

# Impact of Age, Gender and Discipline on Undergraduates' Perception of Causes of Youth Restiveness in Delta State of Nigeria

Evelyn Edu Ebenuwa-Okoh, Grace Omejevwe Akpochofo\*, Anna Onoyase  
Department of Guidance and Counselling, Delta State University, Abraka.  
\*E-mail of the corresponding author: omejevvel@yahoo.com

## Abstract

This study set out to investigate impact of age, gender and discipline on undergraduates' perception of causes of youth restiveness in Delta State of Nigeria. One research question and two hypotheses guided the study. Literature was reviewed. The sample size was 275 respondents who were drawn using multi-stage random sampling technique. A thirty item questionnaire was used to collect data. The instrument has face and content validity. It has a reliability index of 0.75. The data was analysed using descriptive statistics and ANOVA. The results revealed that the variables of gender and age have no impact on undergraduates' perception of the causes of youths' restiveness. But the discipline of students has impact on their perception of the causes of youth's restiveness in Delta State. Recommendations were made based on findings.

## 1. Introduction

Youth restiveness is household threat to most families in Nigeria. This is because most families are victims of their acts of violence and aggression which take the forms of kidnapping, stealing, cultism, terrorism as well as disruption of lawful activities.

The National Youth Development Policy (2001) defines youth as people aged 18 – 35 years. They constitute about 40% of the estimate 150 million people in Nigeria. The above statistics revealed that the youths remain a formidable asset any society can possess. They are the greatest potential for sustainable development particularly when their energies are rightly channeled. This brings productivity, creativity which sustains and develops the economy of the country.

In light of the above, Enueme and Onyene (2010) opined that positive, fundamental and meaningful changes across cultural setting are usually engineered, fostered and reshaped by the generation of youths. They further emphasized that any community whether micro or macro that do not allow the bunch of youth to dissipate their energies in positive activities risk her future viability and survival.

Literature reviewed revealed that Nigeria society is coloured with inverted values, marginalization, bad governance, religious bigotry, poverty, unemployment, insensitivity of government to the plight of the populace, oil exploration resulting to environmental degradation, depletion of land and sea environment causing health and occupational hazards to their victims, abuse of human rights of the oil communities, low infrastructure, low industrialization, lack of Federal government commitment towards the enforcement of standards in the oil companies to operate without hindrances, with adequate restitution and compensation to the affected community. When these youths see these injustices naturally, they generate conflicts as they watch their treasures being carted away by wicked individuals.

The only way to react to the injustice is to get involved in restive activities. Youth restiveness in Delta State is a combination of any action, conduct or act that are unwholesome, socially unacceptable and unworthwhile (Odusi, 2010). The acts make them to be perpetrators of violent actions such as terrorism, cultism and kidnapping.

The question is, do undergraduates who are part of the youths, perceive the actions differently? The problem of this study is, what are the impact of gender, age, and discipline on undergraduates' perception of the causes of youth restiveness in Delta State?

The purpose of the study is to ascertain the variable of gender, age and discipline as they influence undergraduates' perception of youth restiveness in Delta State. To guide the study, a research question and two hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

## 2. Research Question

What are the impact of age, gender and discipline on undergraduates' perception of the causes of youth restiveness in Delta State?

Ho<sub>1</sub>: There is no significant difference among undergraduates' perception of the causes of youth restiveness across three faculties (Science, Education and Social Sciences) based on gender.

Ho<sub>2</sub>: There is no significant difference among undergraduates' perception of the causes of youth restiveness across three faculties (Science, Education and Social Sciences) based on age.

### 3. Methodology: Research Design

The study is survey and adopted expo-facto design. It enables youths to express their opinions with regard to the injustice perpetuated in their communities.

### 4. Participants

The population comprised all 100 and 400 level undergraduates of Delta State University, Abraka Campus. 30% of all the faculties were randomly selected. They are Faculties of Social Sciences, Sciences and Education. Two departments were randomly selected from the selected faculties and 25 students were randomly selected from each of the 6 selected departments totaling 300 respondents but 275 copies of the questionnaire were retrieved and used for the analysis.

The sample comprised 136 respondents amounting to 49.1% males and 139 respondents (50.5%) females; 100 level were 53.1% while 400 level were 46.9%. The respondents below 20 years were 61; 20-25 years (162) and above 25 years (52) across faculties of Science, Social Sciences and Education.

### 5. Measures:

The instrument used in this study is titled: "The Impact of Age, Gender and Discipline on Undergraduates' Perception of Causes of Youth Restiveness in Delta State of Nigeria". The questionnaire consists of two parts; the first part measures some demographic variables like sex, age, level while the second part measured components of youth restiveness namely; cultism 10 items, militancy 10 items, and terrorism 10 items totaling 30 items. The instrument was designed such that the participants could respond to the items on a four-point rating scale of Strongly Agree (4), Agree (3), Disagree (2) and Strongly Disagree (1). Cronbach alpha reliability procedure was used to assess the reliability value of 0.75. The procedure conforms with construct validity in items analysis and reliability.

### 6. Procedure:

Administration of the questionnaire was carried out by the researchers. Students consent were obtained. 300 copies of the questionnaire were distributed but 275 were retrieved and were used for data analysis.

### 7. Data Analysis

Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics of mean, standard deviation and analysis of variance in order to assess the impact of age, gender and discipline on undergraduates' perception of causes of youth restiveness.

### 8. Results

#### • Research Question 1

What are the impact of age, gender and discipline on undergraduates' perception of the causes of youth restiveness in Delta State?

Table 1:

Perception on causes of youth restiveness based on gender, age and discipline				
		X	SD	N
Gender	Male	90.22	9.39	136
	Female	89.58	10.54	139
	Total			275
Faculties	Science	87.78	8.94	100
	Education	92.68	11.39	76
	Social Science	89.89	9.36	99
	Total	89.89	9.97	275
Age	Below 20 years	90.885	11.566	61
	20 – 25 years	89.97	9.73	162
	Above 25 years	88.48	8.66	52
	Total	89.89	9.97	275

Table 1 shows the level of undergraduates' perception of the causes of youth restiveness in Delta State based on gender, age and discipline. In the table, the mean for males is 90.22 and SD is 9.39 while the mean for females is 89.58 and SD is 10.54. The difference in the mean between the males and females undergraduates is 0.74 which is less than one. This shows that the males and females perceives the causes of youth restiveness from the same angle. Analysis based on faculties reveals that 100 students from Faculty of Science have a mean of 87.78, Education 92.68 and Social Sciences, 89.89. Education has the highest perception on the causes of restiveness.

Also on age, students below the age of twenty has the highest mean average followed by students between age of 20-25 years and lastly above 25 years.

Ho<sub>1</sub>: There is no significant difference among undergraduates' perception of the causes of youth restiveness across three faculties (Science, Education and Social Sciences) based on gender.

Table 2: Two way ANOVA Summary on the impact of gender and discipline on undergraduates' perception of the causes of youth restiveness in Delta State.

Source	Type III sum of square	Df	Mean square	F	Sig	Partial eta squared
Corrected model	1185.349	5	237.070	2.445	.034	.043
Intercept	2115055.201	1	2115055.201	21815.016	.000	.988
Sex	61.317	1	61.317	.632	.427	.002
Faculty	996.029	2	498.014	5.137	0.006	0.037
Sex. Faculty	68.431	2	31	.353	.703	.003
Error	26080.592	269	96.954			
Total	2249549.000	275				
Corrected total	27265.942	274				

a R Squared = .043 (adjusted R squared = .026)

Table 2 shows that undergraduates' perception across faculties based on gender on the causes of youth restiveness had no significant main effect on the manifestation of restiveness.  $F(2,269) = 0.35$ ,  $P = 0.70$ , with effect size being very small (partial eta squared = 0.003). However, across the faculties only, there was a significant difference in the perception of undergraduates on the causes of youth restiveness. Post hoc test using Scheffe test indicated that the mean scores of Faculty of Education ( $92.68 \pm 11.39$ ) differs significantly with the Faculty of Science ( $87.98 \pm 8.95$ ) but did not differ from the Faculty of Social Science ( $89.89 \pm 9.36$ ), thereby significant that Faculty of Education is responsible for the main effect.

Table 3

Faculty of student	Mean difference	Std. Error	Sig	95% Confidence interval	
				Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Science Social Science	-2.1089	1.39602	0.321	-5.545	1.3273
Education	-4.9042	1.49842	0.005	-8.593	-1.216
Social Science	2.1089	1.39602	0.321	-1.327	5.5451
Education	-2.7953	1.50168	0.179	-6.492	0.901
Education Science	4.9042	1.49842	0.005	1.216	8.593
Social Science	2.7953	1.50168	0.179	-0.901	6.492

Significant < 0.05

Table 4: Two way ANOVA on Faculty and Age

Source	Type III sum of square	Df	Mean square	F	Sig	Partial eta squared
Corrected model	1474.8949	8	184.362	1.90	0.060	0.054
Intercept	1635938.97	1	1635938.97	16881.16	0.00	0.984
Faculty	547.367	2	273.683	2.82	0.060	0.021
Age	216.680	2	108.34	1.118	0.328	0.008
Faculty * Age	229.980	4	57.45	0.593	0.668	0.009
Error	2577.834	266	96.91			
Total	2249356.00	675				
Corrected total	27252.73	274				

A two way between groups analysis of variance was conducted to explore the impact of age groups on the perception of undergraduates on the causes of youth restiveness in Delta State across the faculties. The subjects were divided into 3 groups according to their ages (Group 1: Below 20 years, Group 2: 20 – 25 years, Group 3: above 25 years). There was no significant mean effect for age [ $F(2,266) = 1.118$ ,  $P = 0.33$ ]; however, the effect size as indicated by the partial eta squared is quite small (partial eta squared = 0.008). The interaction effect of Age and Faculty shows that there was no significant main effect on the perception of undergraduates on the causes of youth restiveness  $F(4,266) = 0.593$ ;  $P = 0.668$ .

## 9. Discussion of Findings

The result of this study shows that there is no gender difference in the perception on the causes of youth restiveness among undergraduates. The first hypothesis is rejected and the alternative upheld. The plausible reason for the finding could be that undergraduates irrespective of gender live in the same environment, have similar experience of these violent acts, perceived the oppression by the adult community the same way. The finding of this study agrees with Osalor (2012) who opined that youth restiveness can be caused by

marginalization, when the youth resort to restiveness because of their perceived marginalization by 'selfish' elders with a bid to getting their fair share of benefits accruing to the Community.

The results also revealed that there was significant difference across faculties. Faculties of Education had the highest mean scores, followed by Social Sciences and lastly Sciences. The reason for the difference could be that undergraduates in humanities (Education and Social Sciences) are exposed to concepts and constructs that work on human emotions, attitudes and values and because of the above, they are broad minded and easily understand situations, while those in Sciences may not be so receptive because their concepts and constructs are mostly inanimate objects and therefore they are skeptical about many things.

The finding revealed that age has no significant impact on undergraduates' perception of the causes of youth restiveness. There is also no main interaction effect between age and faculties. The likely reason for this finding is that youth restiveness has become so rampant in Nigeria that everybody, irrespective of age is feeling the impact. Iwok (2011) reported that in Akwa Ibom State, people are facing the risk of being exterminated as a result of restiveness. Continuing, he said that the trauma caused by these violent activities is so great that it has become a nightmare to the citizenry irrespective of age.

## 10. Conclusion

The findings revealed that undergraduates perceived the causes of youth restiveness the same way based on age and gender, though there were differences based on faculties or discipline. Youths, because of the pain generated as a result of unemployment, bad government, low infrastructure among others, underdevelopment acts by the "selfish adults" therefore perceived youth restiveness in the same manner as the only solution to combat oppression.

## 11. Recommendations

- Counsellors should organize workshop on values orientation for the adult community
- Youths should also be oriented that restiveness is not the only solution to combat oppression, rather dialogue should be adopted.

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