

Youth Restiveness and Its Socio-Economic Implication on the Sustainable Social Development of Bauchi Metropolis

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Abstract

This study investigates youth restiveness and its social implications on the sustainable socio-economic development of Bauchi metropolis, Bauchi State, Nigeria. Youth restiveness has been on the increase in virtually every city in Nigeria most especially in the present time. Right from the inception of civilian regime there has been spread of violence, destruction of properties, killing of innocent people, kidnapping and banditry. The study examines the incidence of youth restiveness in Bauchi metropolis and how its affect the socio-economic development of the metropolis. The study intends to employ the survey research method, a sample of four hundred respondents were drawn from the total population, the study relied on quantitative and qualitative methods where by questionnaires are distributed to a randomly selected participants in Bauchi metropolis, and in-depth interview was conducted with religious leaders, community leaders and relevant security agencies. The paper used primary source of data to generate the required data. Base on the findings, the paper contends that poverty, unemployment and political instability among others, have been responsible for this unprecedented increase of youth restiveness. Similarly, this unfolding scenario is further worsened by reluctance from the side of government to curb the phenomenon. The study contends that unless this situation is mitigated, security and sustainable development will not be accomplished in the metropolis and the country general.

Keywords: *Youth Restiveness, Poverty, Unemployment, Sustainable Development*

INTRODUCTION

Youth is a period of physiological change from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's freedom and being aware of the need to work with other members of the society to help achieve the aims and objectives of the society (United Nations Youth, 2019). At this stage, the youths with or without education are determined to have sustainable employment to help them meet their necessary needs. However, the youths in the society are increasing, thereby leading to high unemployment rates and increased level of dependency. It is important to state that strength, labour and efforts of youths are assets to a purposeful social environment. Positive contributions help to promote growth and development of the society. In every society, youthfulness is very important. The roles of youths are very many as they include maintenance of law and order, preservation of societal culture, promoting knowledge, partaking in community development projects,

participating in cultural festivals, involving in local sports events, engaging themselves in traditional marriages as well as funerals amongst others.

Restiveness among youth has become one of the global phenomena and those in Nigeria has been on extraordinary increase. Since last decade and more there has been a proliferation of unequalled violence, the cases of kidnapping, abduction and wanton destruction of valuable infrastructures as well as lives and personal properties, these are mostly the activities of youth that are socially undesirable, stimulated by enforced desired of outcome from the constituted authority. This negative development according to Igbo and Ikpa (2013) is unfortunate and has become one of the security challenges facing the Nigerian society. Youth restiveness portrays people's negative side of social development. This negative development hinders free flow of activities political, social, educational, and religious which has been intolerable in the modern age where instability, fear, chaos and tension pose to be visible everywhere in the country. Such engagement may be because of lack of interesting programs, lack of knowledge about programs, paddock issues among government institutions, lack of diversity and the systematic mistreatment of young people simply because of their age.

Youth's restiveness has led to the inactiveness of the youths to tackle problems, discharge responsibilities effectively and inability to meet goals of the society. Elegbeleye (2015) identified one of the factors that can lead to youth restiveness as "perceived victimization arising from economic exploitation". In modern times, the inability of youth to exercise self-control to issues that has led to conflict and protest has been narrowed down to scarcity and unequal distribution of natural resources, non-recognition, marginalizing their society, having feelings of discontentment, non favourable government laws, lack of quality education and high rate of employment.

Nsidibe et al (2017) stated that restiveness scored by youth has been on the increase in almost all communities in Nigeria, most especially in recent past. Since the inception of our nascent Democracy in 1999, there has been a proliferation of tattered violence, killing of innocent people and most recently the insurgence in North East, militancy in the Niger Delta and stalking attack by Fulani's herdsmen and kidnapping across the country." There is usually a state of anarchy, destruction of lives and properties when youths are not satisfied with the way and manner in which societal resources are distributed. At this stage, the actions of the youths are regarded as criminal in nature because their expressions are usually violent and disrupt law and order as well as various activities in the societies. In most cases, it takes the use of force such as involving the police and other law enforcement to keep the violence of the youths in check.

Statement of the Problem

Prevalence of youth restiveness in Nigerian society is on the increase today. Some of the presumed factors include: corrupt leaders, unemployment, poverty, hunger and the role of politician in employing youth against their perceived enemies as the main causes of restiveness among youth in Nigeria, neglect and lack of vocational skills and education. Thus, youth restiveness is a phenomenon in recent years in northern Nigeria which has paralyzed the social, economic and political activities, therefore if not addressed will result to decay in societal values in the country. This decay arose from the neglect of both federal and state government in the area of youth empowerment and gross-under-development in the community, which affects every segment of the society and mostly - the educational and youth development sector. Education is a powerful instrument of social progress without which no any individual or society can attain development. It is in realization of this and the attendance spate of unemployment that many youths have left

school due to restiveness, unrest or chaos that motivated this study. Thus, Bauchi metropolis experience alarmingly high rate of youth unemployment which result in a sense of hopelessness and frustration among young people, lack of viable job opportunities contribute to their restiveness and negatively affect the overall economic productivity and social development. This study investigates the phenomenon of youth restiveness with a view to ascertaining its social implications on the social development of the society and in realizing ways of minimizing its effects on such issues like political thuggery, drug abuse, burglary, car and motor vehicle snatching, phone snatching on economic and social development in Nigeria.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to examine causes, social implication, and ways to mitigate youth restiveness in Bauchi metropolis. Specifically, the study intends to:

- i. Ascertain the causes of youth restiveness in Bauchi metropolis.
- ii. Determine the social impact of youth restiveness in Bauchi metropolis.
- iii. Suggest ways to mitigate youth restiveness in Bauchi metropolis.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What are the causes of youth restiveness in Bauchi metropolis?
2. What are the social impacts of youth restiveness in Bauchi metropolis?
3. What are the ways to mitigate youth restiveness in Bauchi metropolis?

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Youth Restiveness

Youth restiveness is the extreme form of deviant behaviour among youth which is socially unacceptable in any society. Youth restiveness involves the combination of actions, behaviours and attitudes exhibited by youths which are socially unacceptable and unwholesome in the society (Igbo & Ikpa 2013). According to (Ogbeifun, 2013) youth restiveness has been a device through which youth use to obtain what they want from the relevant authority. Similarly, Elegbeleye (2015) view it from the angle as a ‘sustain assertion embarked upon to enforce desired outcome from a constituted authority by organised body of youths’. It is accompanied by disruption of law, conflict and violence.

The common features of these organised bodies of youth are they resort to violence, and one would agree that their activities posed great contests to the security of the country. The violent nature of these youth activities has been responsible for the wanton destruction of valuable infrastructures, disruption of economic activities, creating disharmony and loss of lives. These acts had not only created unhealthy atmosphere which also threatened the security of life and properties its also has effects on national sustainable development.

Notably, it is a phenomenon which if practice lead to degree of disorderliness and instability, breakdown of law and order, law productivity due to disruption of production activities, obvious increasing crime rate among others. Agina-Obu (2018) explains that restiveness can be defined as a kind of human behavior geared towards the realization of individuals or groups’ needs. It is individuals or group failures or inability to meet their needs through institutional provisions or arrangements that results in youth restiveness. These groups of youths may enter either in protest to press in her demands for self-gain or for the mass. The said devise used by youths to get what they want from the relevant authorities has been triggered with violence means, cohesion and chaos.

Causes of Youth Restiveness in Nigeria

A number of studies have identified the factors that are responsible for youth restiveness. According to Ogbeifun (2017) youth restiveness often centers on such issues surrounding total interruption between people and the State in terms of poor infrastructural development, poverty alleviation, unemployment, economic crime and sabotage on the part of the government; unfaithful implementation of life affecting programs; ethnic marginalization and insensitivity to the plights of the people suffering the multiple negative effects of the destruction of their environment through oil exploration, gas flaring and oil spillage which dilapidates farmlands and kill sea lives to the point of adversely affecting the people's source of livelihood in Niger Delta region; poor educational provisions and illiteracy. Anasi, (2010) argued that factors range from lack of humanitarian and social welfare, lack of good governance, corrupt practices of government officials, unemployment, lack of quality education, inadequate training programs, to inadequate recreational facilities precipitate the rising youth restiveness in Nigeria.

According to Abdullahi (2021) the current youth restiveness have been caused by youth enthusiasm simulated in foreign films, vicious cycle of poverty, unemployment, incapability of parents, families and community to organized sensitization programs and education that will be functional and which hit the capacities and the talent of the youth for productivity. This supports Ofem and Ajayi (2018) that lack of humanitarian and social welfare, lack of good governance, corrupt practices of government officials, inadequate training programs, inadequate recreational facilities, lack of quality education are among the causes of youth restiveness. Despite the high rate of youth restiveness in Nigeria, it should also be noted that where youth restiveness thrives, there must always be an intellectual class and those who meant positively in their agitation.

2.2 Social Impact of Youth Restiveness

The youth are considered to be the potential leaders of any given society worldwide, therefore they champion the goals of any given society and nation in general, because they constitute a formidable force if their energies are properly channeled into potential productivity will foster great societal sustainable development. Anzene (2021) assert that man influences his environment with the view of deriving maximum benefits from it, which has been equally described as a way of life that touches on all spheres of human endeavors. When youths understand their environment, they will be able to solve the problems in such a way as environment provides opportunity for the youth to advance and equally live comfortably there.

The issue of social impact in minimizing youth restiveness requires gigantic and effective measures to put in place in empowering youth to become responsible and patriotic citizen. Not just merely citizens but law abiding citizen as Maman (2015) puts it that “not people but people who neither steal nor kill, not judges but irreconcilable judges, not policemen but police-men who do not draw salary from the very gangsters they are supposed to fight, not fake soldiers but soldiers who are willing to save lives in the defense of their country, not just youths who only agitate for government to give but youths who tend to offer and defend their society positively and aspire to do with or without government”. This indicates that youths must be built upon the foundation of honesty, hardworking, tolerance, sincerity, truthfulness, fairness, justice, cooperation and other values put together. Thus, this is to say that social impact fosters the many opportunities to minimize and instill such values and attitudes in the citizen (youths). Thus, the philosophy or social implication will have effect on the meaning and experiences of growing up in a well-behaved society.

Youth restiveness and its associated consequences have greatly contributed to insecurities and worries in Nigeria. It has hindered and destroyed a lot of developmental programs and other business activities. In 2009, for instances in Maiduguri during Boko Haram crisis, people were killed, houses were destroyed, market and schools were closed and destroyed. This demonstrated clearly how sustainable social and economic activities were halt in the Maiduguri city. The security agencies deployed there to bring back peace have turned hostile to the people. A part from that people was subjected to shortage of food, water and other medical facilities. This miserable situation has rendered a lot of government projects uncompleted in the area; similar to Yobe State, where statistically 139 students were killed in separate attacks and in less than a year, 4 schools and colleges were destroyed.

Youths possess positive vision about the development in the society, irrespective of been restive. This impact is felt socially in the society, as they are the major determinant of peace and stability, the engine of progress and development that propelled the desire change required, but irrespective of such characteristics, they still constitute greater form of restiveness in the society. In such a society, a sense of respect and regard for other people's view and social impact of the environment is important to strengthen the unity and peaceful coexistence in diversity nature of community. Societies need to address how to organize sensitization programs for different groups to provide opportunity for the objectives and contributions from youth. Worst still, when the youths who are supposed to be in schools abandoned school and take to restiveness, the hope of the society become miserable. Positive social impact of peace is highly felt when there is absence of chaos, confusion, and society functions effectively if there is order and harmony among the existing component parts. If there is no harmony among the segments of the society (youths, women, men, institutions, corporate organizations and government), the nation will be thrown in disorder, chaos, instability, bridge of peace which in-turn affects sustainable social development in all sphere of human endeavor.

Understand the social impact of restiveness in the society. There is need to also look at the immoralities in the society as perpetuated by the youths where by many of them seem to be easily hired by selfish politicians as thugs who are paid huge sums of money, armed and used drug for the simple reason of using them during campaign and election with the view to win election. Drug abuse is becoming a pervasive problem in the society, which has negative impact, and it is directly responsible for the increase in robbery, violence and youth restiveness being experienced in various part of Nigeria today. However, the said problem of youth restiveness has been a burning issue long ago, especially in the minds of concerned citizens of the Nigerian society due to its negative effect. Such actions are hostile to peace and strong negative social implications, which hindered growth and sustainable social development of different sectors.

2.3 How to mitigate Youth Restiveness

Government should employ strategies to bring about stability and sustainable development in Nigeria through empowerment of youth to address the social problems of insecurity, poverty and unemployment. Job creation and employment opportunities to our youth would also hinder them from all restive activities as joblessness makes them willing tools in any conflict. Poverty eradication programmes to empower youth to be productive member to the community like you win program introduced by Jonathan administration, N-power introduced by Buhari administration and similar programmes should be continuing at local, state and federal levels. Government should also provide functional and free education to the vulnerable citizens as this will advance the level

of country literacy and awareness. Our political elites should also be re-educated and re-oriented as they have been accused of recruiting or employing youth into thuggery to achieve their political objectives.

Counseling units in tertiary institutions in Nigeria should be introduced to plan appropriate attitudinal improvement for the youth at the critical developmental stage of their lives.

Entrepreneurship education is the key to production of skilled manpower and innovative and self-reliant citizens. As it has said; is better to teach a person fishing rather than the palliative and unsustainable approach of giving him fish.

Theoretical Framework

For the purpose of this study, the “Strain Theory of Deviance” were adopted. This became useful because all the factors that are commonly advanced as an explanation for youth restiveness can be located in the above theory due to the fact that it relates to the bottom line, which is dissatisfaction and unrealized goals.

The “Strain” theory as propounded by Merton (1968) contends that deviant behavior results not from pathological personalities; but rather, it is a significance of the culture and structure of society itself. He argued that because all members of the society are placed in different strata of the social structure, they do not have equal access to the realization of their shared values and goals. The shared values and goals translate into cultural goals which could be material possession, educational attainment, wealth accumulation and many others. Merton further noted that people feel strained when they are unable of meeting the cultural goals to which they are exposed due to inaccessibility to the culturally approved and acceptable means of realizing the goals. The tendency therefore is to resort to deviant and unacceptable means.

METHODOLOGY

The study employed social survey research design. The design involved data collected through the questionnaire, the questionnaire method was employed in drawing information from a sample in larger population available for the study; it also gives respondents a great level of confidence being anonymous in their decision making. It comprises both quantitative as well as qualitative method. The qualitative survey was used to boost up the quantitative results of the study and fills the gap where quantitative survey misses to touch. Descriptive statistics where frequency and percentage tables were used to describe and present the data based on the objective.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE SIZE

The population of Bauchi metropolis in 2018 is 528812 (NPC, 2018) Projected to 2021 is 670224. The study comprises people living in the six wards who are eighteen (18) years of age and above residing in Bauchi metropolis. The projected population of the study is presented from target population as follows.

Table 1: Population and Sample Size of the selected ward in Bauchi Metropolis

S/N	Wards	Projected population 2022	Sample for each cluster
1	Maji Dadi (A)	67000	$\frac{67000}{260000} \times 384 = 99$
2	Makama sarkin baki (2)	81000	$\frac{81000}{260000} \times 384 = 120$
3	Dawaki	112000	$\frac{112000}{260000} \times 384 = 165$
	Total	260,000	384

Source: National Population Commission, 2021.

From table 3.1 the sample for the study comprises of 348 subjects.

The study employed a multi-stage, cluster and sampling technique. A multi stage sampling technique involves selecting a sample from cluster. In this sampling procedure, the primary groups and sub- groups were selected based on geographical distribution rather than other characteristics. Multi stage sampling techniques are employed in the selection of wards, streets, house, house hold and respondents, and the procedure are described as follows:

Stage one; simple random sampling was employed to select the three wards from the six wards using lottery method, where numbers were assigned to each wards folded in a papers and put in a box then shaken thoroughly. The researcher then picked one out of the box until all that were considered for the study were picked.

Stage two; in each selected wards, a simple random sampling technique were adopted to select 5 streets from each wards using the lottery method Numbers were assigned to each street, folded and put in a box then shaken vigorously and pick from the box which give a total of 15 streets.

Stage three: in each of the selected streets, systematic sampling technique was used to select house with persons 18 years and above. This procedure continued until 10 houses were dually selected from 15 streets that is (15 multiple by 10 equals to 150 houses).

Stage four: in each of the selected house a systematic sampling technique was employed to select house hold with persons who were 18 years and above.

Stage five: in each of the house hold, simple random sampling method was used to select respondents. The respondents were persons who were 18 years and above in the selected house hold and who might be house hold head.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

The data obtained from the questionnaire administered were analysed using tables of frequencies and percentages.

Table 2: Causes of youth restiveness in Bauchi Metropolis

Factors	Frequency	Percentage
Poverty	124	35.6
Unemployment	136	39.1
Bad governance	50	14.4
Political instability	35	10.0
Illiteracy	3	0.9
Total	348	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 4.2: shows that 35.6% of the respondents' indicates that one of the causes that lead to the activities of youth restiveness is due to the high rate of poverty, 39.1% of the respondents expressed that it is as a result of increase in unemployment, while 14.4% of the respondents indicates that bad governance causes youth restiveness while 10.1% of the respondents are those with the view that it is because of the political instability that lead to the causes of youth restiveness. The result shows that majority of the respondents indicates that youth restiveness is as a result of increase in unemployment.

Table 3: Social implication of youth restiveness in Bauchi Metropolis

Social implication	Frequency	Percentage
Destruction of lives and properties	146	42.0
Slowdown of business activities	81	23.3
Civil unrest	31	8.9
Retardation of economic development	71	20.4
Rampant cases of violent and proliferation of arms	19	5.4
Total	348	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The result in table 4.4: indicates that 42.0% of the social implication of youth restiveness is the destruction of lives and properties of the residence which is the most prevalence with the highest response rate from the respondents, followed by low business activities which constitute 23.3% of the response from the respondents, 20.4%, of the respondents view that it slow down the economic development, human right abuse 8.9% while 5.4 of the respondents have the opinion that youth restiveness lead to cases of kidnapping and proliferation of arms. This shows that destruction of lives and properties, low business activities and slowdown of economic development are the most prevalence social implication of youth restiveness in the metropolis.

Table 4.: Measures employed to mitigate youth restiveness in Bauchi metropolis

Measures employed	Frequency	Percentage
Providing more employment opportunities.	130	37.4
Corruption and bad governance should be checked.	60	17.2
Youth empowerment through small scale businesses.	91	26.2
Youth should be involved into governance/ politics.	55	15.8
Improving access to quality education.	12	3.4
Total	348	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 4 : indicates that 37.4% of the respondents were of the opinion that if government can provide employment opportunities to the teeming youth will help in curbing youth restiveness, 17.2% of the respondents hold that the problems of youth restiveness can be solved with good governance and zero tolerance to corruption, 26.2% of the respondents were of the view that empowerment program through small scale businesses can mitigate youth restiveness, while 15.8% of the respondents are with the opinion that youth involvement in politics and governance will mitigate youth restiveness. This result indicates that provision of employment opportunities, empowerment program, good governance, youth involvement in politics will succeed in achieving the desired result in mitigating youth restiveness in Bauchi metropolis.

In addition, a respondent interviewed reveals that:

The challenges that are associated with youth restiveness in combating crime will be solved if government can provide employment opportunities for the teeming unemployed youth who are roaming around the street and in most cases engaged in anti-social behaviour (KII with Community leader, 2024).

Discussion of Findings

Research question one identified poverty, unemployment, bad governance, political instability and illiteracy among the causes of youth restiveness. Unemployment among Nigerian youths is a serious social problem that eaten deeply. Unemployment has become one of the dominant phenomena among the youth in almost all developing countries. In Nigeria about 70% of the population were believed to be Unemployed all fall within the working age of 18-65 years.

Surprisingly out of this Unemployed percentage, 80% are youth that were within 18-45years. NBS in collaboration with the Nigerian federal Ministry of youths Development stated that 54 % of youth were unemployed in 2012, the report revealed that out of 46,836 youths recorded against many types of crime, 42,071 which represent 75.5 % were males and the remaining 24.5 % were their counter parts females (National Baseline Youth Survey Report, 2012). This clearly indicates the level of unemployment among the youth and it link with many crimes. This was the reason why IMomoh (2002) assumed that youth are mostly in the forefront of the crisis that usually exploded in the oil producing areas. Abdullahi (2021) posited that the increase in insecurity and crime in Nigeria could be traceable to youth as a result of unemployment, created relatively by the collapse of industries.

Research question two was on the social impact of youth restiveness and its socio-economic implication in Bauchi metropolis. The study identified social impact such as destruction of lives and properties slowdown of business activities, civic unrest/bandwagon, retardation of economic development among others creates fear and tension to residence in the metropolis. Such irregular norms seem to be on the increase in our society. These create serious panic and the life of uncertainty to other communities. Primarily education would function as a means of socialization, social control and social impact. This helps to encourage the youths to be good citizens and prepares them for employment and contributions to the sustainable socio-economic development of the metropolis (Ololube, 2012)..

The third research question identified mitigating factors of youth restiveness among which: Creation of jobs and employment opportunities to our youth would also restrain them from all restive activities as joblessness makes them tools in any conflict. Poverty eradication programmes like Youwin introduced by Jonathan administration, N-Power program, trader money and other similar programmes should be continuing at local, state and federal levels. There should also be a policy of youth education and development through provision of scholarship and empowering them technically by providing them employment facilities

Conclusion

Youth restiveness in Nigeria, and Bauchi metropolis in particular has constituted a security problem and can endanger the peaceful co-existence of the State, in the same manner conflict and insecurity can be very to the sustainable social development of the metropolis.

Poverty, unemployment, lack of good governance and political instability among others has motivated the youth into restiveness in Nigeria, and has worsened to the extent that everybody is affected. Moreover, the government is not doing enough to stop the menace. It is appropriate that government should adopt a strategy of curving youth restiveness through empowerment of youth in order to evacuate the main causes of social biases and poverty in the country. Until this was done security and sustainable social development can never be attained in the country.

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