Unemployment and Security Challenges in Southern Axes of Nigeria

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Abstract: *This study examines the relationship between unemployment and insecurity in Ukwuani Local Government Area of Delta State, 2000-2023. This period witnessed high youth and security challenges in the local government and neighboring University town of Abraka. Something needed to be done by the state government. This study is part of the response to provide a framework to deal with the problem. The research method employed in this study is the quantitative research method. The questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. To achieve the objective of the study, three hypotheses were formulated and tested using the cross-sectional research design. A sample size of 200 was drawn from a population of 48,000 residents in the area. The statistical tool used for testing the formulated hypotheses in this study is the Chi-square (χ^2). Based on the analysis, it was discovered among others that youth unemployment predisposes young ones to crime leading to insecurity in the area. Based on the research findings, it is therefore recommended among others thus; entrepreneurship training scheme as a development study should be inculcated into the educational curriculum and made more practical irrespective of the course of one's area of study.*

Keywords: *Poverty, Social Problem, Youth, Violence, Unemployment, Crime, Insecurity*

INTRODUCTION

The annexation of Lagos by the British Colonial authorities in 1861 could be regarded as the real beginning of British colonial conquest of Nigeria. Before the British came, over 350 ethnic nationalities described variously as empires, caliphates, kingdoms, chiefdoms, city-states and village republics existed. Each ethnic group was governed by multiplicity of customs which were the ground norm. At that time, no ruler or set of rulers of any of the nationalities had any claim(s) of a power-state over any ethnic nationality. The most powerful of them- the Sokoto caliphate, itself about 100 years old in 1900, was encapsulated in the Nigerian system of 1914. The expansionism of the Sokoto caliphate had difficulties in its hold and control over the kingdom of Borno, part of the present day Gongola state, the Benue valley and the forest regions south of the Niger-Benue confluence. The other expansionist oriented systems such as

the old Oyo and Benin empires demonstrated limited capabilities for fear of disintegration and limited technological resources. Eventually, the colony of Lagos, the protectorates of northern and southern Nigeria was amalgamated in 1914 to form the present day Nigeria. Frederick Lugard, a military officer posted from India, was appointed Governor-General assisted by two Lieutenant Governors for Northern and Southern provinces of Nigeria and an administrator for the Lagos colony. Thus, the Nigerian nation state was a British creation.

Nigeria as a black Africa country can be regarded as one of the most densely populated among others with a population of about 150 million made up of over 250 ethnic groups (NPC, 2016). One disadvantage of such diversity in population is leadership crisis. The leadership crisis in Nigeria began in 1950 when the colonial British Government created a structural imbalance in which political power skewed in favor of the North at the Ibadan constitutional conference. What we have seen since 1999 is a total failure in political leadership with no hope in sight. This has led to socio-economic crisis. The socio-economic crisis in the country is seen everywhere at the various levels of governance: federal, state or local government area. At the beginning of the Fourth Republic in October 1999, the economic climate was bright. Nigeria grew at an average annual economic growth of over 7.0 percent from 2001-2014, making it among the top 10 performing economies in Africa during the period (Federal office of Statistics Abuja, 2015). The growth was not inclusive because there was no focus on increasing power supply, revitalizing agriculture, enhancing the industrial sector and above all, diversifying the economy from high dependence on oil. Since 1999, Nigeria has had National Economic Empowerment Development Strategies: Vision 20 in 2020, the Nigeria Transformation Agenda, and now the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan. These development plans have had no impact on the economy and the living condition of the people, leading to unemployment in the country. The poor state of the economy has heated up the country affecting every corner of Nigeria including Ukwuani Local Government Area.

Statement of the Problem
The concept of unemployment is not a new phenomenon in Nigeria. It is a global phenomenon whereby eligible work force of a nation is disengaged in the service of the nation. Unemployment is not only a serious issue but has social implications that affects almost all countries and its citizenry either directly or indirectly (Olubukola, 2013). Unemployment leads to loss of personal values and self-esteem. It makes the individual vulnerable and often creates room for manipulations by the elites of the society. Poor governance, lack of political will and the degenerating state of the Nigerian economy have created insecurity and youth unemployment in the country especially in rural areas like Ukwuani Local Government Area which is the focus of this study. This area has experienced a rise in unemployment from 2000-2016 especially among youths (Police Report, Delta State, 2016). During this period there has

been increase in armed robbery, political thuggery, kidnapping, internet crimes and prostitution among girls. These criminal activities have given rise to security challenges in the local government area which has been a great concern to the Delta state government and the general public.

Some scholars have contended on the issue of unemployment. One among others is Adejumo and Tayo Olajubulu (2019) who says that unemployment has been identified as one of the major causes of social vice including armed robbery, destitution, prostitution, political thuggery and kidnapping, hostage taking and many more. The social vices are prevalent in Ukwuani Local Government Area which has caused so much unrest in the area. The Delta state government has made concerted efforts in addressing the challenges of unemployment and one of such challenges is insecurity. Some of the efforts by the Delta State government are seen in the areas of job creation, youth's entrepreneurship skill program to engage the youth. However all these programs have not been able to address the issue of unemployment which is evident in the high rate of crime/insecurity in the region. The aim of this study therefore is to examine the relationship between unemployment and insecurity, and to seek to proffer solutions to the issue of unemployment. The following specific objectives were formulated; examine the relationship between unemployment and poverty and identify the impact of unemployment on the level of security. The following hypothesis are there is no significant relationship between unemployment and insecurity, there is no significant relationship between unemployment and poverty.

LITERTURE REVIEW

Concept of Unemployment

Unemployment literally is seen as a phenomenon that occurs when a person who is actively searching for employment is unable to find work. Meaning that such persons are involuntarily unemployed (Ekpo, 2011). According to Nicholas (2000), a person is unemployed if he or she is eligible for work but does not have a job. Unemployment is a very complex phenomenon for which there is no standard definition instead various countries adopts definitions that suit their local priorities. The International Labor Organization (ILO) conceptualizes unemployment thus: "when people are without jobs, and they have actively sought work within the past four years" (ILO, 2012). From this, unemployment is a condition in which persons that is capable and willing to work cannot find work whether in the formal or informal settings. This is to say that unemployment exists in institutional structures like ministries, manufacturing sectors among others. Hussani, 2014 puts it this way that unemployment addresses a situation where individuals actively seeking jobs remain un-hired.

From time immemorial, the subject of unemployment has always been an issue of great concern to the economists, policy makers and economic managers alike giving the devastating effects of this phenomenon on individuals, the society and economy at large (Bello, 2023). Unemployment is undesirable, bringing socio-economic vices in the society. It has numerous consequences to the society it visits. According to Nicholas et al (2010), the role of unemployment in socio-economic development can be summarized at thus:

- **Escalation of crime rate:** An idle mind they say is the devil's workshop, and as a result of this many unemployed youths and able bodies men and women engages themselves in crime such as armed robbery, prostitution, etc. in order to earn a living.
- **It causes migration:** This also means flight of youths and able bodied men from the state in search of better opportunities elsewhere, thereby reducing the labor force and producing capacity in the state (Akande, 2009 and Okuwa, 2019).
- **Increase in dependents:** The unemployed increases the number of dependents and contribute in sapling the income of their families' instead of contributing to hem. This can lead to instability in homes.
- **Social outing:** Unemployment may bring a decrease in social outings and interactions with other people, including friends.
- **Lose of skills usage:** The unemployed is not able to put his/her skills to use. And in a situation where it goes on for too long the person may have lose some of his/her skills.

Concept of Security/Insecurity

The term security can be seen as the degree of protection from harm by government. However, security is relative freedom from war, coupled with a relatively high expectation that defeat will not be a consequence of any war that should occur (Bellamy, 1981). National security can be seen to mean developing relatively stable patterns of economic development and political growth in home country and abroad. This is why Imobighe (2015) sees security as a feeling of the people within a nation of being protected from fear, anxiety, violence, oppression, unwarranted restrictions. From these definitions, it should be noted that national security by extension covers also environmental security, food security, among others. Without nation security other aspect of the nation cannot function to its optimum as there will be a state of insecurity.

Insecurity can literally mean the condition of a state if it is not secured. National insecurity is caused by the failure of national government to address the special needs of its people. Needs like hunger, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy among others. Abraham Maslow describes an insecure person who "perceives the world as a threatening jungle and most human beings as dangerous and selfish; feels rejected and isolate, anxious and hostile; is generally pessimistic

and unhappy; shows signs of tension and conflict, tend to turn inward; is troubled by guilt feelings, has one or another manifestations of low self-esteem, tends to be neurotic; and is generally selfish and egocentric .this actually depicts the state of individuals in Ukwuani LGA.

Unemployment and Crime Rate in Ukwuani Local Government Area.
Crime is one major problem otherwise a burning issue that Nigeria, as a country is confronted on daily basis. One major cause universally agreed, is the rising or increasing nature of youths unemployment (Nwigbo and Imo-Ita, 2016). As further put by these authors, this perhaps explained why problem of extreme unemployment and its related sister-hunger are number one good of the MDG's. In this effort, holistic development is recognized as the react antidote to crime. That is, development enables people to fully realize their potentials and so if achieved; crime in the society will be controlled. The unemployment rate in Nigeria is increasing and the youths are beginning to look at creating job for themselves. On the issue of unemployment and crime; Olawale Anjoirin at channels News (April 21, 2014) pointed out that the Nigerian government has not accepted the fact that unemployment was the 'father of insurgency'. According to him, security analysts have said that the increasing number of unemployed was contributing to the increase in crime rate and this is peculiar to Ukwuani youths.

Also, on an interview at channels News(April 21, 2014), Air Vice Marshal Saliu Balariba noted that keeping our youths gainfully engaged will no doubt bring crime rates to the barest minimum which in turn impact positively on the overall security of the nation. It is therefore obvious as the study assert that unemployment breed crime therefore resulting to insecurity in the society.

Unemployment and Security in Ukwuani Local Government Area.
According to the popular maxim "The situation whereby majority of the people are poor and hungry and a lot of youths are jobless and unemployed will, doubtlessly, engender high insecurity in the society. The high ware of crime, robbery among youths has been deterring the state of security. Osi (2001), maintained that the fact that autonomous consumption is inevitable makes some feeble minded ones indulge in robbery. Nicholas et al (2000), posits that the social consequence of unemployment for those who are out of work include higher incidence of poverty. Thus, unemployment has driven many youths into various activities to make ends meet and most of these activities are criminal in nature thereby constituting a threat to the society's security. There have been instances in which young graduates were arrested for being involved in one form of crime or another especially examination malpractices. Most of the "criminal graduates" attribute their involvement in crimes to the unemployment situation in the country. The cover story of the New Magazine (26 September, 2011), was captioned

"Graduate Bandits on the prowl". According to the report, most of the "graduate robbers "that were interviewed argued that they took to crime for wants of jobs.

Frustration-Aggression Theory

This study adopts the frustration-aggression theory as a theoretical framework to explain and draw meaningful relationship between the variables: unemployment and insecurity. This theory by John Dollard (1939) states that "aggression is always a consequence of frustration" and that "frustration always led to some form of aggression". As theorized, frustration breeds hostility and produces anger (an emotional drive towards aggression). Sociologically, aggressive behaviour results when purposeful activity is interrupted or non-existent. When youth have nothing to do to earn a living, they remain in the 'poverty trap', leading to frustration. This situation fits neatly into the old adage: idle mind is the devil's workshop. Hostile aggression springs from anger.

Unemployment poses a serious problem to democratic governance as well as the security integrity of the nation and the consequences have number of security implications. For example, lack of youth employment opportunities has contributed to youth involvement in rural conflict and criminal activities in Ukwuani Local Government Area today. This is evident in the recent Amai and Obiaruku clash in 2016 which was as a result of land dispute. The youths who were involved in this fight were found to be jobless thus, they were the 'tools' used by the individual elite in the towns during the conflict. Rotimi (2011) states that the increased rate of violence, crime and cultism are connected with unemployment. In other words, people tend to resort to violence when they are oppressed, discriminated against, socially isolated or economically deprived.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

The cross-sectional research design was adopted in this study. This research design using the quantitative approach contained detailed discussion of population, sampling technique and sample size, instrument for data collection, method of data collection, method of data analysis and test of reliability and validity. Each of these elements was discussed in details to achieve the objectives of the study. The population of the study covers the entire towns in Ukwuani Local Government Area. There are ten towns that make up Ukwuani LGA, they include; Akoku, Amai, Ebedei, Ezeona, Eziokpor, Obiaruku, Umuaja, Umuebu, Umukwata and Umutu. Due to time and financial constraints, four randomly selected towns: Amai, Eziokpor, Obiaruku and Umuebu were used for this study. The sampling frame consisted of everyone residing in the four towns of the population with a total of 48,000 residents (source: fieldwork, 2018).

Employing the systematic random sampling technique, a sample size of two hundred (200) were selected. Thus;

The population (N) i.e. N/n= 48,000   = 240

The sample size (n) 200

Selecting every 240th respondents in the population of 48,000, the researcher arrived at 200 as the sample size.

Method of Data Analysis

Simple percentage was used to analyzing the research questions. The procedure entails the summation of numbers of responses obtained for each of Yes or No, Each of these values was divided by the total number of the subject used and then multiplied by 100.

i.e. Number of response   x   100

   Total number   1

However, chi-square (χ^2) test was used in analysis of the data collected and this was used to test the hypothesis stated. This is because the collected data was ordinal which helped to determine the level of significance difference for conclusion to be drawn

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

Where:

χ^2 = Chi-square

Fo = frequency of observed value

Fe = frequency of expected value.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSION OF FINDINGS

1. Frequency Distribution of Responses by Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	74	43.5
Female	96	56.5
Total	**170**	**100**

Source: Field work, 2024

As shown in the table, 96(56.5%) of the respondent were female and 74(43.5%) were male respondents.

2. Frequency Distribution of Respondent by Marital status

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage%
Single	68	40.0
Married	86	50.6
Divorced	10	5.9
Widowed	4	2.4
Widower	2	1.2
Total	**170**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

From the above table, respondents that were married 86 (50.6%) dominated the respondents that are widowers 2 (1.2%).

3. Frequency Distribution of Respondents by Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage%
15-25	54	31.8
26-35	98	57.6
36-45	18	10.6
Total	**170**	**100**

Sources: Fieldwork, 2024

From the above table respondent between the age bracket of 26 to 25 years dominated with 98 of 57.6% while respondents within the age bracket of 36 to 45 years have the lowest respondent with 18 0f 10.6%.

4. Frequency Distribution of Respondent by Religion

Religion	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Christianity	152	89.4
Muslim	8	4.7
Traditional	6	3.5
Other	4	2.4
Total	**170**	**100**

Sources: Fieldwork, 2024

From this table above, respondents who were Christians dominated the sample with 152 of 89.4% while respondents who belonged to others are the lowest with 4 of 2.4%.

5. Frequency Distribution of Respondents according to Educational Status

Educational status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Uneducated	20	11.8
Student	70	41.2
Graduate	80	47.1
Total	**170**	**100**

Sources: Fieldwork, 2024

From this table above, respondents that were graduates dominated the sample with 80 of 47.1% while respondents who are uneducated were the lowest with 20 of 11.8%.

Hypothesis Testing

In analysis and testing of the research hypothesis, the chi-square statistical method was used. This is calculated as:

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

Where; Fo is the frequency observed and

Fe is the frequency expected.

Decision Rules

When calculated, if the value is less than the critical value, we will accept the Ho (null hypothesis) but when the value calculated is greater than the critical value, we will reject the Ho (null hypothesis) and H_1 (alternate hypothesis).

Hypothesis 1

H_o There is no significant relationship between unemployment and insecurity. In order to test for this hypothesis item 1,2,3,4 and 5 of the questionnaire were used.

Table 5: Summary of Responses to Hypothesis one

S/N	Items	Response		Row Total	Percentage (%)	
		Yes	No		Yes	No
1	Are you employed?	112	58	170	65.9	34.1
2	Do you think there is a relationship between unemployment and insecurity in Ukuwani LGA?	148	22	170	87.1	12.9
3	Do people leave Ukuwani LGA because of unemployment?	142	28	170	83.5	16.5
4	Can you be comfortable to stay late after 8p.m?	48	122	170	28.2	71.8
5	If people are employed will it reduce the level of insecurity in this area?	156	12	170	91.8	7.1
	Total	**606**	**242**	**850**	**356.5**	**142.4**

Sources: Fieldwork, 2024

From this table above, the expected frequency can be calculated using the formula

$$\frac{Row\ total\ of\ yes\ and\ no\ response \times column\ total\ of\ each\ responses}{Grand\ total}$$

Expected value for 112= $\frac{170x606}{850}$ =121.2

Expected value for 58= $\frac{170x242}{850}$ =48.4

Expected value for 148= $\frac{170x606}{850}$ =121.2

Expected value for 22= $\frac{170x242}{850}$ =48.4

Expected value for 142= $\frac{170x606}{850}$ =121.2

Expected value for 28= $\frac{170x242}{850}$ =48.4

Expected value for 48= $\frac{170x606}{850}$ =121.2

Expected value for 122= $\frac{170x242}{850}$ =48.4

Expected value for 156= $\frac{170x606}{850}$ =121.2

Expected value for 12= $\frac{170x242}{850}$ =48.4

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{(112 - 121.2)^2}{121.2} + \frac{(58 - 48.4)^2}{48.4} + \frac{(148 - 121.2)^2}{121.2} + \frac{(22 - 48.4)^2}{48.4}$$
$$+ \frac{(142 - 121.2)^2}{121.2} + \frac{(28 - 48.2)^2}{48.4} + \frac{(48 - 121.2)^2}{121.2} + \frac{(122 - 48.4)^2}{48.4}$$
$$+ \frac{(156 - 121.2)^2}{121.2} + \frac{(12 - 48.4)^2}{48.4}$$

$$X^2 = 0.70 + 1.90 + 5.9 + 14.4 + 3.6 + 8.4 + 44.2 + 112 + 10 + 27.4$$
$$X^2 = 228.5$$

The degree of freedom (Df) = (R-1)(C-1)

Df =(5-1)(2-1)

Df =(4)(1)

Df =4

Therefore at the degree of freedom of 4 under the significant level of 0.05 is 9.49. From the table, the calculated value of 228.5 is greater than critical table value of 4 under significant level 0.05 which is 9.49. The null hypothesis is therefore rejected.

Conclusion: There is a significant relationship between unemployment and insecurity.

Hypothesis 2

There is no significant relationship between unemployment and poverty. In order to test for the hypothesis, item 1,2,3,4 and 5 of the questionnaire were used.

Table 6: Summary of Response to Hypothesis Two

S/N	Items	Response		Row Total	Percentage (%)	
		Yes	No		Yes	No
1	Are unemployed people poor people?	88	82	170	51.8	48.2
2	Are you able to afford balanced meals daily?	90	80	170	53.0	47.1
3	Do you often stop for clothing?	99	71	170	58.2	41.8
4	Are you able to pay your housing bills at the appropriate time?	98	72	170	57.6	42.4
5	Is your source of income got from family and menial jobs?	86	84	170	50.6	49.4
	Total	**461**	**389**	**850**	**271.2**	**228.9**

Sources: Fieldwork, 2024

The expected frequency can be calculated as follow:

Expected value for 88 $= \frac{170 X 461}{850} = 92.2$

Expected value for 82 $= \frac{170 X 389}{850} = 77.8$

Expected value for 90 $= \frac{170 X 461}{850} = 92.2$

Expected value for 80 $= \frac{170 X 389}{850} 77.8$

Expected value for 99 $= \frac{170 X 461}{850} = 92.2$

Expected value for 71 $= \frac{170 X 389}{850} = 77.8$

Expected value for 98 $= \frac{170 X 461}{850} = 92.2$

Expected value for 72 $= \frac{170 X 389}{850} = 77.8$

Expected value for 86 $= \frac{170 X 461}{850} = 92.2$

Expected value for 84 $= \frac{170 X 389}{850} = 77.8$

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(f_o - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{(88 - 99.2)^2}{99.2} + \frac{(82 - 77.8)^2}{48.4} + \frac{(90 - 92.2)^2}{92.2} + \frac{(80 - 77.8)^2}{92.2} + \frac{(99 - 92.2)^2}{92.2}$$
$$+ \frac{(71 - 77.8)^2}{77.8} + \frac{(98 - 92.2)^2}{92.2} + \frac{(72 - 77.8)^2}{77.8} + \frac{(86 - 92.2)^2}{92.2}$$
$$+ \frac{(84 - 77.8)^2}{77.8}$$

$$X^2 = 0.19 + 0.22 + 0.05 + 0.06 + 0.50 + 0.59 + 0.36 + 0.43 + 0.42 + 0.49$$

$$X^2 = 3.31$$

The degree of freedom (Df) = (R-1)(C-1)

Df =(5-1)(2-1)

Df =(4)(1)

Df =4

Therefore at the degree of freedom of 4 under the significant level of 0.05 is 9.49.
From the table, the calculated value of 4 under significant level of 0.05 which is 9.49. The null hypothesis is therefore accepted.

Conclusion: There is no significant relationship between unemployment and poverty.
The first hypothesis showed that there was a significant relationship between unemployment and insecurity. This shows that when unemployment is increasing, there is tendency for increase in the level of insecurity. This view is in line with the study of Osi (2001) on a research on the consequences of unemployment where he argued that, the fact that autonomous consumption is inevitable makes some feeble minded ones indulge in robbery leading to insecurity in the society. This finding is supported by the frustration-aggression theory of John Dollard which asserts that when people are frustrated; they become aggressive taking into violent and criminal activities which make society unsecured for her members. Unemployment indeed can breed frustrated people in the society. These studies have shown that unemployment have negative effects on the development of a nation because of its impact on the level of peace and security.

The second hypothesis tested that there was no significant relationship between unemployment and poverty. That is to say that not all poor people are unemployed people or in other words, unemployment does not at all time breed poverty. The view is in line with Peter Saunders (2002) in his book; 'The Direct and Indirect Effects of Unemployment on Poverty and Inequality'. He opined that unemployment does not always lead to poverty in the society. According to him, one reason why unemployment may not be associated with poverty concerns the possibility that other family members may have income sufficient to keep the family above the poverty line, even when one of its (adult) members is unemployed. It was observed that 'family' is one major source of income to most Ukuwani people. A family with a well to do member who can cater for the whole household does not regard themselves poor even though there may be some other members of the family who are unemployed (youths).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study findings showed that there is a link between unemployment and insecurity in Ukwuani Local Government Area. Policing infrastructure need to be strengthened by training and increased funding particularly in the areas of police equipment and staff welfare. Against this background, the study recommended the following:

1. Government at all levels should as a matter of priority, create jobs through proper macro-economic management of the economy. This will help to mop-up employable youths, enhance peace and development.
2. There should be entrepreneurship schemes and distribution of starter-packs (empowerment) to create small businesses that can employ or train 5-10 persons to avoid youth entrapment in recidivism (high turnover of youth criminals in prison and police cells).
3. Government at all levels, should fund agricultural programs in the universities, polytechnics and colleges of education to lure young ones to farming which in multiplier effect guarantee food security and farmer entrepreneurs.
4. Entrepreneur schemes should be inculcated into the educational system and made more practical irrespective of one's individual course of study.

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