

Managing Unemployment and Criminal Activities in Nigeria: The Case of Bayelsa State

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ABSTRACT

The study examined unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to examine the nature of relationship between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa state. It also sought to investigate how criminal activities in Bayelsa State can be effectively managed. The frustration-aggression theory, which suggested that there was a relationship between frustration due to unemployment and criminal activities, was used as the theoretical framework that guided the study. Methodologically, the study employed quantitative approach which was logically complemented with qualitative method. Primary and secondary data were used. Using Taro Yamane formula, the study sampled a total of 400 respondents. However, 393 copies were found valid for the study. Chi-square (χ^2) statistics, percentages and tables were employed, while the secondary data were obtained from journals and the internet. The major findings revealed that there was a significant relationship between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State, and that purposeful leadership was key to managing criminal activities in Bayelsa State. Based on the findings, the study therefore made these recommendations: leadership at all levels should purposefully and proactively create enabling environment for gainful employment opportunities, necessary entrepreneurial skills through appropriate school curricula should be included and encouraged in the educational system, and strict criminal justice system should be adequately put in place among others.

Keywords: *Bayelsa State, Criminal activities, Entrepreneurial skills, Purposeful leadership, Unemployment.*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Criminal activities have been in existence for a very long time and remained a major problem in different countries of the world. In Nigeria, different kinds of crime and criminalities have emerged and overtime increased in magnitude and frightening dimension (Baba, Babajo & Namahe, 2017; Tambari & Imoh-Ita, 2016; Alabi, 2014). Alluding to this, Osawe (2015) stated that criminal activities have threatened lives and properties, resulting into high number of casualties in Nigeria. In the same vein, Adebayo (2013) stated that criminalities in Nigeria have become great threat to economic, political, social stability as well as robbing the country of her potentials.

Likewise, the rate of criminal activities in Bayelsa state revealed a lot about the incidents of criminalities in Nigeria. Between January 2018 and June 2021, there were more than 70 criminal activities against persons that bordered on kidnappings for ransom (Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta, 2021). Furthermore, available record for the year 2016 showed that there were 612 criminal activities against persons, 837 criminal activities against human properties, 91 criminal activities against lawful authority, and 1 criminal activity against local act; making a total of 1,601 reported criminal activities in 2016 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2017).

The government had taken steps to address the incidence of criminalities in the state by deploying large contingent of security operatives to the state (Tambari & Imoh-Ita, 2016). Nevertheless, the incidents of crime have continued to take their toll on human lives and property which have left many victims to be wallowing in excruciating pains and misery (Ekpenyong & Mathias, 2019).

Amidst this trend of criminal activities, the labour market continued to witness more people who had joined the labour force and are seeking for employment opportunities, the likely implication of the criminal activities if not addressed, could scare investors away from the state, pose threat to the lives of residents as well as evoke general feeling of insecurity in Bayelsa state.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Scholars held divergent opinions on the nature of relationship between unemployment and criminal activities. One school of thought believed that unemployment could trigger criminal activities, while the other school of thought claimed that unemployment could not trigger criminal activities. The scholars who were of the view that unemployment could trigger criminalities contended that unemployment exerts mental stress and anti-social behaviour on the unemployed; thereby influencing them to use criminal behaviour as means to attain their desires (Nwosu, 2018; Olukayode, 2016; Tambari & Imoh-Ita, 2016). Lending credence to this, Nwankwo & Ifejiolor (2014) stated that most of the unemployed turned into criminalities due to frustration that resulted from inability to engage in a gainful employment, psychological effects on individuals who had spent years acquiring education, having dreams and aspirations of graduating to a life of comfort and securing satisfying jobs but seeing their dreams turning into nightmare. Also, Ogbebor (2012) posited that the unemployed often thought of themselves as forgotten people and were therefore psychologically dejected for being unable to contribute productively to the society. He explained that this situation had increasingly encouraged criminal activities.

However, other scholars dismissed the claim that unemployment could trigger criminal activities on the ground that no matter the level of unemployment, the unemployed would not indulge in criminalities as means to attain their desires (Nwosu, 2018). Supporting this, Galadima (2014) argued that it amounted to misplacement of priority for anyone to link unemployment and criminal activities and that there was no direct relationship between them. This line of thought suggested that choosing criminal behaviour to meet up with the challenges in life was one thing, while

choosing activities that were not criminally induced to meet the challenge of life was another thing altogether.

Another dimension to this issue was the effective management of criminal activities. Key to the effective management of criminal activities was purposeful leadership. Alluding to this, Olukayode (2016) stated that purposeful leadership would work to limit the environmental factors that predisposed people to criminal activities. Lending support to this, Afolabi (2013) remarked that when the leadership purposefully provided an enabling environment for gainful employment, there was bound to be a decrease in criminal activities. These views suggested that purposeful leadership cum gainful employment had key roles to play in the effective management of criminal activities in the society.

An objective assessment of these issues seemed compelling to determine the relationship between unemployment and criminal activities as well as way how to effectively manage criminal activities. This study would therefore investigate whether unemployment has relationship with criminal activities in Bayelsa State, Nigeria.

1.3 Research Questions

The following questions guided this study:

- (1) What is the nature of relationship between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State?
- (2) How can criminal activities be effectively managed in Bayelsa Sate?

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 The Concept of Unemployment

According to Iwu (2015) before the end of the 19th century, unemployment was not only viewed as a personal problem of an individual but also in terms of joblessness. This view indiscriminately associated unemployment with persons without work or that were jobless regardless of the reason for not having job by the concerned individuals. The view though useful but at best was elementary and had undergone change particularly with the rise of industrialised wage economy at the end of the 19th century (Afolabi, 2013). Much more than mere joblessness, the concept of unemployment also referred to those seeking for job in order to get more satisfaction in relation to their present job.

People might have jobs but not satisfied which necessitated search for another job that would be more satisfying to them. Alluding to this, National Bureau of Statistics (2020) suggested that unemployment had many sides to it and could refer to people who lost their existing job, or those who had decided to join the labour force because they were outside hitherto and were searching for jobs. Similarly, Nwosu (2018) defined unemployment as a situation whereby people who were available, capable, and qualified were looking for jobs but could not get job opportunities, including those who had lost their jobs and those who voluntarily resigned from their jobs for reason best known to them. Reason for resignation varied, hopelessness or lack of satisfaction in a job could be among the possible reasons. In this regard, Kayode, et al. (2014) viewed unemployment as being underemployed, where people were able and willing to work but unable to find satisfying job to do. The emphasis here revealed cases that might prompt lack of satisfaction in a job to include where the jobs were lower than the levels they had attained in life, their academic qualification or out of their area of specialisation. Supporting this view, Uddin (2013) described unemployment as a situation whereby people with different trainings, were willing and able to

work but unable to find any or the type of job that they were trained to do and which they would be proud of doing.

A number of contributory factors of unemployment were identified. Migration was one of the observable factors responsible for unemployment. Alluding to this, the National Bureau of Statistics (2020) associated migration with ease of movement across state borders, as job seekers were searching for gainful employment opportunities in other states. The migration of jobseekers into a state based particularly on the favourable conditions in a performing state, but in the process triggering unemployment on the account of the jobseekers who migrated into the performing state. Aside the migration from one state to another, migration from the rural to urban settings was also observed. In view of this, Olukayode (2016) remarked that migration especially rural-urban was a contributory factor of unemployment as those who left the rural area, joined the labour force searching for job in the urban area.

Purposeful leadership was also identified as one of the contributory factors of unemployment. Kayode, et al. (2014) noted that lack of purposeful leadership who could ensure that conducive environment was made available for employment to thrive as contributory factor of unemployment. Purposefully ensuring the existence of conducive environment for economic opportunities and gainful employment by leadership were the emphasis here. Conducive environment included the presence of enabling environment through the introduction and enforcement of timely policies as well as the provision of infrastructural amenities among others (Nwankwo & Ifejiolor, 2014).

Inappropriate school curricula were also observed as part of the contributory factors of unemployment. The adoption and application of inappropriate school curricula would not equip students with necessary skills for productivity and the good of the society. Lending credence to this, Olukayode (2016) suggested that inappropriate school curricula had been responsible for many cases of poorly equipped and unproductive graduates in the society. In the same vein, Nwankwo & Ifejiolor (2014) stated that inappropriate school curricula sometimes manifested through policies biased attitude against technical and vocational education which had left many students ill equipped for productive opportunities in the society.

The effects of unemployment on the society were also considered. Kayode, et al. (2014) observed that the effects of unemployment included susceptibility to mental stress, subsequent loss of self-esteem leading to depression, excessive alcoholism, drug abuse, dysfunctional social and emotional relationships, feeling of shame, and above all it brought about a wide spread of criminal activities into the society. Similarly, Nwankwo & Ifejiolor, 2014) remarked that unemployment contributed to crime as well as gave rise to social tension. The authors explained that most people turned to criminality due to frustration that resulted from inability to be gainfully employed, psychological effects on individuals who had spent years acquiring education, having dreams and aspirations of graduating to a life of comfort and securing satisfying jobs but seeing their dreams turned into a sort of nightmare. In this condition of unemployment, the individuals got into criminal activities as coping alternative.

2.2 The Concept of Crime/Criminal Activities:

Crime like other concepts in the social sciences had no universally accepted definition. Simply put, crime represented an unlawful act which could attract punishment from relevant authority. However, unlawful act in one place might be a lawful act in another place, therefore, crime also could also be described as a relative term. The precise definition of crime tended to dependent on the criminal law of each country (Eyikorogha, 2021; Adebayo, 2013). In view of this, Olukayode

(2016) defined crime as any activity which the law in a society frowned at as being unlawful. The author viewed criminal activities as any legally wrong and behavioural acts by any individual in the society which should attract punishments. In essence, crime had been a creation of the law and to this extent, what the law called it. Buttressing this point, Farmer (2008) declared that an act became a crime if so declared as such by the relevant and applicable law in the society.

The effects of criminal activities to the society were considered. According to the Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (2021), criminal activities were socially upsetting due to the threat they posed to the lives and properties of victims, the agony it caused family members and the general feeling of insecurity it inflicted on the society at large. Put differently, criminal activities bred communal tensions and instability as well as endangered the wellbeing of residents. Also, criminalities had been described as triggers of unemployment because employment opportunities would be blocked as investors got scared away. Alluding to this, Ekpenyong & Mathias (2019) described criminal activities as enemies to both local and foreign investment as well as destroyer of human and social capital. Also, whether a performing or underperforming society, crime remained a threat to them both. Supporting this, Olukayode (2016) described crime and criminal activities as economic, political and social threats to the concerned society. The seeming absence of safety to everybody in the society due to criminal activities was the emphasis here.

Causes of crime and criminal activities in the society. Desperation, frustration and unemployment were identified as the cause of criminal activities. Interestingly, unemployment appeared to be the very key factor. Alluding to this, Papaioannou (2017) citing Becker (1968) used simple economic theory of crime to explain that unemployment was a trigger of criminal activities. The emphasis made by the author was that when people saw little or no hope of survival in a competitive society; they decided to engage in criminal activities in order to better their living conditions. The unemployed would go out of their way to make ends meet through criminal activities. Supporting this view, Tambari & Imoh-Ita (2016) stated that desperation to survive was what drive people into living outside the law. Desperation prompting criminalities set in when the concerned person was unable to be gainfully employed. Similarly, Edewor (2012) reiterated that lack of meaningful employment opportunities was the cause of criminal activities in the society.

Nonetheless, Okoli & Agada (2014) citing Daniel Bell (1919-2011), used the queer ladder theory to explain the instrumental essence of crime as a desperate means for economic empowerment and social climbing. The emphasis of this theory was that criminal activities thrived where defective criminal justice system existed and prospects for legitimate livelihood opportunities were slim. A situation whereby the benefits of committing a crime far surpassed its costs; in order words, when the existing legal frameworks of criminal justice were not efficient enough to sanction crime, and ensure deterrence, this could be a trigger for criminal activities in the society.

In the context of this study, criminal activities referred to armed robbery, arson, assassination, drugs and drug trafficking, fraud, homicide, housebreak, kidnapping, murder, smuggling and theft.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

Theories abound that could be used to analyse the connection between unemployment and criminal activities. Among the available theoretical option, the frustration-aggression theory was preferred. The frustration-aggression theory was traced to the work of Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mower and Sear (1939), which aimed to study human aggression. This work had become popular and been made relevant in the study of criminal activities (Galtung, 1990; Berkowitz, 1989).

Gurr (1970) observed that the frustration-aggression theory focused on the psychological explanations linking frustration to change in behavioural dispositions. The desperation to be

gainfully employed and frustration of remaining unemployed were therefore associated with the fundamental cause of criminal activities. The psychological explanation had to do with understanding the state of mind or the thinking of a person. And with regard to this study, the theory explained the desperation and tension arising from the unemployed person who had expected to be gainfully employed. The wider the differences between that which the person had expected and that which was available, the higher the frustration and likelihood that criminal activities would set in as a mean of revenge against the society. For a logical analysis, on the link between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State, this study therefore adopted the frustration-aggression as its theoretical framework.

2.4 Unemployment and Criminal Activities

Scholars were divided on the nature of relationship between unemployment and criminal activities. One school of thought believed that unemployment triggers criminal activities, while the other school of thought argued that unemployment does not trigger criminal activities. The scholars who believed that unemployment triggers criminal activities argued that the unemployed were both desperate and frustrated due to inability to secure gainful employment; thereby propelling them to adopt criminality as a sort of sustenance for themselves. While other scholars contended that no matter the level of unemployment, it could not in or by itself directly cause criminal activities in the society.

Commenting on the view that unemployment could trigger crimes in the society, Nwosu (2018) stated that scholars who supported the claim opined that unemployment had a way of exerting mental stress and anti-social behaviour on the unemployed; thereby propelling them to use criminal behaviour as means to attain their desires. The mental stress come in the form of desperations to have their dreams for gainful employment come to pass, while anti-social behaviour or criminality sets in due to frustration that their dreams had turned into nightmare.

Using simple economic theory of crime, Papaioannou (2017) citing Becker (1968) stated that the unemployed were more likely to become involved in criminal activities when they experienced a negative income shock. This reasoning is framed in terms of an opportunity cost model; meaning that one would forgo one thing to get another thing. Put differently, as income levels declined due to unfavourable conditions, engaging in crime becomes more opportune relative to participating in legitimate economic activities. Going by this view, the level of unemployment was associated with the reason for criminals to go out of their way to make ends meet in the absence of gainful employment opportunities.

Not having a regular means of livelihood was observed as basis for frustration and sense of hopelessness to the unemployed which in turn propel them into criminality. Buttressing this point, Olukayode (2016) stated that unemployment could promote tension and sense of hopelessness in the society due to the absence of regular income and means of livelihood to support oneself, and that frustration would naturally set in for the unemployed which eventually got them to take the pathway of criminality. Put differently, the unemployed were prone to be psychologically dejected due to desperation to achieve their goals, but frustrated as they were unable to contribute productively to the society and left with illegal behavioural acts as means to meet the basic necessities of life.

Giving an explanation for the way unemployment could trigger criminality in the society, Nwankwo & Ifejiolor (2014) placed their emphasis on the psychological effects which individuals who had spent years acquiring education, having dreams and aspirations of graduating to a life of comfort and securing satisfying jobs but seeing their dreams turning into nightmare as the simple

logic that connected frustration due to inability to be gainfully engaged which finally would propel the unemployed into criminal activities as back-up for them to meet up in life. Lending credence to this, Alabi (2014) submitted that the trend in which people engaged in criminal activities suggested that many of them were unemployed. This point though very relevant to the study but its weakness was that no data was shown to support the claim.

Also, Okeke (2014) stated that the longer the condition of unemployment remained, the more disheartened and frustrated the unemployed become because they were incapacitated to take care of their needs, without external help, thereby making them to go into criminal activities as means of livelihood and be able to provide for themselves without external help. In this sense, Nyong (2013) equally likened unemployment to the grease that promoted and propagated criminal activities in the society on the ground that it exerted mental pressure on the unemployed by promoting cum propagating tendency for criminalities in their mind.

In the same vein, Ogbebor (2012) posited that the unemployed viewed themselves as forgotten people and were therefore psychologically dejected and increasingly encouraged to join criminal activities as a revenge against the society that had supposedly forgotten them. Similarly, Ugal, et al. (2011) stated that the unemployed often engaged in different kinds of criminalities due to the adverse implication of their unemployment situation. Their situation is adverse in the sense that it brings desperation as well as frustration on the individual who has attained productive age or joined the labour force and searching for jobs but yet to be gainfully employed as well as be able to legitimately face daily challenges of life on their own. Also contributing, Dambauzu (2007) opined that many people were frustrated in the society today because their desires were shattered and unfulfilled due to the prevalence of unemployment which in turn was compelling them to indulge in criminal activities.

Nevertheless, scholars who dismissed the claim that unemployment could trigger criminal activities were of the view that no matter the level of unemployment, it could not in or by itself directly cause the unemployed to indulge in crimes for the purpose of meeting their needs. Alluding to this, Nwosu (2018) noted that the scholars who contended that unemployment no matter the rate of its prevalence, could not on its own compel the unemployed to indulge in criminal activities as means to attain their desires in the society. Supporting this view, Galadima (2014) argued that it amounted to misplacement of priority for anyone to state that unemployment was the cause of criminal activities when there was no direct relationship between the two variables. The emphasis of this line of thought was that choosing criminal behaviour to meet up with the challenges in life was one thing, while choosing activities that were not criminally induced to meet the challenge of life was another thing altogether. More so, employment was not a guarantee to stay off criminality, while being unemployed was not a license for criminality.

Using the queer ladder theory, Okoli & Agada (2014) citing Daniel Bell (1919-2011) gave a simple explanation into the instrumental essence of crime as a desperate means for economic empowerment and social climbing. The emphasis of this theory was that criminal activities thrived where defective criminal justice system existed and prospects for legitimate livelihood opportunities were slim. A situation whereby the benefits of committing a crime far surpassed its costs; in order words, where the existing legal frameworks of criminal justice were not efficient enough to sanction crime, and ensure deterrence in that regard, criminal activities were bound to take place. In this regard, the claim that unemployment was the cause of criminality was challenged here, rather, the cause of criminal activities was directed to other factor particularly defective criminal justice system.

Lending credence to the above, Jackson (2004) opined that people would ordinarily not set out to indulge in criminal activities as a way of life, but certain factors and needs in their lives turned them into criminals. These certain factors could mean anything different from unemployment, which the author noted to be responsible for making the people to engage in wrongful behavioural acts primarily to live on financially. After all, unemployment and criminality were both symptoms of social disorganisation. Within this line of thought, Olukayode (2016) stated that unemployment and criminality constituted intertwined social problem which were mutually reinforcing and that they were both symptoms of social disorganisation in the society. Differently, Galadima (2014) citing Adejumo (2011) asserted that the presence of unemployment and criminalities were clear case of failure of leadership to purposefully utilise the available human and natural resources to provide economic opportunities that would gainfully engage the labour force in productive and meaningful economic activities in the society. Ultimately, whether unemployment was the cause of crime or not, leaderships had great roles to play in handling these symptoms of social disorganisation for the overall interest of the society.

In the view of the above contentions among scholars, an objective assessment of these claims appeared compelling to determine the relationship between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa state.

2.5 Managing Criminal Activities

Different scholars had variously suggested different ways to manage criminal activities in the society. To start with, a number of ways to manage criminalities in the society were identified including: purposeful leadership, addressing migration issues, addressing unemployment, appropriate school curricula and strict criminal justice system among others.

Purposeful leadership appeared to be the coordinating factor among the ways to manage criminal activities in the society. Commenting in this regard, Olukayode (2016) stated that purposeful leadership was key in limiting the other factors that predisposed people to criminal activities. The other factors included contributory factors of unemployment, migration issues particularly as it relates to jobseekers searching for job across state borders, inappropriate school curricula and defective criminal justice system. Key issue here had to do with purposeful provision of enabling environment by the leadership. Alluding to this, Nnorom & Odigbo (2015) submitted that purposeful leadership would create the enabling environment that would get the people engaged as well as provide support services for the smooth running of the productive activities and in the overall interest of the society.

Similarly, Kayode, et al. (2014) commented that purposeful leadership would ensure that conducive environment was made available for economic opportunities and gainful employment to thrive. Conducive environment represented the presence of enabling environment including introduction cum enforcement of timely policies and provision of infrastructural amenities among others for smooth running of economic and productive activities (Nwankwo & Ifejiolor, 2014). Also, Galadima (2014) asserted that leadership should purposefully utilise the available human and natural resources to provide enabling environment for the labour force to be gainfully engaged in productive and meaningful economic activities. Summing these up, Afolabi (2013) asserted that with purposeful leadership providing an enabling environment that aimed to address the root causes of criminal activities including opportunities for gainful employment, then, criminality was bound to reduce in the society.

Addressing migration issues was also identified as part of the ways to manage criminalities in the society. This could be done by ensuring enabling productive opportunities for jobseekers to be

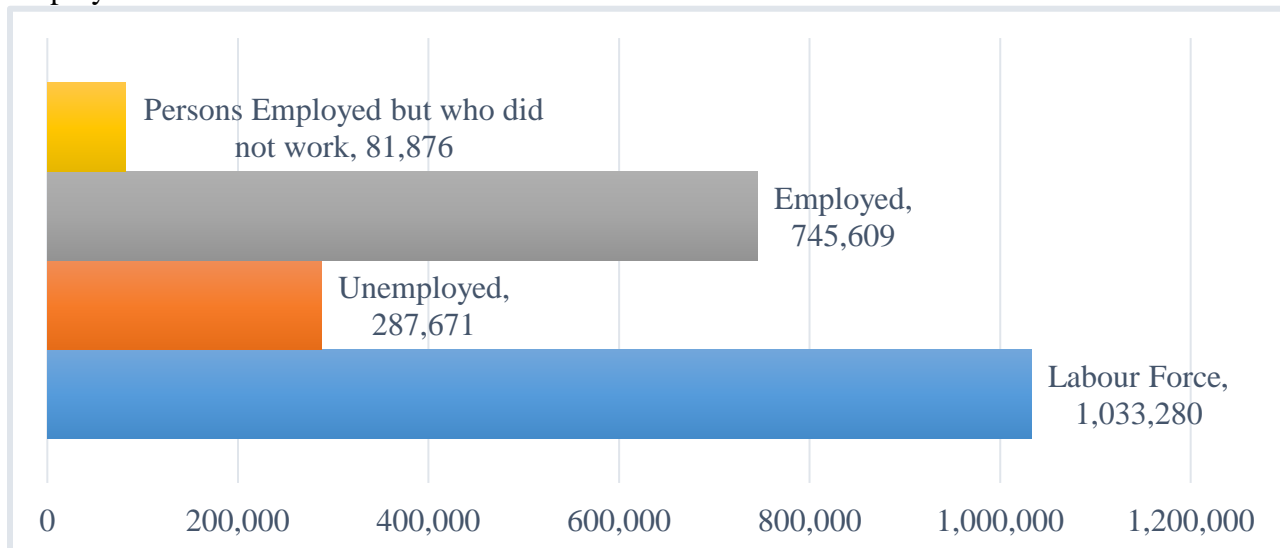
gainfully engaged in the state or place of residence they found themselves, this would not only address the migration of job seekers across state borders, but also take care of observable rural-urban migration in the same regard (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020; Olukayode, 2016). This could be achieved through deliberate and comprehensive plan to make gainful and productive activities available as well as attractive to the people in their chosen place of residents.

Addressing inappropriate school curricula was also observed as part of the ways to manage criminal activities in the society. This had to do with the adoption and application of appropriate school curricula in order to equip students with necessary skills for the good and productivity of the society. Lending credence to this, Olukayode (2016) supported that the inappropriate use of school curricula should be addressed for students to be equipped with necessary skills needed for productivity in the society. In the same vein, Nwankwo & Ifejiolor (2014) stated that the specific areas to be addressed under the inappropriate school curricula should include policies biased attitude against technical and vocational education in order to equip the students with productive skills for productivities as well as to become employers of labour. The emphasis here was the need to ensure appropriate school curricula that would equip students with the much-needed tools necessary to meet the expected needs of the society.

Another identified way to manage criminal activities in the society was by strict criminal justice system. Alluding to this, Okoli & Agada (2014:142) commended the need for strict criminal justice system in the administration of penalties for crimes as well as ensuring deterrence of criminal activities in the society. This simply suggested that defects in the criminal justice system should be addressed so that the cost of criminality might surpass its benefits and thereby discouraged criminality in the society.

2.6 Statistics of Unemployment and Criminal Activities in Bayelsa State

Figure 2.1: Bayelsa State Statistics of Labour Force, Unemployed, Employed and Persons Employed but who did not work in 2020

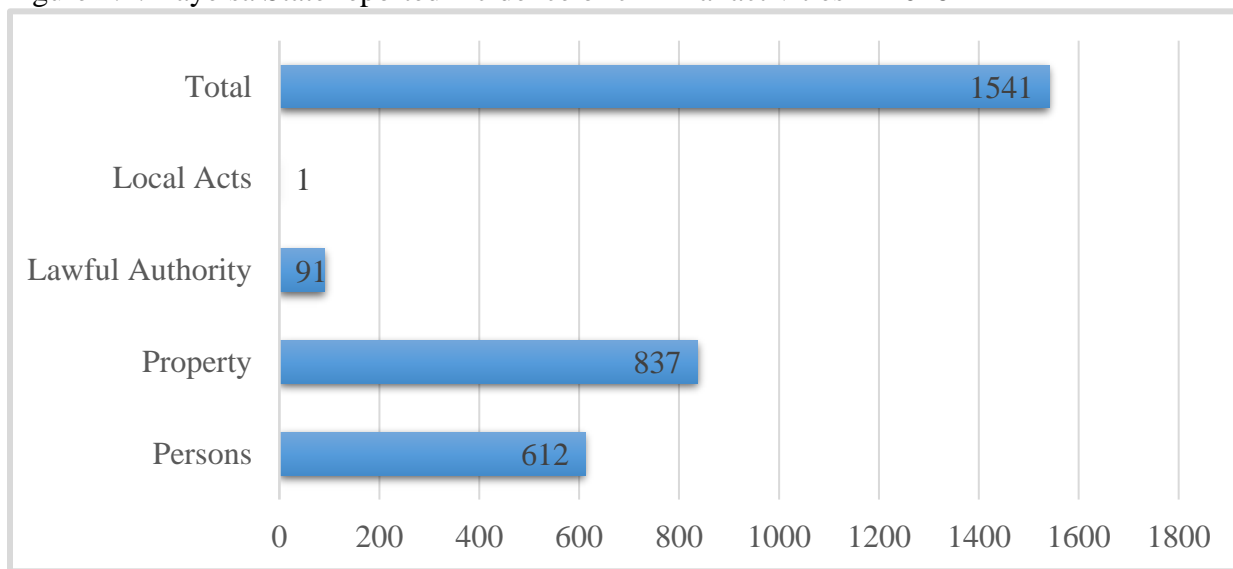


Source: Calculated from National Bureau of Statistics (2020).

Bayelsa State had on record a total labour force of 1,033,280. The baseline data on the employment status in Bayelsa State revealed documented cases of unemployment. Figure 2.1 above indicated

that 287,671 were unemployed, those employed were 745,609, while those though employed but who did not work amounted to 81,876.

Figure 2.2: Bayelsa State reported incidence of criminal activities in 2016



Source: Calculated from National Bureau of Statistics (2017)

Reported offences was a key factor in determining the incidence of criminal activities in Bayelsa State. A cursory look at the available data on incidence of criminal activities in Bayelsa State showed that there were 1,601 reported criminal offences in 2016. Table 4.1 showed 612 reported criminal offences against human beings, while criminal offences against human properties was 837; the offences against lawful authority had 91; while against local acts recorded only 1.

2.7 Identified Gaps in the Literature

The vast literature on the relationship between unemployment and criminal activities revealed that there was no consensus on the causal explanation of crimes/criminal activities. The literatures further appeared to suggest multi-causal explanation for criminal activities. The critical research gap here is the relationship between unemployment and criminal activities. This study examined the relationship between unemployment and criminal activities. This is a gap which this study aimed to fill. It sought to determine whether there was a relationship between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa state.

The way to effectively manage criminal activities in the society was also reviewed. The literatures revealed that purposeful leadership was key to the management of criminal activities. It was compelling to determine the relevance of purposeful leadership in the management of criminal activities. These missing gaps appear worthy of consideration. This study therefore examined the ways to effectively manage criminal activities in Bayelsa state.

3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The ex post facto design and causal design were used for the study. The ex post facto design aimed to observe incidence which had already occurred and must have been caused by certain factor(s), while the causal design aimed to establish causal pathway between a dependent variable and an independent variable (Ayinde, 2016; Bassey & Ndiyo, 2016). The adoption of ex post facto and causal design would therefore help to achieve the aim and objectives of this study.

3.2 Population of the study

Bayelsa state has eight (8) Local Government Areas (LGAs): Brass, Ekeremor, Kolokuma/Opokuma, Nembe, Ogbia, Sagbama, Southern Ijaw and Yenagoa. The population of the study area as given during the 2006 population census was shown below:

Table 3.1: Population Census of Bayelsa State (2006).

S/N	Name of LGAs	Population
1	Brass	184,127
2	Ekeremor	269,588
3	Kolokuma/Opokuma	79,266
4	Nembe	130,966
5	Ogbia	179,606
6	Sagbama	186,869
7	Southern Ijaw	321,808
8	Yenagoa	352,285
	Total	1,704,515

Sources: NPC 2006 in Federal Republic of Nigeria (2009)

Due to the difficult topography of the study area, the research is limited to the three (3) senatorial districts in the state and specifically to two (2) local government areas in each of the senatorial districts. The survey targeted 400 respondents from among the population which include traders, youth, security personnel, community leaders, and teachers.

3.3 Sample and Sampling Techniques

A population frame of 1,704,515 relying on the 2006 census (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2009) was used. In determining the sample size for the study, the Taro Yamane formula was used. Commenting on Yamane formula, Nweke & Nwoba (2016:48) described as a simplified formula that could be used to calculate sample size. Approximately, the sample size as calculated was 400. A 3 stage sampling technique was used to select 6 communities in 6 out of the 8 LGAs in the state. First was the use of purposive sampling method to choose the 3 senatorial districts of the state for proportional representation. Next was the random selection of 2 local government areas from each

senatorial district of the state. Lastly was the random selection of location in the selected local government areas.

Sample sizes of 80 respondents each from 5 spheres of the target population were randomly selected from the study area. These are: traders, youth, security personnel, community leaders and teachers.

3.4 Nature and Sources of Data

Qualitative data complemented quantitative data in this study. Similarly, the study used both primary and secondary sources to generate data. The combination of primary and secondary sources of data was to ensure the attainment of the objectives of the study. The primary data was limited to randomly selected 6 locations in 6 LGAs of the 3 senatorial districts in Bayelsa state: Ekowe in Southern Ijaw and Yenagoa in Yenagoa LGAs (Bayelsa central); Nembe city in Nembe and Ogbia town in Ogbia LGAs (Bayelsa East); Ekeremor in Ekeremor and Sagbama in Sagbama LGAs (Bayelsa West). (see Independent National Electoral Commission, 2013).

3.5 Methods of Data Collection/Instrumentation

Given that primary and secondary data were employed in this study. For the primary data, a total number of 400 questionnaires were distributed. The questionnaires were administered on 400 respondents who were randomly selected from the 3 senatorial districts of the state. Bayelsa central 134; Bayelsa East 133; Bayelsa West 133. The selected communities were allotted copies of the questionnaires as followed: Ekowe 66; Yenagoa 68; Nembe city 66; Ogbia town 67; Ekeremor 66; Sagbama 67. The type of questionnaire used was the structured questionnaire with response options supplied for the respondents to make their choices.

The structured questionnaire had two sections as A and B corresponding with personal information and investigating variables respectively. The Likert-type 4 options rating scale; Strongly agreed (4), Agreed (3), Strongly disagreed (2), and Disagreed (1), as well as multiple options to issues being investigated were used in the questionnaire, in order to create room for many response variations.

Relevant secondary data were specifically obtained from text books, journals and the internet.

3.6 Methods of Data Analysis

The primary data for this study were analysed with both descriptive and inferential statistics. Relevant descriptive statistical methods such as frequencies, percentages and tables were used in comparing the opinion of respondents to a given question in relation to the overall responses of a particular class of respondents expressed as a percentage in order to see the pattern of responses in the field work. While the research hypothesis was analysed using inferential statistics, specifically, the Chi-square (X^2) statistical tool was employed to test the relationship between the dependent and the independent variables.

Decision Rule: The retention or rejection of the null hypotheses was determined through the differences in the calculated value and the table value. If the calculated value was greater than the table value, the null hypothesis would be rejected. On the other hand, if the calculated value was less than the table value, the null hypothesis would be retained.

The tests were done at 0.05 level of significance and at determined degree of freedom. These analyses were carried out with the use of excel. Moreover, the secondary data collected were

analysed with content analysis; by analysing the content of published papers and views of scholars on the subject matter, these were to ensure the objectivity and generality of the study.

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It should be noted that 400 copies of questionnaire were distributed to respondents. However, 7 copies were found invalid, while 393 copies were found valid to the study.

4.1 Results

Table 4.1: The Demographic Data of Respondents

Variables	Frequency (N) = 393	Percentage (%) = 100
Sex		
Male	311	79.1
Female	82	20.9
Age		
18-27	46	11.7
28-37	116	29.5
38-47	100	25.4
48-57	74	18.8
58 & Above	57	14.5
Educational Qualification		
FSLC	24	6.1
SSCE	64	16.3
ND/NCE	86	21.9
HND/First Degree	101	25.7
PGD	11	2.8
Master Degree	91	23.2
PhD	16	4.1
Senatorial District		
Bayelsa Central	131	33.3
Bayelsa East	130	33.1
Bayelsa West	132	33.6
Community		
Ekowe	65	16.5
Yenagoa	66	16.8
Nembe City	64	16.3
Ogbia Town	66	16.8
Ekeremor	67	17.0
Sagbama	65	16.5
Occupation		
Students	127	32.3
Public/Civil Servant	132	33.6

Private Sector	103	26.2
Retiree/Pensioners	31	7.9
Target Groups		
Traders	80	20.4
Youth	80	20.4
Security Personnel	78	19.8
Community Leaders	75	19.1
Teachers	80	20.4

Source: Field Work 2022

Based on the table 4.1 above, the distribution of respondents based on sex indicated that there were 79.1% male and 20.9% female respondents. Similarly, the age distribution of the respondents revealed that those between the ages of 18 to 27 years had 11.7%, the ages between 28 to 37 years had 29.5%, those between the ages of 38 to 47 years had 25.4%, those between the ages 48 to 57 had 18.8%, while 14.5% were between the ages of 58 years and above. Furthermore, the variable on the educational qualifications of respondents based on the table showed that 6.1% had First School Leaving Certificate, 16.3% were Senior School Certificate Examination holders, 21.9% were National Diploma/National Certificate of Education holders, 25.7% had Higher National Diploma/First Degree, 2.8% were Post Graduate Diploma holders, 23.2% were Master's Degree holders, while 4.1% were Doctorate Degree holders. The distribution of respondents by the Senatorial Districts from the table showed that Bayelsa Central had 33.3%, Bayelsa East had 33.1%, while Bayelsa West had 33.6%. On the basis of respondent's community, the table revealed that Ekowe had 16.5%, Yenagoa had 16.8%, Nembe City had 16.3%, Ogbia Town had 16.8%, Ekeremor had 17%, and Sagbama had 16.5%. The occupational distribution of respondents as contained on the table showed that students were 32.3%, public/civil servant had 33.6%, private sector had 26.2%, and retiree/pensioner had 7.9%. Also, the distribution of target groups from the table revealed that traders had the total of 20.4%, youth had 20.4%, security personnel had 19.8%, community leaders had 19.1%, while teachers had 20.4%.

4.2 Responses to Questions in the Questionnaire

Question 1): Do you think there is relationship between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State?

Table 4.2: Opinions on the Relationship between Unemployment and Criminal Activities in Bayelsa State.

Response Options	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed	Total
Traders	21	55	1	3	80
	26.3%	68.8%	1.3%	3.8%	100%
Youth	43	33	0	4	80
	53.8%	41.3%	0.0%	5%	100%
Security Personnel	15	40	3	20	78
	19.2%	51.3%	3.8%	25.6%	100%
Community Leaders	27	35	2	11	75
	36%	46.7%	2.7%	14.7%	100%
Teachers	17	54	1	8	80
	21.3%	67.5%	1.3%	10%	100%
Total	123	217	7	46	393
Percentage of Total	31.3%	55.2%	1.8%	11.7%	100%

Source: Field Survey 2022

Table 4.2 showed the opinions of respondents on whether there is relationship between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State. In the total, the opinions of respondents on whether there is relationship between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State showed that those who agreed had the highest with 55.2% responses, those who strongly agreed had the second highest with 31.3% responses, while those who disagreed had the third highest with 11.7% responses, and those who strongly disagreed had the least with 1.8% responses. The implication of this is that unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State appeared to have relationship.

Test of Hypothesis:

H₀: There is no significant relationship between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State.

H₁: There is a significant relationship between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State.

Table 4.3: Summary of Chi-Square Computation Based on (O) and (E) Frequencies to determine the Hypothesis.

Hypothesis	Sample Size	Degrees of Freedom	Chi-Square Values		Significance level	Decision rule
			Calculated value (χ^2_{cal})	Table value (χ^2_{table})		
	135	12	54.13	21.03	0.05	Rejected

Decision Rule:

At 0.05 level of significance with 12 degrees of freedom, the $\chi^2_{cal.}$ is 54.13, while the χ^2_{table} is 21.03. Since the value of $\chi^2_{cal.}$ is greater than the value of χ^2_{table} , the H_0 is therefore rejected, while the H_1 which stated that, there is a significant relationship between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State, is retained.

Question 2): In what way do you think criminal activities can be effectively managed in Bayelsa State?

Table 4.4: Respondents opinion on the way criminal activities can be effectively managed in Bayelsa State.

Response Options	Addressing Unemployment	Addressing Migration Issues	Strict Criminal Justice System	Appropriate School Curricula	Purposeful Leadership	Total
Traders	22	5	8	12	33	80
	27.5%	6.3%	10%	15%	41.3%	100%
Youth	20	12	11	10	27	80
	25%	15%	13.8%	12.5%	33.8%	100%
Security Personnel	18	15	14	9	22	78
	23.1%	19.2%	17.9%	11.5%	28.2%	100%
Community Leaders	19	11	15	14	16	75
	25.3%	14.7%	20%	18.7%	21.3%	100%
Teachers	17	7	10	22	24	80
	21.3%	8.8%	12.5%	27.5%	30%	100%
Total	96	50	58	67	122	393
Percentage of Total	24.4%	12.7%	14.8%	17%	31%	100%

Source: Field Survey 2022

Table 4.3 indicated the opinions of respondents on the way criminal activities can be effectively managed in Bayelsa State. In the total responses, purposeful leadership ranked highest with 31% among the ways identified as how criminal activities could be effectively managed in Bayelsa State. Addressing unemployment was rated second with 24.4%, appropriate school curricula was rated third with 17%, strict criminal justice system was rated fourth with 14.8%, while addressing migration issues had the least with 12.7%. The implication of this is that purposeful leadership appears to be the way criminal activities can be effectively managed in Bayelsa State.

4.3 Discussion of Findings

The result from the test of the hypothesis which aimed to examine whether there was a significant relationship between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State, showed that there was indeed a significant relationship between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State. This finding could be tied to the frustration-aggression theory implying that the incidence of unemployment led to frustration for the unemployed on the ground that their dreams for gainful

employment could not be met, and thereby propelling them into criminality in the form of aggression against the system that did not provide what they had expected.

The finding was in line with the work of Nwankwo & Ifejiolor (2014) who submitted that unemployment exerted psychological pressures on individuals who had spent years acquiring education, having dreams and aspirations of graduating to a life of comfort and securing satisfying jobs but seeing their dreams turning into nightmare because they were yet to be gainfully engaged, while the frustration that followed finally propel them to adopt criminality as means of life sustenance for themselves. Also, Ugal, et al. (2011) stated that the unemployed engaged in different kinds of criminalities due to desperation as well as frustration facing them at their productive age or being in the labour force and searching for jobs but unable to be gainfully employed as well as legitimately face daily challenges of life on their own. Meanwhile, Tambari & Imoh-Ita (2016) observed that notwithstanding the deployment of large contingent of security officers in Bayelsa State, the incidence of crime and criminalities in the state kept on increasing. Furthermore, this study also investigated how to effectively manage criminal activities in Bayelsa State. The result of this study indicated that purposeful leadership was the key way to effectively manage criminal activities in Bayelsa State. This finding had support in the work of Nnorom & Odigbo (2015) which submitted that purposeful leadership ensured the provision of enabling environment that would get the people engaged as well as provide support services for the smooth running of productive activities and in the overall interest of the people. Also, Afolabi (2013) asserted that with purposeful leadership providing an enabling environment that aimed to address the root causes of criminal activities including opportunities for gainful employment, would be possible and thereafter criminality was bound to reduce in the society.

5.1 Conclusion

The overall intention of this study was to describe unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State. The specific aim was to examine the relationship between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State. The study also aimed to determine how to effectively manage criminal activities in Bayelsa State. The study adopted frustration-aggression theoretical framework which connected unemployment to criminal activities.

Methodologically, the study employed quantitative approach which was logically complemented with qualitative method. Primary and secondary data were used. The sample size of 400 was used. Chi-square (χ^2) statistics, percentages and tables were employed, while the secondary data were obtained from books, journals and the internet.

The major findings revealed that there was a significant relationship between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State, and that purposeful leadership was key to managing criminal activities in Bayelsa State. The study concluded that the existence of unemployment was responsible for the prevalence of criminal activities in Bayelsa State.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study therefore made these recommendations:

- 1) Leadership at all levels should purposefully and proactively handle the issues of unemployment with all the seriousness it required by providing conducive environment for productive

opportunities and attracting viable development projects that will keep the labour force gainfully employed.

- 2) Stakeholders in the education industry should include appropriate school curricula and necessary entrepreneurial skills in the educational system for the student to be equipped for productivity upon graduation.
- 3) Government should adopt strict criminal justice system whereby criminals are arrested, prosecuted and appropriately punished without bias, in order to serve as a deterrent to others.
- 4) Issues of migration especially rural-urban should be appropriately addressed by the government and relevant stakeholders through the provision of employment cum developmental-driven projects in order to ensure that expected supports get to them.

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APPENDIX 1

PART A: BIO-DATA

Instructions: Kindly tick appropriately in the boxes below:

1. Sex: Male Female
2. Local government of Residence _____
3. Age: 18-27 28-37 38-47 48-57 58 & above
4. Occupation: Student Public/Civil Servant Private sector
Others (specify) _____
5. Highest Educational Qualification: FSLC SSCE ND/NCE
HND/B.Sc M.Sc/M.A PhD
Others (specify) _____

PART B: Managing Unemployment and Criminal Activities in Nigeria: The Case of Bayelsa State.

Instructions: Kindly tick the appropriate one in the given options.

1. Is there a relationship between unemployment and criminal activities in Bayelsa State?
Strongly agreed , Agreed , Strongly disagreed , Disagreed
2. In what way do you think criminal activities can be effectively managed in Bayelsa State?
 - a) Addressing unemployment
 - b) Addressing migration issues
 - c) Strict criminal justice system
 - d) Appropriate school curricula
 - e) Purposeful leadership

APPENDIX II

The Taro Yamane formula used to determine the sample size is:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where;

n = the sample size sought,

N = the population size,

e = the level of precision (or significance) which is 0.05.

Therefore,

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$= \frac{1,704,515}{1 + 1,704,515(0.05)^2}$$

$$= 399.91$$

Approximately, 400 sample size.

APPENDIX III

The formula for calculating Chi-Square (χ^2) is:

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$$

Where:

χ^2 = Chi-Square

\sum = Summation or Sum of

O = Observed Frequency

E = Expected Frequency

The formula to calculate “**E**” = $\frac{\text{Row Total} \times \text{Column Total}}{\text{Overall Total}}$

To calculate the Degrees of freedom (df), the formula used was:

$$df = (R - 1)(C - 1)$$

Where:

R = Row

C = Column

We had; $(5 - 1)(4 - 1)$

$$= 4 \times 3$$

$$= 12$$

Details of Chi-Square Computation Based on (O) and (E) Frequencies to determine the Relationship between Unemployment and Criminal Activities in Bayelsa State.

Cell	O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
(a)	21	25.04	-4.04	16.31	0.65
(b)	55	44.17	10.83	117.22	2.65
(c)	1	1.42	-0.42	0.18	0.13
(d)	3	9.36	-6.36	40.50	4.33
(e)	43	25.04	17.96	322.63	12.89
(f)	33	44.17	-11.17	124.84	2.83
(g)	0	1.42	-1.42	2.03	1.42
(h)	4	9.36	-5.36	28.77	3.07
(i)	15	24.41	-9.41	88.59	3.63
(j)	40	43.07	-3.07	9.42	0.22
(k)	3	1.39	1.61	2.59	1.87
(l)	20	9.13	10.87	118.16	12.94
(m)	27	23.47	3.53	12.44	0.53
(n)	35	41.41	-6.41	41.12	0.99
(o)	2	1.34	0.66	0.44	0.33
(p)	11	8.78	2.22	4.93	0.56
(q)	17	25.04	-8.04	64.61	2.58
(r)	54	44.17	9.83	96.57	2.19
(s)	1	1.42	-0.42	0.18	0.13
(t)	8	9.36	-1.36	1.86	0.20
Total					54.13