All the poverty alleviation programmes mounted by the government should be revived and adequately organized.

Salaries of workers should be increased and economic activities developed to boost the National economy.

References


This academic article was published by The International Institute for Science, Technology and Education (IISTE). The IISTE is a pioneer in the Open Access Publishing service based in the U.S. and Europe. The aim of the institute is Accelerating Global Knowledge Sharing.

More information about the publisher can be found in the IISTE’s homepage: http://www.iiste.org

CALL FOR JOURNAL PAPERS

The IISTE is currently hosting more than 30 peer-reviewed academic journals and collaborating with academic institutions around the world. There’s no deadline for submission. Prospective authors of IISTE journals can find the submission instruction on the following page: http://www.iiste.org/journals/ The IISTE editorial team promises to the review and publish all the qualified submissions in a fast manner. All the journals articles are available online to the readers all over the world without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. Printed version of the journals is also available upon request of readers and authors.

MORE RESOURCES

Book publication information: http://www.iiste.org/book/

Recent conferences: http://www.iiste.org/conference/

IISTE Knowledge Sharing Partners

EBSCO, Index Copernicus, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, JournalTOCS, PKP Open Archives Harvester, Bielefeld Academic Search Engine, Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek EZB, Open J-Gate, OCLC WorldCat, Universe Digital Library, NewJour, Google Scholar