

## Effects of Youth Unemployment on the Nigerian Society: The Need for Resourceful Intervention

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### **Abstract**

*Nigeria is one of the most resource-endowed nations in the world, but its citizens are among the poorest in the world. Sequel to this, this study examines the effects of youth unemployment despite the huge human and natural resources in the country with the view to dismantling the time bomb youth unemployment portends in a developing economy such as Nigeria. Three hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. Literatures related to the variables were reviewed and the theory of Surplus Value was employed as theoretical framework. A survey research was adopted and a total of 150 respondents were selected using purposive sampling technique and simple random sampling technique, while chi-square( $X^2$ ) statistical technique was employed to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance with degree of freedom and critical values relative to the statistical technique employed. Among the findings, the analysis revealed that the Nigerian youth has become more disillusioned by the day, especially with the strong feeling of frustration about his inability to be employed when he is capable, willing and qualified to work. Furthermore, the increasing rate of unemployment amongst youths has increased the wave of armed robbery, prostitution, drug trafficking kidnapping, terror threats, and ongoing abductions of Nigerians with reckless abandon. Again, the study links youth unemployment to violence, drug trafficking and sometimes suicide. From these findings, the study concluded that since the rate of youth unemployment is likely to climb further in the country, government should create jobs and prosecute all individuals who have corruptly enriched themselves thereby denying youths the opportunities of being employed. Based on this, the study recommended that more efforts should be made by governments at all levels to create jobs and strengthen job market regulation so that young people with education or skills can live a meaningfully and contribute to the country development. Finally, government and policy makers should strengthen the laws and regulation relating to gender balance in the job market in order to give equal chance to the youth with the same level of skills or education.*

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**Key words:** *Unemployment; Youth unemployment; Crime; frustration; Violence*

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### **Introduction**

In recent times, youth unemployment has become one of the very first set of thoughts that comes to mind wherever the country's budget is to be presented. Youth unemployment with the glaring evidence of joblessness in every nook and cranny of the society has become one of the fundamental developmental challenges facing Nigeria at the moment. According to Kayode, A. et al. (2014), there was no time in Nigeria's chequered history where unemployment is as serious as now. Regrettably, one can really conclude that the government has not done anything substantially enough to reduce unemployment in Nigeria. In other words, there is no doubt that the unemployment rate has more than tripled ever since President Buhari assumed office(May, 2015) and the country's spiraling youth unemployment have significantly contributed to the dramatic rise in criminal activities such

as armed robbery (Salami, 2013), civil unrest, terror threats, abductions and kidnapping of persons irrespective of status or age. Writing, Kahraman (2011) observes that youth unemployment is a difficult issue facing both major challenges facing both developed and developing countries in the world. Admittedly, the problem of youth unemployment is more critical to developing countries due to the high poverty levels requiring all people to work in order to ensure survival (International Labour Organization, 2011). According to International Labour Organization's statistics, global youth unemployment has increased by 3.4 million from 2007 to 2012 and is expected to continue increasing in the future (International Labour Organization, 2011). Currently, unemployment is one of the most serious micro economic variables that a responsive government not only tries to control, but ensures that it is as low as possible. Unfortunately, in Nigeria, one of the most primary problems annoying the Nigerian youth has been the growing rate of unemployment a South Korea, Singapore and Indonesia, but while these have experienced marked industrialization with improved quality of life for the vast majority of their populations, Nigeria with all her abundant natural resources is currently battling with high rate of youth unemployment.

Aside from terrorism, youth unemployment is one of the greatest threats to national security mainly because idle hands are the devil's workshop (Okun, 1995). The Nigerian youth has become more disillusioned by the day, especially with the strong feeling of frustration about his inability to be employed when he is capable, willing and qualified to work, and as a result, majority of them are no longer able to their primary psychological needs (Olakitan, 2015). Nigeria's unemployment has worsened as 18.8% of Nigerian youths are jobless (Premium Times, 2019). Contributing earlier, Doreo (2013) averred that unemployment rate in Nigeria is growing at the rate of 16% per year with the youth impacted the most and accounting for three times the general unemployment. As the state of youth unemployment deteriorates, many promising young people out of frustration have taken to illegal activities, while others have been indoctrinated into religious fanaticism and kidnapping and other criminal activities. Put differently, youth unemployment is very expensive and when it is not well managed, its far-reaching implications on the economy can be very disastrous. 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 (Rufus, & Oluwatumise, 2017). 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 (Rufus, & Oluwatumise, 2017)

It is in this light that the questions on the lips of everyone prior to the country's budget's presentation are: Will the budget address the ever-increasing rate of youth unemployment? How will the government tackle it, and above all, what measures are there in the budget that will reduce corruption and boost employment for our youths who have been roaming about aimlessly, and some even getting into crime? In as much as one does not support whatever reasons that may be adduced for their involvement in crime, but will the government continue to gloss over the plight of the youths as if all is well? Aside this, will the Economic Fraud and Crime Commission (EFCC) stop playing the ostrich and prosecute all corrupt persons who have defrauded millions of Nigerians through jobs scams?

All these projected questions are expected to be addressed by the budget because Nigerian youths have been hard hit by the downturn in the economy. Without a doubt, youth unemployment is worrisome because more and more young people have become frustrated and fearful of the ugly trend. From this perspective, one of the most primary problems infuriating the Nigerian youths is the growing rate of unemployment in a nation so richly

endowed with natural and human resources. Nigeria as a country is very rich in human and mineral resources, yet millions of her young people daily ply the streets in search for jobs where none really exists; they go to bed hungry, have no access to adequate housing or decent clothing; do not have access to health care services. Clearly, the potential mental consequences of youth unemployment have become very immense resulting to social ills imprinting self destruction and causing damages to the Nigerian society (Alanana, 2003). As unemployment becomes a potentially dangerous phenomenon sending disturbing signal to all segments of the society (Alanana, 2003), the youths have remain unemployed and more dispirited than ever before. Regrettably, the government appears naive and insensitive about the seriousness of youth unemployment. This has led to flocks of adolescents who roam about the streets looking for means of keeping body and soul together.

It is in view of this that the International Labor Organization regards unemployment as the whole populace of competent individuals residing in a community that were expected to be part of the economic and active persons however are staying with no work and are likewise willing and accessible for employment (Adebayo, 1999). The suggestion of the above classification is that joblessness is the total number of persons within the working class and these are people among the ages of 18 and above years as required by the constitution of Nigeria, and these are making series of attempts and accessible for work within a stated or given time. This is not only a working class people who do not have work, however these are individuals that are interested and are vigorously look for and are very much accessible for the employment. Such a personality is duly fit for gainful work and has attained chains of applications or tried diverse recruitment chances but was not successful to secure any job (Bell & Blanchflower, 2010). Supporting, Adebayo (1999) defined unemployment a “state in which people who can work are without jobs and are seeking for pay or profit”. This results in a socio-economic backlog and continually rising expectations in the masses that are still waiting for an improved quality of life, social welfare, and job opportunities (Adebayo, 1999).

Writing on the negative trend of youth unemployment, scholars have asserted that armed robbery has become one of the most glamorous and fastest growing crimes nowadays. Since unemployment has caused youths not having any sustainable means of livelihood, armed robbery tends to become a viable alternative. Thus, the high rate of armed robbery is generally seen as one of the consequences of youth unemployment in the country. Nigeria’s population was estimated to have reached 198 million this year with more than half its people less than 30 years of age without access to employment despite their inner most desire to seek employment and work to improve their status in the society.

Nigeria’s population is estimated to have reached 198 million in 2020 with more than half its people less than 30 years of age without access to employment despite their inner most desire to seek employment and work to improve their status in the society. Consequently, the feeling of rejection and personal failure in them can only be imagined. Broadly speaking, the frustration that stares every youth in the face is coming against the background that Nigeria is ranked as the sixth biggest producer of oil in the world and also a leading producer of natural gas, yet youth unemployment pervades the land. Evidently, the consequences of unemployment are not short lived; rather they create a sudden disorder in the society, prolonging a long term effect (Wangmo, 2012). The impact of this according to Wangmo, 2012), will be felt rather with a “ripple effect” with very negligible start at one point, eventually loading with an extensive impact to the society, then to the nation and the globe in the long run.

Going by the level of social unrest across the country, it is evident that one in every two Nigerians in the country’s labour force is either unemployed or underemployed. This gloomy

statistics was one of the key highlights of the latest unemployment report published by Nigeria's Bureau of Statistics, which shows the most recent data as of second quarter of 2020(Q2 2020). While Nigeria's unemployment rate has climbed to 27.1% (up from 23.1% in Q3 2018, when the unemployment report was last published), the country's underemployment rate—which reflects those working less than 40 hours a week, or in jobs that underutilize a person's skills, time, or education—has increased to 28.6%. With a labour force of 80.2 million, that means about 21.7 million Nigerians are unemployed, a figure that exceeds the population of 35 of Africa's 54 countries. Among young Nigerians aged between 25 and 34, the largest bloc of the labour force, the unemployment rate currently stands even higher, at 30.7%. The report is particularly uncomplimentary for the government of the day for her ungainly economic policies to drive growth and create jobs. Empirical evidence suggests that youth unemployment is much higher in Nigeria prior to the current recession the country has been plunged into by a government that seems to have lost the art of good governance (Omoniyi, 2016). Succinctly, Nigeria is still far from operating her government according to the elements of good governance. Since government is the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented, Nigeria seems to have concentrated more on making laudable political programmes and propaganda that lack implementations. For example, it is in this country that over 500,000 Nigerian youths were corruptly tricked into purchasing scratch cards at the rate one thousand naira each in order to apply for the 4,500 job openings (Olakitan, 2015). This exercise remains a sad commentary in the annals of seeking employment. With lives lost during the ill-fated recruitment exercise, none of the shenanigans was docked; they made away with millions of naira living off lavishly at the expense of the Nigerian youths. Evidently, youth unemployment in Nigeria has reached a crisis point. As a result, most parents are not only frustrated but also traumatized at seeing their children take to crimes and prostitution because of unemployment. According to Olakitan (2015), good governance demands that processes and institutions produce results that meet the needs of the society while making the best use of resources at their disposal. Presently, it is discomfiting that majority of Nigerians especially youths are now at crossroads because of their inability to meet their primary psychological needs.

From the foregoing, it is clear that the increasing wave of armed robbery, kidnapping, terror threats, and ongoing abductions of Nigerians with reckless abandon, according to several scholars, is due to the high level of youth unemployment. In their submission, they unanimously agreed that the only way to curb/control such national embarrassment for the government is to treat the rate of unemployment among young people as a national emergency and stop the inadvertent manner and form the situation is being addressed. Sequel to this, it is obvious that youth unemployment is an abnormal phenomenon that requires a quick surgical treatment to do away with menace because it is destructive to the Nigerian society.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

The increasing rate of youth unemployment has significantly contributed to the dramatic rise in social unrest in the country. Unemployment constitutes a series of serious developmental problems and is increasingly more serious all over Nigeria as the largest proportions of the unemployed are university and polytechnic graduates. Currently, there is a 40% unemployment rate among urban youth aged twenty to twenty-four. Also there is a 31% rate among those aged fifteen to nineteen, and two-thirds of the urban unemployed who are fifteen to twenty-four years old. For a long time now, Nigeria has been characterized by youth unemployment (Alanana, 2003). Furthermore, Alanana (2003) opines that unemployment is potentially dangerous as it sends disturbing signal to all segments of the

Nigerian Society. From the foregoing analysis, it is obvious that while we lament about Nigeria's unemployment crisis, it is imperative to hold that it does not exist in a vacuum. Youth unemployment is due to corruption. Corruption is a global problem and no country of the world is totally free of its menacing grip. The differentiation in the scale of corruption perception index from one country to another, according to Ocholor (2011) is on the level of its commonness, and the honesty, committed willingness of the people in putting a halt to it. Unfortunately, in Nigeria, every level of the society has been deeply permeated by a pervasive and debilitating culture of corruption. In this mess, Nigerian youths cannot find jobs because none has been created.

It is in this view that the objective of this study is to examine the effects of youth unemployment on the Nigerian society and the need for resourceful intervention. Other objectives include:-

- (i) To comprehend the effects of youth unemployment from a psychological perspective.
- (ii) To explore Nigerian youths' involvement in criminal activities as a result of unemployment.
- (iii) To identify the function of youth unemployment plays their involvement in violence.

In pursuance of the aforementioned, three hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. They include:

- (i) There is a significant relationship between the impacts of youth unemployment and psychological trauma experienced
- (ii) There is a significant relationship between youth unemployment and their involvement in criminal activities
- (iii) There is a significant relationship between youth unemployment and their involvement in violence

From the discussions thereof, it is certain that one of the most primary problems infuriating the Nigerian youths is the growing rate of unemployment in a nation so richly endowed with natural and human resources.

### **3. Theoretical Frame work**

#### **3.1 Marxist theory of unemployment**

The theory of Surplus Value is one of the postulations of Karl Marx developed in 1863. Karl Marx was a great German economist, philosopher, political activist, revolutionary and his theoretical postulations provided a materialist interpretation of history, a dialectical method of analysis, and a critical stance toward existing social arrangements. It is in this vein that Marx vociferously argues that the materialist view of history starts from the premise that the most important determinant of social life is the work people are doing, especially work that results in provision of the basic necessities of life, food, clothing and shelter.

Karl Marx, in this theory, accepts as true that unemployment is inherent within the unstable capitalist system and periodic crises of mass unemployment are to be expected. However, capitalism, he asserts, unfairly manipulates the labour market by perpetuating unemployment which lowers labourers' demand for fair wages. In other words, workers are 'marched' against one another at the service of increasing profits for owners. In Marx's conception, the only way to permanently eliminate unemployment is to abolish capitalism and the system of forced competition for wages, and then shift to the socialist or communist economic system. Thus, the existence of persistent unemployment is a proof of inability of capitalism to ensure full employment. It is important to recall that it was the socio-economic distress Nigerians faced under colonial rule guided the populace to demand for socialism as advocated by the



Marxists. As is obvious, the socialist movement was initially a reaction against extreme poverty catapulted by capitalism on the masses. It lays great emphasis on the state embarking on a broad programme of welfare for the people, which would basically initiate “the programme that would provide social insurance to protect the masses against unemployment and economic distress”

Rather than toe the socialist model to improve humanity, the government is adopting the public-private partnership initiative in achieving and accelerating some developmental objectives. Pivoting the economy cannot be left in the hand of the private sector alone; there is the need for the government to participate fully. In this vein, Alanana (2003) strongly posits that full participation of government in running the economy through its fiscal policy will ameliorate Nigeria’s numerous economic challenges especially poverty, unemployment and corruption. Despite the views of Alanana (2003), it is evident that Marx's interpretation of history might seem completely cynical or pessimistic; it seems his ideas not only have a strong resonance to the Nigerian situation, but they pertinently capture the type, character and complexion of unemployment in Nigeria. The relevance of this theory lies in the fact that Marx sees power as concentrated in the hands of a minority in society. To this effect, Marx argues that since power is concentrated in the hands of those who have economic control within a society, the proletariats rather than fighting to balance up the power structure will resort to exploiting the masses.

## **2. Review of Related Literature**

### **2.1 Unemployment**

There seems to be a consensus on the definition of unemployment. Underemployment is a condition that exists when there are people who are able to work, wishing to work, failed to obtain suitable employment but instead they are just employed to keep the body and soul together (Okun, 1995). In another word underemployment results when labour is not utilized for a maximum time or to full advantage (Adesina, 2013). For International Labour Organization (ILO), unemployment is defined as the unemployed as numbers of the economically active population who are without work but available for and seeking work, including people who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work (World Bank, 1998). In another development, Harold, (2009) defines unemployment as a phenomenon that occurs when a person who is actively searching for employment is unable to find work. For Olakitan (2015) defines unemployment as unemployed workers who are currently not working but are willing and able to work for pay, currently available to work and have actively search for work. Substantiating, Wayas, Selvadurai, & Awang (2019) views unemployment as “a situation in which persons capable and willing to work are unable to find suitable paid employment”, while Investopedia (2017) defines unemployment as “the facts of a number of people not having a job; the number of people without a job; the state of not having a job”. Unemployment may also be defined as a condition that exist when there is an individual who is able to work, is wishing to work, is dependent on work for survival but is unable to obtain an employment. According to International Statistical Standards, the term unemployment should in principle satisfy the three criteria of (i) being without work (ii) been available for work, and (iii) seeking work.

From the foregoing, Okochi, (1952) the leading social policy scholar in postwar Japan, provides a good starting point. Okochi’s perspective covers both developed and developing economies; Japan, his home country, was a developing economy that was on the verge of experiencing a high-growth era when he wrote his thesis. According to him, there are three aspects of the concept of unemployment. First, unemployment denotes that a worker, who does not have his own means of production, has lost his workplace. If he has his own workshop, and, or store, he cannot be unemployed. In such a case, if that worker cannot earn

enough money to live, he is called “poor” or “underemployed,” but he is not “unemployed” in a precise sense (International Labour Organization, 2004b). Second, the idea of unemployment presumes that the unemployed worker retains his willingness to work; he shares a characteristic of modern wage worker that Weber calls “the spirit of capitalism.” Such a worker should not be idle and should make every effort to earn his own bread (Udu, & Agu (2015). Third, if a worker cannot find a job that suits his skill or ability set, it can be said that he is “unemployed.” But technically, unemployment can be defined in a “broad” or “strict” sense, depending on the inclusion or exclusion of those without a job who are available for work, but are not actually seeking it. According to ILO (2013a), the irregular economic recovery and successive downward revisions in economic growth projections have had an impact on the global employment situation. Furthermore, the Organization reports that overall, the crisis-related global jobs gap that has opened up since the beginning of the financial crisis in 2008, over and above an already large number of jobseekers, continues to widen. In 2013, this gap reached 62 million jobs, including 32 million additional jobseekers, 23 million people (International Labour Organization, 2013b). In the same year, the number of unemployed around the world rose to almost 202 million people, which is an increase of almost 5 million compared with the previous year. By implication, it is certain that employment is not increasing fast enough to keep up with the growing labour. 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. In South Africa for example, the people are getting frustrated as a result of unemployment. In places such as Mazakhele, people continually complain about the lack of services, despite the fact that they believe that they voted for better life in their democratic election (Mzizi, 2017). Some of the unemployed people do, from time to time, protest and express their frustration about the lack of job creation in South Africa.

### **2.1.1 Types of unemployment in Nigeria**

#### **2.1.2 Seasonal Unemployment**

Seasonal unemployment occurs mostly in industrial sector, and in the enterprise that are seasonal in nature. Such activities engage labour temporarily during peak periods. In other words, specific industries may only be open for business at a specific period during the calendar year. 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. More so, during festive season, shop owners and companies employ extra hands for sales. These extra hands are usually relieved of their jobs when demand for products decreased. According to Udu, & Agu (2015), seasonal unemployment occurs mostly in 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. More so, during 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 decreased.

#### **2.1.3 Structural Unemployment**

This form of unemployment is largely defined as unemployment that results from perceived value and skills that an individual brings to a job against the needed, different skills required by an employer to do the job correctly. Job skills are, after all, dynamic, and over time new skills replace current but aging skills no longer needed by an employer. These

newer skills are required by employers to succeed in the marketplace. In other words, this occurs when a labour market is unable to provide jobs for everyone who wants one, because there is a mismatch between the skill of the unemployed workers and the skill needed for the available jobs (Wikipedia Encyclopedia, 2011). Structural unemployment could also result from persistent cyclical unemployment, that is, if the economy suffers from long-term low aggregate demand and in the techniques of the industry, unemployment could occur (Udu & Agu, 2015; Wikipedia Encyclopedia, 2011; Harold, 2009). For example, consider an auto brake pad manufacturer that supplies brake pads and components to automobile manufacturers, auto parts stores and car repair businesses. In the past 10 years, robotics has advanced the performance of brake pad production and installation, to the point where the need for human brake pad specialists aren't as necessary as they used to be. That definitely hurts the job prospects for long-time brake pad makers. Yet correspondingly, that same brake pad manufacturer, now presumably producing components at a faster and less expensive clip, sees sales rise, and now needs employees with different but now necessary skills - think sales and marketing professionals, customer service representatives, and technology specialists to create, maintain, and repair those automated brake pad manufacturing systems. In this scenario, structural unemployment for the manufacturing line operator goes up, while the unemployment figure for technology specialists and sales professionals goes down, as demand for their services rises.

#### **2.1.4 Cyclical Unemployment**

Cyclical unemployment is similar to structural unemployment in that the business cycle is highly dynamic too, and changes all the time. When the economy is on the upswing, companies hire more workers, and the unemployment rate spikes upward. Conversely, when the economy is spiraling downward, the unemployment rises, as companies let workers go, and stop hiring at an accelerated rate, as they would in robust economic periods (Udu, E. & Agu, 2015). Consider the market for automobiles during the first wave of Covid-19. Before the detection and declaration of Covid-19 as a pandemic, Nigerian politicians were buying automobiles from different automobile companies like Ford, Toyota, Nissan, Chrysler and others at a high rate. They could afford to do so because they were huge monetary allowances from oversight functions aside their monthly salaries which run into millions of naira. But once the Covid-19 was detected and declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organization, the political class focused more on keeping food on the table and bypassed large expenditures on new automobiles. That slashed revenues at the major car companies, who cut workforce numbers, slowed or stopped hiring altogether, and in the process, sent the unemployment rate skyrocketing

#### **2.1.5 Frictional Unemployment**

This form of unemployment relates to the jobless rate that moves upward as career professionals drift between jobs for a variety of reasons, including:

- Workers who move to another state, city, or town and are looking for a new job.
- Workers who leave their jobs with a goal of finding a better one.
- College graduates with advanced degrees who, after earning a post-graduate degree, return to the workforce when they find a new job related to their studies.

Aside the foregoing, there seems to be divergence on the meaning and causes of frictional unemployment. For example [45] assert that there is frictional unemployment when certain occupations have surplus workers in one part of the country, while vacancies for similar jobs occur and are not filled in other parts of the country. To them, immobility of labour and imperfect knowledge of the existence of opportunities elsewhere is the main causes of frictional unemployment. On the contrary, a good example of frictional unemployment could



be when a college graduate who has spent a few years after graduation working at a bank secretary and the information that the most profitable course to read in this era of insecurity is Intelligence and Security Studies and after doing some research, decides that he is interested in that field. Consequently, he takes two years away from the workforce to earn a master's degree in Intelligence and Security Studies, specializing in security intelligence. Thus, the period spent between his last job as a bank secretary and his new job as security personnel is deemed to represent frictional unemployment.

### **2.1.6 Classical Unemployment**

This occurs when real wages for a job are set above the market –clearing level, causing the number of job-seekers to exceed the number of vacancies. Most economists have argued that unemployment increases the more the government intervenes into economy to try to improve the condition of those with jobs. For example, minimum wage laws raise the cost of labourers with few skills to be above the market equilibrium, resulting in people who wish to work at the ongoing rate but cannot as the wage enforced is greater than their value as workers becoming unemployed.

## **2.2. Effects of unemployment**

### **2.2.1 Psychological effects on Individuals**

Among the effects of unemployment are spectrum of emotions, namely anger, sadness, confusion, stress, and depression, all combined to break spirit of the unemployed. The lack of enough money to meet basic needs such as providing food and shelter is demoralizing for the individual (Fryer, 1997). Similarly, an already stressed and worried individual without a job usually it find difficult to socialize with friends and attend family get-togethers for fear of being embarrassed. In the light of this, the individual experiences boredom and tends to devalue life (De Witte, Rothmann, & Jackson, 2012). There is a usual display of signs of anxiety, boredom, decreased life satisfaction, depression, minor psychiatric disorders, hopelessness, helplessness and low self-esteem in an individual. Most often, suicide is an option as the individual believes this is the only solution to the problem (Cullen, 1999; De Witte, Rothmann, & Jackson, 2012). For an individual who is used to working and accustomed to the routine of getting up, dressed and going to work place(De Witte, Rothmann, & Jackson, 2012; Wikipedia Encyclopedia (2011), unemployment can be devastating. It can result in a loss of one's career identity, income, confidence, low self-esteem, housing and lack of career experience. Similarly, numerous studies have been carried out on the impact of unemployment on the psychological health of unemployed people. Among the findings, unemployment has a damaging impact on psychological health (Doreo, 2013; Okun, 1995).

Aside this, the psychological effects and the consequences of unemployment include irritability with people, substance abuse, day dreaming, loss of memory, nightmares, self-destructive behaviour, hostility, depression, anxiety, stress, worry, fear, anger, despair, loneliness, social isolation, decreased self-esteem, a decrease in life satisfaction, loss of aspiration, less happiness, inability to cope with problems, moodiness, and para-suicide(Seabi, 2009). Furthermore, some unemployed people become alcoholics and heavy smokers as they want to forget about the problem of being unemployed, thus depleting their financial resources even further (Harold, 2009). Hostility, which results from unresolved anger and frustration, is a desire to hurt, punish and gain vengeance. In this regard, an unemployed person may become angry for being unemployed and experience an urge to hurt other people for his position (Holland, K. (2012).

In a related development, unemployment can have diverse effects on one's financial well-being, ultimately leads to economic hardships, which in the end constitute the root cause for human hardship such as failure to support the family financially. Writing on this, Fryer, (1997) pointed out that it is the loss of income that impacts on an individual most negatively because of job loss: Money allows people to have control over their lives and provides them with experiences, roles, and the means to socialize. These experiences are essential for developing and maintaining self-esteem and identity (Udu & Agu, 2015). Moreover, Wayas, Selvadurai, & Awang (2019) explained that loss of financial income limits an individual's autonomy, which makes it very difficult to attain and plan a satisfying lifestyle that is a prerequisite for the development and maintenance of a person's well-being. Furthermore, children with fathers affected by unemployment are more likely to perceive their fathers as less powerful, less supportive and less attractive figures than their mothers who provide for the family, ILO (2013a) found that the indignities of unemployment negatively affect marital and family life in areas such as communication, satisfaction, companionship, and other crucial aspects. The rates of domestic violence and child abuse are higher in the families of unemployed people and it might be because when unemployed people are frustrated, they displace their frustration on to family members (International Labour Organization, 2013b)

### **2.3 Violence and unemployment**

There are many possible reasons why unemployment leads to violence. Many scholars agree that unemployment causes violence. According to Seabi (2009), violence can affect any member of a family and community. It could be in a community and within the family. Unemployment undermines traditional bases of masculinity resulting in males committing violence within the family as well as outside home as an alternative marker of their masculinity (Campell, 1992). Moreover, the unemployed see themselves as outsiders of their society because they think that they are perceived as second-class citizens. In addition, they feel socially isolated and marginalized by society, and believe that they are stigmatized by society (Campell, 1992; Thaler, 2010). Unemployment, which is seen as one of those problems that fuels social unrest in various communities and towns, is caused by the high escalating rate of unemployment in such places (Jili, 2012; Thaler, 2010). In South Africa, the phenomenon of violent confrontation against service delivery has been a huge problem over the past several years. Numerous concerns have been recorded, many of which have been categorized as service delivery protests against local authorities (Parliament of RSA, 2009). Such forms of protest which are regarded as socio-economic phenomenon have become increasingly violent and are driven by the frustrations of poverty and inequality. And such high levels of frustration lead to numerous forms of aggression and attacks on scapegoats. When a goal is blocked people become frustrated as they cannot achieve their goals. Frustration does not lead directly to aggression, but rather to anger (an emotion). If the frustration is unexpected or unfair, this will lead to more anger which could then lead to releasing aggression on people or objects such as weaker people, animals and buildings to relieve themselves of their frustration (Thaler, 2010).

### **Unemployment and Crime**

The lingering unemployment among the youths is fast tearing the fabric of society, thereby turning them into armed robbers rather than agents of development. From abundant literature available, it is certain that this negative development has not only led to pervasive poverty among the population, but also raised serious security concerns as lack of jobs had turned the idle mind of the youth into crime. The increasing rate of armed robbery and other social vices due to the growing unemployment rate is worrisome. Contributing, Fougere, Kramarz, & Pouget (2009) assert that there is also a substantial body of evidence which links youth

unemployment (and non-employment) to crime. Not only is crime costly for society it is also costly for the individual. Moreover, any such effects are likely to have long-term consequences; once a path of marginalization and criminality has been embarked upon, one's future prospects (and expectations) are likely to adjust accordingly. In a related development, Mike (1995) found that unemployment induces people who would not otherwise become involved in criminal activities, to commit crimes because they spend much of their time idling or are under financial pressure or are frustrated and indignant. This assertion is supported by Tshabalala (2003) who stated that prisons are full of people who try to make money by committing crimes as the result of unemployment. In other words, unemployment increases the rate of crime, and most worrisome is the fact that unemployment is bad for young people and for society as a whole; however, equally important, the detrimental consequences of youth unemployment are largely associated with longer term unemployment rather than unemployment per se. From this, it is evident that unemployment is a serious problem that affects the lives of a large proportion of potential employees in Nigeria, even though the country is in a democracy. This negative development has not only led to pervasive poverty among the population, but also raised the level of social insecurity as lack of jobs has turned the youth's idle mind into the devils workshop. In essence, the increasing rate of armed robbery and other social vices are as a result of the growing unemployment rate in the country, stressing that revolving the gigantic task of unemployment is beyond the singular capability of the government but requires the patriotic intervention of all states holders and well meaning Nigerians.

### 3. Methodology

The study adopted survey research, and gathered data from interviews, observations, and other secondary sources such as textbooks, journals, and the Internet to understand how the effect of youth unemployment on the Nigerian society. The survey design is directed towards determining the nature of situations as it exists at the time of the study. Similarly, Mugenda, & Mugenda (1999) states that the survey design is the best method available to social scientists who are interested in collecting original data for the purposes of describing a population which is too large to observe directly. The total population of the study was one hundred and fifty (150) respondents selected purposively and the instrument for data collection was questionnaire. In essence, a total of 150 questionnaires were administered to respondents, and analyzed using the chi-square ( $X^2$ ) statistical analysis.

## 4. Results and Discussions of findings

### 4.1 Analysis of hypotheses

The hypotheses postulated in statement form are translated into null form so as to subject the hypotheses into statistical test using z-test. In this study, there are two major variables, the independent and dependent. The independent variable was the impacts of youth unemployment, while the psychological trauma experienced was the dependent variables. Each of the dependent variables is tested against the independent variable (impacts of youth unemployment) in line with the objective of the study.

#### 4.1.2 Hypothesis 1

**H<sub>1</sub>:** There is a significant relationship between the impacts of youth unemployment and psychological trauma experienced

**H<sub>0</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between the impacts of youth unemployment and psychological trauma experienced

**Table 1 shows distribution of the relationship between the impacts of youth unemployment and psychological trauma experienced at observed value**

.Responses	Male	Female	Total	Percentage%
Strongly agreed	20	17	37	24.7
Agreed	45	28	73	48.7
Strongly disagreed	5	6	11	7.3
Disagreed	27	2	29	19.3
Total	97	53	150	100

CELL	O	E	$O - e$	$(O - e)^2$	$(O - e)^{2/e}$
1	20	23.93	-	15.44	0.65
2	17	13.07	3.93	15.44	1.18
3	45	47.21	-	4.88	0.11
4	28	25.79	2.21	4.88	0.19
5	5	7.11	-	4.45	0.63
6	6	3.89	2.11	4.45	1.14
7	29	18.75	10.25	105.06	5.60
8	2	10.25	-	68.06	6.64

<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>				<b>16.14</b>
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### RESULTS

Distribution: chi-square ( $X^2$ )

Calculation  $X^2$  value = 16.14

Degree of freedom ---- (df) = (c + 1) (r - 1) = (4 - 1) (2 - 1) = (3) (1)

df = 3, Level of significance = 0.05; Table value = 7.82

From the observed and expected value, the calculated chi-square value was 16.14 while the table value using the degree of freedom of 3 and level of significance of 0.05 was 782. From this, the calculated value is greater than the table value, the null hypothesis is rejected, and the alternate hypothesis accepted. By implication, there was significant relationship between the impacts of youth unemployment and psychological trauma experienced

#### 4.1.3 Hypothesis 2

**H<sub>1</sub>:** There is a significant relationship between youth unemployment and their involvement in criminal activities

**H<sub>0</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between youth unemployment and their involvement in criminal activities

**Table 2 shows distribution of the relationship between youth unemployment and their involvement in criminal activities at observed value**

Responses	Male	Female	Total	Percentage %
Strongly agreed	22	34	56	37.3
Agreed	19	6	25	16.7
Strongly disagreed	19	25	44	29.3
Disagreed	17	8	25	16.7
Total	77	73	150	100

<b>CELL</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>O - e</b>	<b>(O - e)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(O - e)<sup>2</sup>/e</b>
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1	22	28.75	- 6.75	45.56	1.58
2	34	27.25	6.75	45.56	1.67
3	19	7.7	11.3	127.7	16.6
4	6	7.3	-1.3	1.7	0.23
5	17	22.58	- 3.58	12.82	0.57
6	25	21.41	3.59	12.89	0.60
7	17	12.83	4.17	17.39	1.36
8	8	12.17	- 4.17	17.39	1.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>				<b>24.04</b>

## RESULTS

Distribution: chi-square ( $X^2$ )

Calculation  $X^2$  value =24.04

Degree of freedom---- (df) = (c + 1) (r - 1) = (df) = (c + 1) (r - 1) = (4 - 1) (2 - 1)  
 (3) (1) df = 3

Level of significance = 0.05; Table value = 7.82

Using the observed and expected value, the calculated chi-square value was 24.04 while the table value using the degree of freedom of 3 and level of significance of 0.05 is 7.82. Thus, the calculated value was greater than the table value, the null hypothesis was therefore rejected and the alternate hypothesis accepted. It therefore implies that there was a significant relationship between youth unemployment and their involvement in criminal activities

### 4.1.4 Test of Hypothesis 3

**H<sub>1</sub>:** There is a significant relationship between youth unemployment and their involvement in violence activities

**H<sub>0</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between youth unemployment and their involvement in violence activities

**Table 3 shows distribution of the relationship between youth unemployment and their involvement in violence activities at observed value**

Responses	Male	Female	Total	Percentage %
Strongly agreed	22	34	56	37.3
Agreed	19	25	44	29.3
Strongly disagreed	19	6	25	16.7
Disagreed	17	8	25	16.7
Total	77	73	150	100

CELL	O	E	O – e	(O – e ) <sup>2</sup>	(O – e ) <sup>2/e</sup>
1	22	28.75	– 6.75	45.56	1.58
2	34	27.25	6.75	45.56	1.67
3	19	22.59	– 3.59	12.89	0.57
4	25	21.41	3.59	12.89	0.60
5	19	12.83	6.17	38.07	2.97
6	6	12.17	– 6.17	38.07	3.13
7	17	7.7	9.3	86.49	11.23
8	8	7.3	0.7	0.49	0.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>				<b>21.82</b>

## RESULTS

Distribution: chi-square ( $X^2$ )

Calculation  $X^2$  value = 21.82

Degree of freedom----- (df) = (c + 1) (r – 1) = (4 – 1) (2 – 1) = (3) (1) df = 3

Level of significance = 0.05; Table value = 7.82

Using the observed and expected value, the calculated chi-square value was 21.82 while the table value using the degree of freedom of 3 and level of significance of 0.05 is 7.82. Thus, the calculated value was greater than the table value, the null hypothesis was therefore rejected and the alternate hypothesis accepted. In essence, there was a significant relationship between youth unemployment and their involvement in violence activities

## 5. Discussion of findings

From the analysis of the first hypothesis, it was observed that the effects of unemployment on the psychological perspective of the society were very overwhelming to anyone who experienced them. Thus, the feeling of rejection and personal failure in them can only be imagined. The respondents blamed themselves for not being able to provide for themselves financially as a result of unemployment; they experienced feelings of guilt and had to rely on the financial support of others. They were forced to withdraw themselves from social interactions and isolated themselves from social activities as they were uncomfortable as unemployed youths. Broadly speaking, the frustration that stares every youth in the face is coming against the background that Nigeria is ranked as the sixth biggest producer of oil in the world and also a leading producer of natural gas, yet youth unemployment pervades the land. Evidently, the consequences of unemployment are not short lived; rather they create a sudden disorder in the society, prolonging a long term effect (Wangmo, (2012). The impact of this according to Wangmo, (2012) will be felt rather with a “ripple effect” with very negligible start at one point, eventually loading with an extensive impact to the society, then to the nation and the globe in the long run. For example, in South Africa, the phenomenon of violent confrontation against service delivery has been a huge problem over the past several years. Numerous concerns have been recorded, many of which have been categorized as service delivery protests against local authorities (Omoniyi, 2016). In Nigeria, the infamous activities of Boko Haram, kidnappers, herdsmen are all fallouts of youth employment in the country. As a result, the Nigerian society has become very unsafe for youths to find meaningful employment. It was reported that about one hundred business organizations folded up in Nigeria due to unfriendly nature of the environment (Edokpolor, & Owenvbiugie, 2017).

Data gathered from the second hypothesis revealed that there was a significant relationship between youth unemployment and their involvement in criminal activities.

Obviously, the lingering unemployment among the youths is fast tearing the fabric of society, thereby turning the youths who should have been agents of development into armed robbery so as to earn a living. Put simply, the country's spiraling youth unemployment can be said to have significantly contributed to the dramatic rise in criminal activities such as armed robbery, civil unrest, terror threats, abductions and kidnapping of persons irrespective of status or age. This negative development has not only led to pervasive poverty among the population, but also raised serious security concerns as lack of jobs had turned the idle mind of the youth's into the devils workshop. Basically, the increasing rate of armed robbery and other social vices to the growing unemployment rate in the state, stressing that revolving the gigantic task of unemployment is beyond the singular capability of the government but requires the patriotic intervention of all states holders and well meaning Nigerians. Poverty and idleness are borne out of youth unemployment the architect of deprivation and underdevelopment that virtually tends to breed crime of all form including armed robbery.

From the third hypothesis, it was confirmed that there was a significant relationship between youth unemployment and their involvement in violence activities. Youth unemployment has increased the level of social insecurity in the country. Violence can affect any member of a family and community (Seabi, 2009). It could be in a community and within the family. Unemployment undermines traditional bases of masculinity resulting in males committing violence within the family as well as outside home as an alternative marker of their masculinity [6]. Since the unemployed see themselves as outsiders of their society because they perceived as second-class citizens, any act of violence engineered by them could affect any member of a family and community. In addition, they feel socially isolated and marginalized by society, and believe that they are stigmatized by society (Campell, 1992; Thaler, 2010). Unemployment, which is seen as one of those problems that fuels social unrest in various communities and towns, is caused by the high escalating rate of unemployment in such places (Jili, 2012); Shoaib, 2009). When people cannot achieve their goals because they have been prevented by circumstances beyond their control, they become frustrated. It is important to stress that frustration does not necessarily lead directly to aggression, but rather to rage (sentiment). Since the frustration is unexpected, more resentment which could then lead to releasing aggression on people or objects such as weaker people, animals and buildings to relieve themselves of their frustration begins to manifest. The inability to fulfill their basic needs leads to intense frustration and protest against government in power. This form of protest, regarded as socio-economic phenomenon is driven by the frustrations of poverty and inequality, and has become increasingly violent in recent times.

## 6. Conclusion

This study has demonstrated that youth unemployment is pouncing on the Nigerian society with the velocity and ferocity of a starved lion. Unemployment among youths indeed serves as a barrier to the growth of Nigeria and numerous countries of the world. Youth unemployment has become a clog in the wheels of development without signs of letting up because it seems to be everywhere. Without a halt, this leaves many wondering why the Nigerian society in spite of its abundant human and natural resources is irresponsibly being destroyed by youth unemployment. In addition, the level of corruption has ignited social unrest as a result of youth unemployment and this makes it practically impossible for young people to be gainfully employed. Presently, Nigeria is certainly not safe for any sensible economic engagements for both local and foreigners to invest because of the problems of social insecurity. Several business organizations in Nigeria that provided work for great number of Nigerians were shut down as a result of social insecurity. The shutting down of some of the commercial establishments rendered thousands of employed Nigerians

unemployed [13]. In the midst of this, the Nigerian leadership ought to invest in agriculture as it would feed and provide employment opportunities would be provided for youths and the entire nation especially if modernized farming is introduced like in other countries [47].

## **7. Recommendations**

As a way of remedying the ugly situation, this study proffers the following recommendations to checkmate this hydra-headed syndrome of youth unemployment in Nigeria.

1. Government should intensify efforts to address socio-economic deprivation and create jobs to halt the spread of social unrest resulting from youth unemployment. In other words, the social insecurity experienced by the people should be solved through infrastructural development, creation of jobs and new economic empowerment opportunities for thousands of youths in the country. Ultimately, such efforts would create a peaceful environment for tourism development.
2. Community collaborations to create jobs should be encouraged and embarked upon. In other words, the youths should be encouraged to form cooperatives with the aim of brainstorming ideas about projects that can create jobs in the community. These proposals can then be communicated to the government to implement. In addition, this participation will promote self-confidence and self-awareness. Therefore, the community needs to be educated regarding the importance of their participation in such endeavours in terms of their own, and others' well-being.
3. The fight against corruption requires direct, clear and forceful support of the highest political authority. The EFCC should stop playing the ostrich and quicken the prosecution of all corrupt offenders and ensure that stiff and enforceable punishment are fully applied such as long jail terms, life ban from political activities, forfeiture of assets of officials who have been found guilty etc. Furthermore, the media should be encouraged to report to the public, corrupt practices in the society.
4. Youth unemployment in Nigeria should be combated through the Public Sector Reforms. This will drive the human resource development process and also form an effective resource utilization policy. Since the development of any country very much depends on the caliber and organization of the human resources, the government should set on ground a public sector reform that is strong and dependable to transform the economy, and also enhance a proper man management system.
5. As the state of youth unemployment worsens, youths have taken to criminal and illegal activities to survive. Based on this, government should establish agricultural farms and give incentives to attract youths into farming. By extension, government must provide power (electricity) and security as this will encourage foreign investors to invest in the economy and curb youth unemployment problems in the country.

6. The non-governmental organizations in the country should develop programmes to empower Nigerian youths to make them self-reliant. For example, the youths can be entrepreneurial skills and supported financial grant to open up businesses.

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