

Youth Unemployment, Crime Incidence and the Challenges of Youth Development Programmes in Delta State, Nigeria

Ngboawaji Daniel Nte¹, Ucheawaji Nathaniel Nte²,
Clairmont Roger Featherstone³ and Eyengho, Ogbe Evans⁴

¹Provost, College of Management and Social Sciences, Novena University, Ogume, Delta State, Nigeria. E-mail: profndte@novenauniversity.edu.ng or ngbodante@gmail.com

²Universite Protestante de L'Afrique De L'Ouest (Protestant University of West Africa), Docolji, Port Novo, Republic of Benin

³Kuru Kuru Cooperative College, Georgetown, Guyana, South America

⁴School of Postgraduate Studies, Dept of Intelligence and Security Studies, Novena University, Ogume, Delta State, Nigeria

TO CITE THIS ARTICLE

Ngboawaji Daniel Nte, Ucheawaji Nathaniel Nte, Clairmont Roger Featherstone & Eyengho, Ogbe Evans (2024). Youth Unemployment, Crime Incidence and the Challenges of Youth Development Programmes in Delta State, Nigeria. *Journal of Crime and Criminal Behavior*, 4: 1, pp. 25-63. <https://doi.org/10.47509/JCCB.2024.v04i01.02>

Abstract: The correlation between youth unemployment and high incidence of crime in Nigeria has remained an interesting subject amongst researchers, academics and policy makers. Consequently, this work is an inquiry into the challenges of youth development occasioned by youth unemployment and high incidence of crime and deviance amongst youths in Delta State, Nigeria. The work employed mixed research methods involving the use of questionnaires, focus group discussions and interviews to elicit objective views from respondents selected from a broad spectrum of the study population in the state. The study identified such key causative factors of youth unemployment in delta state to include; government inaction, lack of requisite skills, wrong attitude to industry etc. This has therefore exacerbated the high incidence of cybercrime, oil bunkering, political thuggery, pipeline vandalism and such other vices amongst the youths. In the face of these public safety and security threats the study recommends a lot of sustainable youth development programmes to include skill development programmes, sports development, multi-lingual skill acquisition. Others include; a review of national educational curriculum to create employable youths, entrepreneurial development, ICT acquisition and above all responsible governance devoid of unmitigated corruption and embezzlement.

Keywords: Unemployment, Youth, Development, Crime Incidents, Delta State

Introduction

Unemployment has emerged as a significant challenge for the Nigerian economy. Since 1973, there has been a significant increase in Nigeria's unemployment rate, reaching three times its initial value. This has transformed the issue into a matter of national concern, resulting in far-reaching consequences (Ejikeme, 2014; Odumade, 2020). The problem of unemployment in Nigeria can be dissected into various components. Instances of underemployment can be observed, when individuals encounter a situation where their earnings fail to adequately cover their essential needs such as sustenance, clothing, and shelter. Disguised unemployment refers to a situation wherein individuals undertake job that is below their skill set and educational qualifications. In the most severe instances, individuals actively seek employment opportunities in both the public and private sectors, yet encounter a lack of available positions.

Nigeria is home to around 211,400,708 individuals in the youth demographic, rendering it the most densely populated nation in Africa and one of the most prominent nations in terms of population size (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). The country is populated by a significant number of individuals and entities. According to recent data, a significant proportion of Nigeria's labour force, specifically over 60% of individuals within the working age bracket, are below the age of 34. Furthermore, the unemployment rate among young people experienced a notable increase from 40.8% in the second quarter of 2020 to 53.4% in the fourth quarter of the same year. This surge in youth unemployment positions Nigeria as the second highest country in the global ranking. These findings have been reported by Olurounbi (2021) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2020). This indicates a concerning prevalence of youth unemployment and underscores the urgency of implementing prompt measures to engage them in economically advantageous pursuits.

The increase in the unemployment rate can be attributed to several factors, including the delayed allocation of capital budget by the Federal Government, the implementation of an employment freeze in several public and private sector organisations, and the growing population of recent graduates who are unable to get suitable employment opportunities (Arewa & Nwakanma, 2012). A significant portion of the younger population, despite possessing the necessary enthusiasm and readiness to initiate entrepreneurial ventures or engage in economic endeavours, face considerable obstacles in the form of unfavourable macroeconomic conditions and limited access to resources, hence impeding their ability to do so. The causes identified by Oni (2016) can be attributed to the elevated levels of youth unemployment and poverty in Africa.

As per the stipulations outlined in the African Youth Charter, the term "youth" is specifically delineated to encompass individuals who are below the age threshold of 35. In 2019, the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development undertook the task of

revising and modifying the National Youth Policy of Nigeria. According to the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2019), the existing age range for youth categorization is between 18 and 35 years. However, the present analysis aims to propose a reduction of this range to encompass those aged 15 to 29 years. The change in mind-set was triggered by the recognition that addressing the challenges confronting the younger generation may be more efficiently accomplished through the implementation of a pragmatic, integrated, and all-encompassing strategy for policy development and programme implementation.

Youth unemployment exerts a negative influence on various socioeconomic aspects, extending beyond the unemployed youth themselves. According to Alanana's (2013) research, the absence of job might have detrimental effects as it conveys a negative message to individuals at large. As a result of these factors, there is a potential for an increase in activities such as prostitution, political thuggery, violence, restlessness, vandalism, and petroleum bunkering. Additionally, there may be a rise in poverty, rural-urban migration, low productivity, loss of government revenue, and other illicit activities (Abomaye-Nimenibo, 2018). These factors might potentially present a significant threat to the security, economy, and advancement of a nation. The escalation of criminal activity and security concerns has become a prevalent issue in virtually every locality in Nigeria. Since the transition from a military to a civilian regime, there has been a notable surge in incidents of bombings, kidnappings, and abductions, reaching unprecedented proportions. The attribution of various societal problems, such as those identified by Okechukwu and Nwankwo (2020), is often ascribed to the dearth of economic prospects available to Nigeria's substantial youth demographic.

The occurrence of cybercrime among young individuals has been found to be associated with unemployment and unfavourable economic circumstances (NBS, 2020; Ibekwe, 2021). The prevailing high crime rate in Nigeria is mostly attributed to unemployment, particularly among the younger population. Research has shown that there is a disproportionate representation of unemployed adolescents in research examining their involvement as both perpetrators and victims of crime and violence (Okafor, 2011). The prevailing emphasis on material wealth and its association with social status and achievement in contemporary Nigeria seems to be fostering a trend wherein unemployed youth are increasingly resorting to engaging in criminal behaviour. According to Ajibike (2019), the prevalence of cybercrime among Nigerian youth can be attributed to several factors, including a high unemployment rate, challenging economic conditions, and insufficient educational institutions. Due to the increased accessibility of white-collar employment opportunities for young individuals, the necessity of seeking vocational positions has diminished. Consequently, some individuals resort to engaging in illicit or fraudulent activities as a means to generate income. According to Ojolo (2017), the dearth of job prospects and prevailing economic hardship inside the

nation compel several young individuals to resort to criminal activities as a method of sustaining their physical and emotional welfare.

Nigeria's populace is facing significant challenges in achieving financial stability, primarily attributed to the prevailing economic conditions and a dearth of viable work prospects (Ekpo, 2008). Nevertheless, subsequent administrations have made efforts to tackle challenges affecting the youth, including unemployment and poverty. Consequently, the federal government has enacted policies and conducted programmes aimed at fostering empowerment, including as the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P), N-Power, among others. Additionally, numerous state governments have adopted similar initiatives in response. The Ministry of Youth Development in Delta State has introduced several initiatives, such as the Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme (STEP), Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP), and Rural Youth Skill Acquisition (RYSA). These programmes aim to equip young individuals with the requisite skills and practical experience to establish their own enterprises and make valuable contributions to the regional economy. Despite the implementation of several interventions, issues such as youth unemployment, social unrest, gambling, cybercrime, involvement in Ponzi schemes, and other negative behaviours have continued to exist.

The failure of developmental programmes to achieve their primary objectives can be attributed to various factors, including policy inconsistency, discrepancies in the release of funds, instances of embezzlement, lack of sincerity on the part of organisers, inclusion of fictitious names instead of actual unemployed youth in shortlists, unwarranted interferences, and manipulation by politicians. Within the given framework, this study examines the issue of youth unemployment, crime rates, and the challenges encountered by youth development initiatives in Delta State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

One of the primary challenges that poses a significant risk to Nigeria's security and socio-economic advancement is the enduring issue of youth unemployment, which is particularly pronounced in the urban centres of the nation. The issue at hand has led to a rise in criminal activities and acts of violence among the youth demographic (Okechukwu & Nwankwo, 2020). The phenomenon of youth unemployment renders young individuals susceptible to radicalization and the proliferation of criminal activities, so posing a significant threat to the fundamental pillars of society. Investors exhibit caution when allocating financial resources in a societal context characterised by precarious and uncertain progress. According to the European Youth Forum (2011), there exists a higher propensity for young individuals to engage in acts of violence

and other manifestations of lawlessness when they experience unemployment or underemployment.

The issue of high youth unemployment in Nigeria has been observed to potentially contribute to an increase in criminal behaviour among some segments of the young population, leading to adverse consequences. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2020), the unemployment rate in Nigeria currently exceeds 20 million individuals, with an additional 2 million individuals becoming unemployed annually. According to Ebelogu et al. (2019), the average young unemployment rate in Nigeria between 2014 and 2018 was 23.63 percent, with a peak of 38 percent seen in the second quarter of 2018. This definitely illustrates the widespread unemployment among the youth population in Nigeria. The saying “an idle mind is the devil’s workshop” serves as a cautionary statement, emphasising the significant dangers associated with idleness. As a result, a significant portion of the younger population is susceptible to being targeted by terrorist organisations, armed individuals, separatist groups, or any other entities seeking to exploit their abilities and availability for monetary purposes.

The emotional well-being of young individuals may be negatively impacted in the event of unemployment. Unemployment can lead to many forms of social isolation, hence causing individuals to become disconnected from their community. According to the study conducted by Nedeljkovic (2014), there exists a positive association between the rate of young unemployment and the prevalence of drug and alcohol consumption as well as engagement in criminal behaviour. Unemployment is seen as the primary catalyst for the agitation, confrontations, and criminal activities among the youth population, which pose significant challenges to the developmental initiatives of the Delta State government, a key participant in the Niger Delta’s oil production sector.

Delta, a state located in the Niger Delta region, exhibits a robust primary industry that is attributed to its abundant reserves of natural resources and a skilled labour force. The aforementioned resources encompass quantities of oil and gas, arable land with high fertility, abundant forests, copious fish populations, and a robust industrial infrastructure. The region’s economic growth and sustainable development prospects have been significantly impeded by ongoing occurrences of militancy, kidnapping, and insecurity, which can be attributed to the prevailing issues of youth unemployment and poverty (Inyang & Simon, 2012).

The prevailing belief is that the high incidence of unemployment among the youth in Nigeria has a significant role in the escalation of violent crime throughout the nation. In response to an increase in instances of violent crime perpetrated by unemployed youth, local businesses have been compelled to recruit armed security personnel to ensure the safety of their employees and patrons. According to Onwuka, Ugwu, Chukwuma, and Chijioke (2015), those who are subjected to kidnapping frequently encounter the

necessity of providing a substantial sum of money as a means to secure their release. In addition to several factors, the authors highlighted the nation's political instability, pervasive corruption, poverty, ineffective governance, and exponential population growth as contributing factors to the challenges faced by young entrepreneurs. Consequently, the current state of the economy is unfavourable due to a substantial number of individuals, both educated and illiterate, actively seeking employment but encountering difficulties in securing suitable opportunities. The recurring occurrence of violent crimes, such as kidnapping, armed robbery, and cybercrime, exerts a detrimental influence on economic investment. This implies that prospective international investors may reconsider their decision to invest in the country.

There exists limited empirical data to support the effectiveness of empowerment initiatives aimed at mitigating the escalating rates of youth unemployment and crime. Over the years, a variety of government plans and policies have been put up with the aim of addressing the issue of youth unemployment and the associated socioeconomic challenges it presents. However, a considerable number of individuals in the younger demographic continue to have challenges in securing employment, and the reasons behind the inability of these initiatives to effectively accomplish their intended objectives of empowering youth and reducing the unemployment rate remain uncertain. Hence, the present study examines the issue of juvenile unemployment, criminal behaviour, and the challenges encountered by youth development initiatives in Delta State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of this study is to examine youth unemployment, crime incidences and the challenges of youth development programmes in Delta State, Nigeria. The specific objectives are;

- (a) To examine the prevailing factors leading to youth unemployment in Delta State.
- (b) To determine crime incidences occasioned by youth unemployment in Delta State.
- (c) To outline some challenges militating against youth development programmes in Delta State.
- (d) To determine viable ways of strengthening youth development programmes as to address unemployment among them in Delta State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised in line with the specific objectives;

- (a) What are the prevailing factors leading to youth unemployment in Delta State?
- (b) What are the crime incidences occasioned by youth unemployment in Delta State?
- (c) What are the challenges militating against youth development programmes in Delta State?
- (d) What are the viable ways of strengthening youth development programmes as to address unemployment among them in Delta State?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide this study;

- H₀: There is no significant relationship between inconsistent policies and youth unemployment in Delta State.
- H₁: There is a significant relationship between inconsistent policies and youth unemployment in Delta State.
- H₀: There is no significant relationship between unemployment and youth involvement in crime in Delta State.
- H₁: There is a significant relationship between unemployment and youth involvement in crime in Delta State.
- H₀: Challenges militating against youth development programmes in Delta State are not likely to differ significantly.
- H₁: Challenges militating against youth development programmes in Delta State are most likely to differ significantly.

Research Methods

Research Design

The present study employed a mixed-methods methodology to conduct research. This particular methodology incorporates both quantitative and qualitative methodologies for the purpose of acquiring information. The utilisation of a mixed methods study design can offer researchers from several disciplines a comprehensive way to addressing research inquiries (Aramo-Immonem, 2013). The utilisation of this strategy is deemed optimal for the present inquiry due to its capacity to effectively gather data from a representative sample and accurately extrapolate the obtained results.

Population of the Study

The population of this study is one million, seven hundred and thirty-eight thousand, three hundred and thirty-one (1,738,331) youth in Delta State aged 15-35 years. The population breakdown shows that females were 938,576, while the males were 799,755 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2012). The population distribution of the youth by age group and gender is shown in Table 1;

Table 1: Distribution of Youth Population in Delta State by Age Group and Gender

<i>Age Bracket</i>	<i>Gender</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
15-19	268,343	396,599	664,942
20-24	266,773	277,192	543,965
25-29	190,211	266,168	456,379
30-35	182,384	242,649	425,033
Total	907,711	1,182,608	2,080,319

Source: National Bureau of Statistics Projections (2022).

Sample Size Determination

The sample size of this study is three hundred and ninety-nine (399) youth in Delta State. This figure was statistically determined using Taro Yamane formula and the calculation was carried out thus;

Sampling Technique

This experiment included a multistage sampling method. This approach employs a sequential process that alternates between randomly sampling from probability and non-probability techniques. Cluster sampling, stratified sampling, proportional sampling, and random sampling are all integral components of the sampling methodology. The rationale behind employing a multi-stage design is not solely based on the need for a sufficiently large population sample. Rather, it is primarily motivated by the objective of organising individuals into distinct strata to ensure equitable representation across all groups. Initially, the Delta State was partitioned into three distinct senatorial districts, namely the North Delta, Central Delta, and South Delta.

The tabular presentation of the senatorial zones is shown in Table 2;

Table 2: Stratification of Delta State by Senatorial Zones

Delta State	Senatorial Districts
	Delta North
	Delta Central
	Delta South

In the second stage, the senatorial zones were stratified according to their LGA's. The essence of this is to enable ease of sampling and selection. The classification is presented in Table 3;

Table 3: Distribution of LGA's according to their Senatorial Zones

<i>Senatorial Zones</i>	<i>LGA's</i>	<i>Total</i>
Delta North	Aniocha North, Aniocha South, Ika North-East, Ika South, Ndokwa-East, Ndokwa West, Oshimili North, Oshimili South and Ukwuani.	9
Delta Central	Ethiope East, Ethiope West, Okpe, Sapele, Udu, Ughelli North, Ughelli South and Uvwie.	8
Delta South	Bomadi, Burutu, Isoko North, Isoko South, Patani, Warri North, Warri South and Warri South-West.	8
Total		25

In addition, a selection of three Local Government Areas (LGAs) was made in a random manner from the various senatorial districts. The final conclusion was determined by the casting of ballots. In order to accurately document the LGAs, it is necessary to physically record their names in alignment with their respective senatorial zones. Subsequently, the sheets were folded longitudinally and subjected to severe juggling within a cup. A single Local Government Area (LGA) was selected in a random manner from each of the three senatorial zones through the utilisation of a manually conducted drawing process including a hat. The decision to make this selection was motivated by the aim to enhance diversity and promote inclusivity in terms of representation. Table 4 presents a comprehensive tabular representation of the selected Local Government Areas (LGAs) categorised according to their respective senate districts.

Table 4: Randomly Selected LGA's according to Senatorial Zones in Delta State

<i>Senatorial Zones</i>	<i>LGAs</i>	<i>Questionnaire Allotment</i>
Delta North	Oshimili South	133
Delta Central	Ughelli South	133
Delta South	Warri South-West	133
Total		399

In the study, participants were selected from the youthful populations of three local government areas (LGAs) utilising the availability technique. The distribution of the surveys occurred on weekdays, specifically from Monday through Friday, within the time frame of 9 AM to 2 PM. This facilitated our engagement with individuals in the younger demographic who are presently without employment or are not actively pursuing employment due to the influence of the availability approach. The management of the instrument involved the active participation of several entities, including communities, villages, towns, and streets.

Furthermore, the selection of three interviews was conducted by the utilisation of a non-probability sampling method known as purposive sampling. Interviews were conducted with representatives from the Delta State Ministry of Youth Development, the Delta State Police, and the National Directorate of Employment (NDE). The employees at NDE were chosen based on their expertise in addressing national employment difficulties, as this agency focuses on such matters. On the other hand, the Delta State Ministry of Youth Development specifically works on topics pertaining to the empowerment and well-being of young individuals. Nevertheless, this study has revealed that the presence of law enforcement personnel is indispensable due to their crucial role in gathering and documenting information pertaining to illegal behaviour.

Instruments for Data Collection

This inquiry employed both quantitative and qualitative approaches of data collection. Numerical data was collected by the utilisation of a questionnaire containing predefined questions. The questionnaire was divided into distinct sections. Section I encompassed the cover letter, whilst Section II provided an in-depth analysis of respondent demographics, and Section III delved into the fundamental aspects of the study. The questionnaire consists of both open-ended and closed-ended questions. Alongside the interrogative prompts, the document incorporates didactic annotations elucidating the methodology to address them.

The In-Depth Interviews (IDI) guide, conversely, was employed to acquire qualitative data. This additional instrument was utilised with the objective of further exploring the subject matter under consideration. The initial component of the study serves as an introduction, outlining the research and requesting the agreement of the participants. Subsequently, the second section delves into the core of the investigation by employing research questions and objectives. The interview guide include “probe questions” that are strategically formulated to elicit further information from the respondents.

Data Presentation and Analysis

The data gathered for this study underwent an initial verification process to ensure its authenticity and afterwards underwent attribution to the appropriate sources. Out of

the total 399 questionnaires distributed, a mere 25 were found to be full and devoid of any errors. A total of 374 instances were determined to be valid and suitable for analysis following a thorough assessment of their completeness. The aforementioned figure indicates a response rate of 94%, which can be considered satisfactory for statistical analysis. The data presentation and analysis encompass various components, including the examination of socio-demographic factors of respondents, the analysis of research questions, the testing of hypotheses, and the discussion of findings.

Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents such as gender, age, educational qualification, marital status and religious affiliation are analysed in table 5;

Table 5: Distribution of the respondents' socio-demographic characteristics (n=374)

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Frequency (n=374)</i>	<i>Percentage (%=100)</i>	<i>Mean (x)</i>
Gender			
Male	196	(52.4%)	
Female	178	(47.6%)	
Age			
15-20	81	(21.7%)	
21-25	43	(11.5%)	
26-30	189	(50.5%)	26
31-35	61	(16.3%)	
Education Qualification			
No formal education	15	(4.0%)	
Primary education	68	(18.2%)	
Secondary education	77	(20.6%)	
Tertiary education	190	(50.8%)	
Others	24	(6.4%)	
Marital Status			
Single	212	(56.7%)	
Married	141	(37.7%)	
Once Married	21	(5.6%)	
Religious Affiliation			
Christianity	334	(89.3%)	
Islam	17	(4.6%)	
Others	23	(6.1%)	

Field Survey, 2022

Table 5 displays the distribution of the respondents' socioeconomic position. The findings indicated that the male respondents constituted the bulk of the sample,

accounting for 196 replies (52.4%), while the female respondents included a somewhat smaller proportion at 178 responses (47.6%). The participants had an average age of 26 years, with a majority of 189 individuals (50.5%) falling within the age group of 26-30. However, only 43 participants (11.5%) fell within the specified age range. Furthermore, the data presented indicates that 190 individuals, accounting for 50.8% of the respondents, had attained a certain degree of tertiary education. Conversely, a total of 15 respondents, representing 4.0% of the sample, had not pursued any type of formal education. A total of fifteen individuals, constituting approximately 4.0% of the sample, reported having received no formal education. Among the participants, a significant proportion of individuals (56.7%, $n = 212$) reported being presently or formerly single, whereas a considerably smaller number (5.6%, $n = 21$) indicated having experienced marriage at some point in their lives. However, a total of 141 young adults, accounting for 37.5% of the sample, were found to be married and consequently have dependents whom they were responsible for supporting. Furthermore, it was found that a majority of the respondents, namely 334 individuals representing 89.3% of the sample, self-identified as Christians. Conversely, a smaller proportion of the respondents, specifically 17 individuals accounting for 4.6% of the sample, defined themselves as Muslims. Additionally, a further 23 individuals, representing 6.1% of the sample, described themselves as adherents of alternative religious beliefs.

Analysis of Research Questions

The research questions raised in line with the specific objectives of this study were restated and analysed hereunder. The analysis was carried out under the following subheadings;

Analysis of Research Question One

What are the prevailing factors leading to youth unemployment in Delta State? In addressing this research question, questionnaire items 6, 7 and 8 were used. First, the respondents' awareness on the rising spate of youth unemployment in the State was sought for. Their response is presented on figure 1:

Figure 1 depicts the level of awareness among the respondents regarding the increasing prevalence of youth unemployment. The findings suggest that nearly all of the participants were cognizant of the issue of youth unemployment in the State, with only a small proportion (0.8%) unable to express their perspective. However, none of the respondents were able to show a lack of awareness regarding the increasing prevalence of unemployment in the State. The data indicates that the respondents possess a considerable degree of awareness on the issue of youth unemployment. In addition, the participants were requested to identify the predominant reasons contributing to

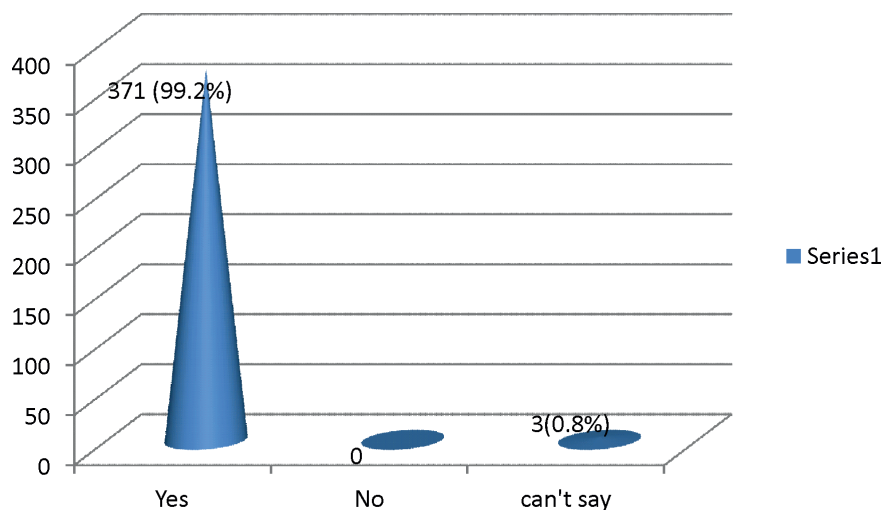


Figure 1: Respondents level of awareness on rising state of youth unemployment

Field Survey, 2022

the issue of youth unemployment within the region. The participants’ responses are displayed in Table 6.

Table 6: Respondents Perceived Factors Leading to Youth Unemployment in Delta State

S/n	Question and Response Options	Frequency	Percentage
	Which of these do you consider the most causative factor to youth unemployment in Delta State?		
i.	Inability of the government to provide enabling environment for job opportunities and thriving economic activities	49	(13.1%)
ii.	Over dependence on oil at the detriment of other sectors that could create greater jobs	31	(8.3%)
iii.	Poor governance/lack of insight on how to utilize the nation’s resources effectively to create jobs	43	(11.5%)
iv.	Lack of appropriate or employable skills	21	(5.6%)
v.	Lack of entrepreneurial skills among many youth	82	(21.9%)
vi.	Political leadership’s inability to fulfil promises of job creation	57	(15.2%)
vii.	Rapid youth population growth/ Increasing number of graduates which does not correspond with absorptive capacity of the economy	13	(3.5%)
viii.	Closure of small-scale and cottage industries as a result of debilitating implementation of the structural adjustment program (SAP)	11	(2.9%)
ix.	Corruption/embezzlement of public funds	65	(17.4%)
x.	Laziness of the youth to work	2	(0.5%)
Total		374	100%

Field Survey, 2022.

Table 6 presents the characteristics that respondents perceive as influential factors contributing to adolescent unemployment within the state. Based on the results, a notable segment of participants, namely 82 individuals (21.9%), concur that a considerable fraction of youth unemployment can be attributed to insufficient entrepreneurial skills. In a similar vein, a total of 65 individuals, including 17.4 percent of the respondents, expressed the view that corruption and misuse of public funds played a significant role in exacerbating the issue of youth unemployment. An additional 57 participants, accounting for 15.2% of the total responses, identified the lack of job creation by political leaders as a significant factor. Once more, a total of 49 individuals, accounting for 13.1% of the questioned population, hold the belief that the elevated unemployment rate among young individuals can be attributed to the government's inability to cultivate an environment that promotes job creation and economic growth. A total of forty-three respondents, accounting for approximately 11.5% of the sample, identified inadequate governance and a lack of awareness on the effective utilisation of the nation's resources as key factors hindering job creation. According to a subset of respondents comprising 31 individuals, which accounts for 8.3% of the total sample, the excessive dependence on oil as a primary economic sector, to the detriment of other industries that could offer greater employment opportunities, is identified as a significant factor contributing to the issue of unemployment.

It is noteworthy that a total of 21 respondents, accounting for 5.6% of the sample, concur with the notion that a significant number of young individuals face unemployment due to their inadequate skills in securing suitable job opportunities. Thirteen participants (3.5%) further identified a surge in the youth population or a growing number of graduates that surpasses the economy's capacity to accommodate as a fundamental factor. According to the survey results, a mere 2% of participants attributed youth lethargy as a contributing factor to the prevailing unemployment rates in the region. Conversely, a slightly higher percentage of 3% identified the closure of small-scale and cottage industries as a result of the challenging execution of the structural adjustment plan (SAP) as exacerbating the unemployment crisis in the nation. The study sought to assess the mood of the respondents regarding the effects of contradictory government policies and programming on the creation of job opportunities, specifically in relation to youth unemployment. The answer is depicted in Figure 2.

The potential factor contributing to youth unemployment is the presence of inconsistency in job development plans and programmes, as depicted in Figure 2. Based on the facts presented in the chart, it can be deduced that a majority of the respondents, specifically 353 individuals or 94.4% of the total sample size of 374, hold the belief that it does. In contrast to prevailing opinions, a mere 21 participants,

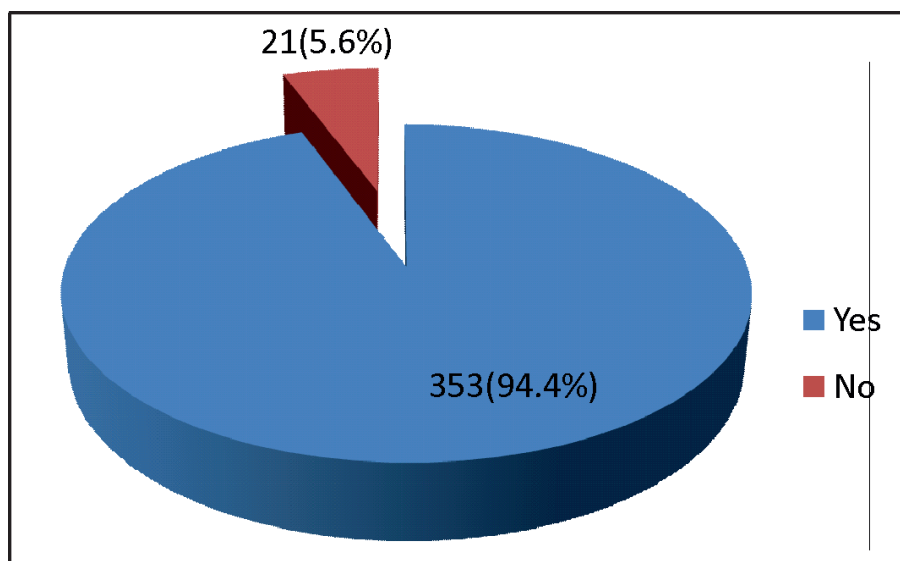


Figure 2: Respondents opinion on whether policies/programmes inconsistency on job creation causes youth unemployment

Field Survey, 2022.

constituting a mere 5.6% of the whole sample, expressed the viewpoint that the issue of youth unemployment in the State exhibited no correlation with contradictions in governmental policies and programmes. Furthermore, the validity of this conclusion was reinforced by the input provided by the interviewers. One of the interviewed staff members from the National Department of Employment (NDE) expressed their awareness of the prevailing unemployment crisis in the country, emphasising the purpose of their presence in addressing this issue. Although the current figure may appear elevated, there are plenty individuals diligently endeavouring to reduce it. However, various impediments hinder our earnest efforts to mitigate the issue of unemployment. Insufficient financial resources have posed a significant challenge for our group as well. Insufficient funding is a common obstacle in our efforts to enhance both our educational system and organisational capabilities. The issue at hand pertains to the observation that a significant proportion of the youth population who are currently without employment exhibit a notable reluctance towards engaging in educational pursuits. The majority of individuals have already made the determination that they lack desire or readiness for any form of vocational education that does not culminate in professional, non-manual employment. Once again, it is imperative to acknowledge the reality that the population of our nation is experiencing growth. One factor contributing to the extensive occurrence of unemployment is as follows. The presence of individuals

seeking temporary employment will persist in the job market as long as there continues to be a cohort of high school graduates. Nevertheless, if the individual experiencing the situation is willing to invest the necessary time and exertion, it is possible to bring an end to unemployment (NDE Staff; Male; Adult; Asaba).

According to another participant, who is employed by the Delta State Ministry of Youth Development, it was expressed that youth unemployment is not exclusive to Delta State, but rather a matter that affects the entire nation. The residents of Delta state may provide testimony on the effectiveness of our empowerment initiatives, as well as the leadership of Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa in spearheading our state's proactive efforts to combat unemployment. Notwithstanding our utmost intents and a measure of initial achievement, it would be disingenuous to assert that the endeavours are entirely devoid of impediments. Insufficiency of resources, volatility, and indifference exhibited by trainees are but a few illustrative instances. Encountering instances wherein young individuals, who were anticipated to partake in transformative educational programmes, instead choose to prioritise immediate cash benefits, is relatively infrequent. Meeting the demands of the programmes across the twenty Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the State presents a logistical issue as well. The Nigerian government has historically exhibited a notable degree of policy inconsistency, thus rendering it difficult for me to assert an unequivocal "no" in response. The personnel affiliated with the Delta State Ministry of Youth Development have conveyed a sense of hope regarding the continuity of effective initiatives aimed at mitigating youth unemployment, irrespective of the individual who assumes the position of governor subsequent to the existing incumbent. The individual under consideration is an adult female from Asaba.

According to the law enforcement officer, the capacity of a society to effectively tackle the issue of unemployment serves as a distinguishing factor between various cultures. One significant factor, in my perspective, pertains to the societal challenge of insufficient job creation to accommodate the influx of college graduates and capable young individuals seeking employment opportunities. It is presumed that you possess knowledge on the existence of a subset of young individuals who exhibit a lack of motivation and, in certain cases, a reluctance to engage in basic chores. This aspect warrants more examination. A considerable number of individuals prioritise pleasure as their foremost value. In the event that a graduate's desired occupation does not immediately come to fruition, it is commonly anticipated that they possess the ability to sustain themselves by offering services such as laundry, barbering, and other menial duties. By engaging in such actions, he could potentially secure temporary employment that would prevent him from encountering legal complications. Regrettably, there exists a lack of willingness among individuals to engage in labour under such circumstances. The presence of criminal inclinations is a significant concern. In essence, a significant

proportion of the aforementioned youth population have the capability to secure employment; yet, their engagement in illicit behaviours, such as theft, ultimately leads to their termination from said employment. A male adult police officer stationed in Asaba may not be considered an ideal candidate for employment by most companies.

Analysis of Research Question Two

What are the crime incidences occasioned by youth unemployment in Delta State? In addressing this research question, questionnaire items 9 and 10 were used. The results of the analysis are presented on tables 7 and 8:

Table 7: Respondents Views on Crime Incidences Occasioned by Youth Unemployment

<i>S/n</i>	<i>Statements</i>	<i>SA</i> 5	<i>A</i> 4	<i>UD</i> 3	<i>D</i> 2	<i>SD</i> 1	<i>N</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Decision</i>
i.	Misuse/abuse of drugs	77	133	8	65	91	374	3.10	Accepted
ii.	Armed robbery	69	87	129	26	63	374	3.19	Accepted
iii.	Cybercrimes	197	108	9	7	53	374	4.04	Accepted
iv.	Political thuggery	130	203	12	26	3	374	4.15	Accepted
v.	Pipeline vandalisation	111	174	23	39	27	374	3.81	Accepted
vi.	Youth restiveness/clashes	81	93	21	100	79	374	3.00	Accepted
vii.	Abduction/kidnapping	90	67	33	86	98	374	2.91	Rejected
viii.	Oil bunkering	148	161	6	44	15	374	4.02	Accepted
ix.	Militancy	127	150	18	41	38	374	3.76	Accepted
x.	Prostitution/runs girls	99	95	92	28	60	374	3.38	Accepted
Grand Mean								3.536	Accepted

Field Survey, 2022.

Table 7 displays the perspectives of the participants on instances of criminal activities resulting from the issue of youth unemployment in Delta State. The table's findings suggest that political thuggery ($x = 4.15$) ranks highest among the crimes associated with youth unemployment in the State. Subsequently, cybercrime ($x = 4.04$) was observed to exhibit a correlation with adolescent unemployment, suggesting a potential influence. Furthermore, it is worth noting that oil bunkering was found to have a mean rating of ($x = 4.02$), indicating that the issue of unemployment was attracting young individuals towards engaging in this illicit activity. In a similar vein, the occurrence of pipeline vandalism and militancy exhibits mean values of $x = 3.81$ and $x = 3.76$, respectively. This suggests that youth unemployment also plays a significant role in the persistence of these interconnected issues.

The correlation between young engagement in prostitution or involvement in sex work and unemployment was found to be significant, with a mean rating of $x = 3.38$.

The respondents attributed armed robbery ($x= 3.19$) and drug misuse/abuse ($x= 3.10$) as additional criminal activities that were likely influenced by adolescent unemployment. Moreover, it is often considered that youth restiveness and confrontations, which typically include young individuals, are exacerbated by high levels of unemployment. However, the act of abduction or kidnapping obtained the lowest grade ($x= 2.91$), indicating that it was rejected by the respondents. Additional attempts were undertaken to analyse the perspectives of the participants on the issue of unemployment among young individuals and its correlation with criminal activities. The opinions of the respondents are displayed in Table 8.

Table 8: Respondents views on whether unemployment can lead to criminality

<i>S/n</i>	<i>Question and Response Options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
	Are you of the opinion that youth who do not have job are most likely to involve in crime to make ends meet?		
i.	Yes	322	(86.1%)
ii.	No	18	(4.8%)
iii.	Can't say	34	(9.1%)
Total		374	100%

Field Survey, 2022.

The perspectives of the respondents regarding the potential correlation between adolescent unemployment and criminal activity are presented in Table 8. According to the tabulated data, it is evident that a majority of the sample, specifically 322 individuals comprising 86.1%, expressed agreement with the notion that unemployed young individuals are more susceptible to engaging in criminal activities. Nevertheless, a subset of 34 participants, including 9.1% of the overall sample, expressed indecisiveness as they encountered difficulty in reaching a conclusive stance regarding their agreement or disagreement with the given perspective. A mere 18 individuals, constituting a meagre 4.8% of the overall reported teenage unemployment, exhibit no discernible correlation between their lack of job and the propensity to engage in illegal activities. Nevertheless, the subsequent statement represents the perspective of an individual participating in the In-depth Interview (IDI).

The state of unemployment can lead to unforeseen consequences. In the absence of meaningful occupation, an individual who is unemployed is more prone to engaging in illicit behaviour. When a parent makes the determination that their child has reached an appropriate level of age or maturity to independently navigate life, they are more inclined to withhold financial support for essential needs such as sustenance and attire. The absence of these fundamental necessities may prompt individuals to contemplate

engaging in illicit or morally questionable methods to obtain the resources they require. Our firm has provided training to individuals who were formerly engaged in prostitution and have subsequently made a positive transformation in their lives. Discussions with several individuals unveiled that the use of such extreme measures was motivated by the financial strain resulting from unemployment. Instances have been documented wherein individuals who have completed their education have been captured engaging in armed robberies, both within and beyond the confines of the State. This demonstrates that those who lack a high-paying occupation may be compelled to employ violent means in order to secure sustenance for themselves and their families. The utilisation of unemployed youth by politicians in dire circumstances to transport vote boxes and engage in various forms of election misconduct is observed. The personnel of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), the male population within the working age group residing in Asaba, and other relevant groups.

Regarding the matter of crime perpetrated by unemployed youth, another participant expressed the viewpoint that “Unemployment can be likened to a malignant ailment, and if left unaddressed, it may give rise to various societal issues.” The admission of young trainees regarding their involvement in criminal activities such as oil bunkering, militancy, and theft can be attributed to the dearth of work prospects. According to the traditional proverb, “An idle hand serves as a tool for the devil’s work.” Several scholars have established a correlation between unemployment and the increasing societal anxiety inside the country. Unsupervised adolescents provide a valuable resource within a society. However, in the absence of constructive engagement, they become vulnerable to exploitation by criminals who entice them with meagre incentives in return for their allegiance. The implementation of various empowerment initiatives by the present administration has significantly contributed to the reduction in crime rates in Warri and Asaba since the assumption of Governor Okowa’s tenure, as reported by the personnel of the Delta State Ministry of Youth Development. The individual in question is an adult female from Asaba.

The individual conveyed to the law enforcement officer that his perspective was substantiated by the observation that a considerable number of individuals apprehended under his oversight were devoid of employment. Unemployment can provide fertile ground for the proliferation of criminal activities, including but not limited to computer hacking, armed robbery, and political violence. Several of the detained individuals attributed their criminal actions to their unemployment status, as stated in their confessional admissions. Although there may be exceptions, it remains undeniable. This phenomenon occurs due to the fact that an adult individual who lacks the means to fulfil their own necessities may resort to engaging in theft as a means of obtaining them. According to a male police officer from Asaba, thievery is the act of stealing.

Analysis of Research Question Three

What are the challenges militating against youth development programmes in Delta State? In addressing this research question, questionnaire item 11 was used. The results of the analysis are presented on table 9;

Table 9: Respondents Perceived Challenges Militating against Youth Development Programmes

S/n	Statements	SA 5	A 4	UD 3	D 2	SD 1	N	\bar{x}	Decision
i.	Embezzlement of funds meant for empowerment	100	68	94	70	42	374	3.30	Accepted
ii.	Policy/programmes inconsistency	81	213	47	26	7	374	3.89	Accepted
iii.	Lack of proper supervision/managerial skills	96	73	88	67	50	374	3.26	Accepted
iv.	Undue interferences/manipulation by politicians	172	109	-	32	61	374	3.79	Accepted
v.	Inconsistency in the release of funds	69	59	119	74	53	374	3.04	Accepted
vi.	Improper implementation of programmes	151	102	43	32	46	374	3.74	Accepted
vii.	Insincerity of organizers	21	222	29	48	54	374	3.28	Accepted
viii.	Lack of adequate/competent personnel	44	64	72	99	95	374	2.63	Rejected
ix.	Politicization of empowerment programmes	132	79	55	71	37	374	3.52	Accepted
x.	Short-listing of ghost names rather than real unemployed youth	110	171	30	63	-	374	3.87	Accepted
Grand Mean								3.432	Accepted

Field Survey, 2022.

Table 9 presents a comprehensive overview of the research conducted on the obstacles encountered in youth development programmes within Delta State. Policy/programme inconsistency received a better mean score (\bar{x} = 3.89), suggesting its acceptability as a challenge. According to the calculated mean value (\bar{x} = 3.87), it can be inferred that those who engaged in empowerment activities demonstrated a higher inclination towards selecting fictional names as opposed to those associated with real unemployed youth. The participants provided support for this claim by referencing political interference and manipulation as obstacles to the implementation of youth development initiatives (\bar{x} = 3.79). Respondents identified barriers to the extension of activities for young people, including the inadequate execution of programming (\bar{x} =3.74) and the politicisation of empowerment projects (\bar{x} =3.52).

There was also speculation on the impact of organisers' lack of sincerity (\bar{x} = 3.28) and theft of funds allocated for empowerment (\bar{x} = 3.30) on developmental projects. Issues

related to the uneven allocation of financial resources ($x= 3.04$) and insufficient oversight and administration ($x= 3.26$) were also identified as concerns. The respondents did not appear to take into account this particular issue, as indicated by the negative mean score of -2.63 for the lack of adequate/competent staff. The qualitative data was augmented by using the responses obtained from individuals who underwent comprehensive interviews. In answer to an inquiry regarding the impediments encountered by youth development initiatives, a representative from the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) expressed that human development programmes are indeed confronted with hurdles. Nigeria has encountered significant challenges in securing financial resources. It is noteworthy that receiving only half of the required amount (N400) throughout the process of budgeting or managing expenses amounting to N1000 is an atypical occurrence. The problem of overburdening workers with excessive workloads has resurfaced. This implies that the provision of services is sometimes impeded due to a lack of adequate personnel. One of the logistical considerations involves the provision of vehicles for the operational team. A significant proportion of our workforce experiences extended commuting distances, and any disruptions encountered during their journey to the workplace adversely affect the duration of training sessions. The individual in question is a male adult staff member of the National Drug Enforcement Agency (NDE) located in Asaba.

A fellow interviewee had comparable perspectives regarding the challenges posed by the programmes. One of the primary factors that hinders our work is the insufficiency of funds. I have personally observed the prevailing resistance among contemporary young towards the pursuit of education. One can discern their disapproval of the subject matter being taught by an analysis of their nonverbal cues and gestures. This phenomenon may be attributed to the influence exerted by individuals whom they perceive as accomplished peers. One apprentice took the initiative of selling the equipment allocated to him in order to establish his own workshop, motivated by reports of his acquaintances amassing substantial wealth within the organisation. The Delta State Ministry of Youth Development Staff has identified numerous challenges that need to be addressed. The individual in question is an adult female from Asaba.

Analysis of Research Question Four

What are the viable ways of strengthening youth development programmes as to address unemployment among them in Delta State? In addressing this research question, questionnaire item 12 was used. The results of the analysis are presented on table 10;

Table 10: Ways of Strengthening Youth Development Programmes as to Address Unemployment

<i>S/n</i>	<i>Question and Response Options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
	Which of the following do you consider viable in strengthening youth development programmes as to address unemployment among youth in Delta State?		
i.	Promoting of vocational skills acquisition rather than over emphasis on paper qualifications	56	(15.0%)
ii.	Establishment of entrepreneurial training agency that would provide start-up fund for any youth that indicates interest	27	(7.2%)
iii.	Setting up of work or vacant placement agencies which will provide temporary staff to small companies	39	(10.4%)
iv.	Revamping of educational curricular as to provide and equip youth with the right and sellable skills	34	(9.1%)
v.	Provision of enabling environment that encourage entrepreneurship development	36	(9.6%)
vi.	Teaching/empowering of youth in tertiary institutions with foreign languages, like French, Spanish, Chinese, Dutch, etc	29	(7.8%)
vii.	Developing of the tourism sector to enable youth with foreign language skills to have job openings in the areas of language interpreters to diplomats, investors or even tourists	42	(11.2%)
viii.	Incorporating of sports specialty as a mandatory course in school curriculum to enable youth harness their potentials in that area	51	(13.6%)
ix.	Strong legislation against embezzlement and other malpractices surrounding youth empowerment programmes	38	(10.2%)
x.	Placing of emphasis on ICT training, such as software programming, digital photography, video editing, graphic design etc	22	(5.9%)
Total		374	100%

Field Survey, 2022.

Table 10 provides an evaluation of alternative approaches aimed at enhancing youth development initiatives with the objective of mitigating youth unemployment in Delta State. Based on the data presented in the table, it can be observed that a total of 56 respondents, constituting 15.0% of the sample, hold the belief that prioritising the acquisition of vocational skills over obtaining paper certificates would enhance the effectiveness of programmes aimed at mitigating youth unemployment. Furthermore, a notable proportion of the participants, namely 51 individuals, accounting for 13.6%

of the total responses, expressed their support for the implementation of mandatory sports specialisation programmes inside educational institutions. This approach aims to facilitate the cultivation of young individuals' aptitudes and abilities in the realm of athletics. A total of forty-two individuals, accounting for approximately 11.2% of the respondents, expressed the view that the expansion of the tourist sector is crucial in order to create employment opportunities for young individuals possessing language skills, enabling them to serve as interpreters for diplomats, investors, and visitors. This is due to the fact that a total of 29 individuals, or around 7.8% of the sample, have expressed support for the inclusion of foreign language education at higher academic institutions as a means of providing young individuals with the chance to acquire linguistic proficiency in a non-native language.

Furthermore, a notable proportion of the respondents, namely 39 individuals accounting for 10.4% of the total sample, expressed their willingness to contribute financially towards the development of employment or vacancy placement companies. The primary objective of these organisations would be to facilitate small firms in their search for temporary workers. An further 38 respondents, constituting 10.2% of the total, expressed agreement with the notion that the implementation of stringent legislation is necessary to achieve the commendable objective of empowering young individuals, specifically by outlawing embezzlement and other forms of misconduct associated with youth empowerment programmes. As an illustration, a total of 36 participants, constituting 9.6% of the sample, recommended the establishment of a conducive entrepreneurial climate. Furthermore, a notable proportion of the participants, specifically 34 respondents, accounting for 9.1% of the total sample, expressed the viewpoint that there is a need to modify the educational curriculum of the country. Their rationale behind this suggestion is to equip young individuals with practical skills that are in demand in the job market, with the ultimate goal of mitigating the issue of unemployment. According to the survey results, a notable proportion of respondents, specifically 27% (7.4%), expressed support for the establishment of an agency aimed at equipping and financially supporting aspiring young entrepreneurs. Additionally, 22% (5.7%) of participants advocated for an increased emphasis on information and communications technology (ICT) courses, encompassing subjects such as computer programming, digital photography, video editing, and graphic design. Furthermore, the inclusion of perspectives from IDI respondents was undertaken to enhance the comprehensiveness of the overall analysis. The significance of learning marketable skills, as indicated by professionals from the National Department of Employment (NDE), cannot be overstated. Prior to engaging in empowerment initiatives, it is imperative to provide the young with orientation or enlightenment sessions. These sessions aim to equip them with

the necessary knowledge and understanding that would enable them to navigate challenges with resilience and perseverance. This educational approach would instil in youngsters a sense of gratitude towards the opportunities and resources bestowed upon them. It is imperative for the school system to provide emphasis on the cultivation of skills, thereby equipping students with valuable proficiencies that enhance their employability in the workforce (Staff of the National Directorate of Employment, male, adult, Asaba).

Another interviewee proposed that the timely distribution of funding will significantly enhance the operational efficiency of the activities. There is a pressing need for legal mandates that enforce restrictions on the sale or misappropriation of training monies by individuals undergoing training. The purpose of this forum is to facilitate collaboration between engaged citizens and corporations, with the aim of equipping the administration of Delta State with the essential resources for fostering social and economic progress. Due to the limitations of governmental capacity, external assistance is required to sustain the ongoing efforts of these commendable initiatives. This appeal is directed towards individuals, particularly female adults employed by the Delta State Ministry of Youth Development, to contribute their support.

The individual suggested to the law enforcement officer that the issue of adolescent delinquency could perhaps be mitigated by the provision of increased employment opportunities for this demographic. Once more, it can be argued that families serve as the optimal environment for inculcating the virtues of patience and perseverance within their offspring. Furthermore, it is my contention that the inclusion of skill development should be made compulsory for all students enrolled in secondary and tertiary education institutions (Police Officer, Male, Adult, Asaba).

Test of Hypotheses

Test of Hypothesis One

H_0 : There is no significant relationship between inconsistent policies and youth unemployment in Delta State.

H_1 : There is a significant relationship between inconsistent policies and youth unemployment in Delta State.

This hypothesis was tested using questionnaire items 6 and 8. The questions were cross-tabulated. In doing this, the response options of questionnaire item 6 were re-coded from "Yes, No and Can't say" to "Yes and No. That is, No and Can't say were classified as No. The result is shown on table 11:

Table 11: Chi-square result of hypothesis one

<i>Are you aware of the rising spate of youth unemployment in the State?</i>	<i>There is a widely believe that inconsistency in government policies/programmes on job creation is the major cause of youth unemployment in the State. Do you agree with this view?</i>			<i>Total</i>	<i>Chi-Square</i>
		Yes	No		
Yes	Count/% within	351(93.9%)	20(5.3%)	371(99.2%)	X ² = 18.411a N = 374 df = 1 p=.032, <0.05 Sig.
No	Count/% within	2(0.5%)	1(0.3%)	3(0.8%)	
Total	Count/% within	353(94.4%)	21(5.6%)	374(100.0%)	

Field Survey, 2022

Table 11 shows the analysis and chi-square result of hypothesis one. The table revealed that computed chi-square was 18.411, with a p-value of .032. This implies that the p-value was less than the significance level set at .05 (p=.032, < 0.05sig.). Since, the p-value was less than significance level, it presents a convincing evidence to reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative. This means that there is a significant relationship between inconsistent policies and youth unemployment.

Test of Hypothesis Two

H₀: There is no significant relationship between unemployment and youth involvement in crime in Delta State.

H₁: There is a significant relationship between unemployment and youth involvement in crime in Delta State.

This hypothesis was tested using questionnaire items 6 and 10. In doing this, the response options of questionnaire item 6 were re-coded from “Yes, No and Can’t say to ‘Yes and No; That is, No and Can’t say were classified as No. The questions were cross-tabulated and the result is shown on table 12:

Table 12: Chi-square result of hypothesis two

<i>Are you aware of the rising spate of youth unemployment in the State?</i>	<i>Are you of the opinion that youth who do not have job are most likely to involve in crime to make ends meet?</i>			<i>Total</i>	<i>Chi-Square</i>
		Yes	No		
Yes	Count/% within	320(85.6%)	51(13.6%)	371(99.2%)	X ² = 24.056 ^a N = 374 df = 1 p=.000, >0.05 Sig.
No	Count/% within	2(0.5%)	1(0.3%)	3(0.8%)	
Total	Count/% within	322(86.1%)	52(13.9%)	374(100.0%)	

Field Survey, 2022

Table 12 presents analysis and chi-square result of hypothesis two. The table showed that computed chi-square was 24.056, with a p-value of .000. This suggests that the p-value was less than the significance level set at .05. Since, the p-value (.000) is less than the significance level, it presents a convincing evidence to reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative. This implies that there is a significant relationship between unemployment and youth involvement in crime in Delta State.

Test of Hypothesis Three

H_0 : Challenges militating against youth development programmes in Delta State are not likely to differ significantly.

H_1 : Challenges militating against youth development programmes in Delta State are most likely to differ significantly.

This hypothesis was tested using questionnaire item 11 on challenges militating against youth development programmes. The outcome of the test is presented on table 13:

Table 13: Z-test parameter estimation of hypothesis three

	<i>B</i>	<i>Std. Error</i>	<i>df</i>	Sig.
Embezzlement of funds meant for empowerment	4.398	.391		.010
Policy/programmes inconsistency	3.821	.873	1	.000
Lack of proper supervision/ managerial skills	1.149	.600	1	.003
Undue interferences/ manipulation by politicians	5.052	.329	1	.012
Inconsistency in the release of funds	2.117	.481	1	.040
Improper implementation of programmes	1.740	.205	1	.000
Insincerity of organizers	6.028	.911	1	.022
Lack of adequate/competent personnel	-0.012	-.056	1	.714
Politicization of empowerment programmes	4.912	.113	1	.031
Short-listing of ghost names rather than real unemployed youth	1.384	.804	1	.000

Model Summary						
Variables	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	z-cal	df	Sig.
Challenges	374	7.9284	.63938	4.217	1	.000
		5.0021	.37293			

Field Survey, 2022

Table 13 presents the z-test result of hypothesis three. The analysis shows that virtually all the variables bore different significant (positive) values, which were below the 0.05 level. However, only one variable (lack of adequate/competent personnel) bore a negative value (.714), which is greater than 0.05 level of significance. The model summary of the test indicates that the z-calculated was 4.217 and the general p-value was .000. This suggests a disparity in the significant level of the factors militating against youth development programmes. As a result, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternate was accepted, implying that challenges militating against youth development programmes in Delta State differ significantly.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study revealed that the male participants constituted a greater percentage of the respondents compared to their female counterparts. The participants in the study were of a relatively youthful age, with a mean age of 26. This demographic characteristic suggests that they may possess a greater likelihood of offering fresh and novel viewpoints on the subjects being examined. Moreover, it was revealed that a significant proportion of respondents had attained a certain level of education beyond high school, while a minority had never pursued any formal education. The ability of the respondents to accurately comprehend and complete the questionnaire suggests that they have a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter pertaining to youth unemployment. The demographic composition of the respondents, predominantly consisting of young individuals who do not have a significant other, indicates the unfortunate situation that has been imposed upon them as a result of youth unemployment. In the event if an individual achieves professional achievement or establishes a prosperous company venture prior to reaching the age of 26, societal expectations dictate that they should also be in a marital union. Due to the arduous nature of matrimonial proceedings in this particular geographic area, a considerable number of unemployed youths exhibit hesitancy towards entering into marital unions. Additionally, it is noteworthy to discover that a considerable number of the participants were married, indicating that they had individuals who relied on them for financial

support. The attainment of stability and fulfilment of dependents' essential needs within such relationships may prove to be quite challenging in the absence of a reliable revenue source. Under such circumstances, the occurrence of marital conflict or dissolution is a genuine possibility. The poll respondents consisted of a majority (90%) who identified as Christians, aligning with the prevailing notion that Christianity is the main religious affiliation within this particular region.

Furthermore, a significant consensus was observed among respondents about the issue of youth unemployment. The primary factor identified as a contributor to youth unemployment was the deficiency of entrepreneurial skills. The significance of incorporating entrepreneurship education within empowerment projects cannot be disregarded. The significance of skill in relation to GDP growth and human advancement cannot be emphasised. Apart from enabling individuals to achieve economic independence via prudent management, their level of skill can contribute to the creation of employment opportunities and wealth. Put simply, when someone is unable to independently fulfil their own wants due to a lack of both capability and resources, they will inevitably have to depend on the benevolence of others in order to satisfy their most essential requirements. The assertion made by Emeh (2012) on the deficiency of fundamental employable skills among a substantial number of young Nigerians is substantiated by the findings presented in this study.

Corruption and the theft of public funds have been identified as additional factors contributing to the escalation of youth unemployment. The correlation between the prevalence of poverty and the extensive misappropriation of taxpayer funds is readily apparent. The allocation of funding away from roads, factories, and other public infrastructure projects that have the potential to enhance the well-being of individuals would result in their deterioration and hinder their ability to serve the public. The correlation between the increase in youth unemployment and the inability of political leaders to fulfil their promises on job creation was observed. In the context of Nigeria's electoral campaigns, it is customary for politicians to employ the strategy of making grandiose pledges to potential voters, with the expectation of garnering their support. However, subsequent to assuming power, these politicians frequently exhibit a tendency to deviate from fulfilling their proclaimed commitments. The findings of Ugal et al. (2011) support the notion that the prevalence of youth unemployment in Nigeria can be attributed to inadequate governance, corruption, and a lack of fulfilment of promises made during political campaigns about the creation of employment prospects.

Based on the findings of the study, it can be posited that the elevated level of youth unemployment can be ascribed to the government's inability to establish an environment conducive to the proliferation of work opportunities and other forms of economic engagement. This phenomenon may be attributed to the region's substantial

tax burden and exorbitant expenses associated with commercial real estate. This could potentially provide challenges for the growth and sustainability of small and medium-sized enterprises, potentially prompting them to consider relocating to regions with more favourable business environments. The potential loss of environmental jobs would exacerbate the existing issue of unemployment on a broader scale. The failure to generate new employment opportunities in the country was attributed by a significant number of participants to inadequate national leadership and administration. This scenario is plausible, particularly when there is a lack of a clear strategy to tackle the challenges encountered by a state or nation.

Moreover, the escalation of youth unemployment has been ascribed to an overemphasis on the oil sector, neglecting alternative businesses that have the potential to generate a greater number of work opportunities. The heavy dependence on oil by Nigeria and its subnational entities has had a detrimental impact on the agricultural sector since its discovery. This elucidates the reasons why the calls for reverting to agriculture as a strategy to revive the nation's economy have thus far been unsuccessful. Furthermore, it was observed that a significant number of participants recognised the deficiency of adequate or marketable skills among the younger population. Technology has been referred to as the "fifth revolution." The reason for this is because a significant number of adolescents possess insufficient technological skills that are crucial for success in the contemporary era, wherein a substantial portion of daily activities heavily relies on such proficiencies.

The region's elevated unemployment rate has been attributed to two key factors: the rapid growth of the young population and the escalating number of individuals with higher education degrees. In the absence of population control measures, a nation's population will experience growth, potentially leading to adverse consequences for the labour market. Likewise, this scenario is not entirely implausible in an era characterised by the challenge of graduates and qualified professionals encountering difficulties in securing adequate employment opportunities. The aforementioned observation aligns with the research conducted by Okoye-Nebo et al. (2014), wherein it was determined that a substantial and swift increase in the labour force relative to the economy's ability to accommodate it has implications for the supply side.

There exists a subset of the younger population who display a lack of motivation towards engaging in employment, while governmental policies and programmes demonstrate inconsistency in their efforts to generate new job opportunities. The impact of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) on the unemployment situation in the country is commonly perceived to have been negative. One could posit that a significant majority of young individuals residing within the state have a propensity for prioritising personal gratification, while concurrently displaying a reluctance to engage in arduous

or menial labour until their desired objectives are achieved. The assertion commonly expressed by young Nigerians is that they possess a greater magnitude of skills and qualifications than what is required for a particular career opportunity. A significant portion of individuals have remained idle due to an impractical anticipation of securing more favourable opportunities in the future. This observation aligns with the findings of Akande (2014), whose research revealed that the inadequate implementation of SAP in Nigeria led to the closure of many sectors, the effects of which the country has yet to fully overcome.

The political leaders of Nigeria frequently fail to implement the initiatives or policies initiated by their predecessors, regardless of their commendable nature. Every incoming Governor or President typically seeks to replace their predecessors with those who will leave a lasting legacy associated with their own name. As a result of this perspective, initiatives aimed at empowering young individuals that exhibited potential have been discontinued. The analysis of qualitative data revealed several contributing factors to the high rates of youth unemployment. These factors encompassed a lack of motivation and commitment to learning among unemployed youth, a growing population, logistical and security challenges, inconsistent policymaking, an insufficient job supply relative to the number of college graduates and skilled young individuals seeking employment, as well as a prevalent inclination towards laziness and reluctance to engage in low-skilled labour.

The findings of objective two indicate that there is a correlation between youth unemployment in the State and an increase in instances of political thuggery. The electoral landscape in Nigeria is marked by the prevalence of political thuggery, wherein young individuals are frequently exploited as vulnerable instruments by politicians in dire straits. Unemployed youth are occasionally presented with excessively optimistic assurances of employment opportunities or political posts. This serves as a driving force for individuals to do potentially harmful actions, such as endangering their physical well-being, falling victim to thievery, and even engaging in electoral misconduct, all with the aim of attaining their desired objectives. This statement provides support for the assertions made by Sanusi (2012), when he posited that unemployed youth serve as a valuable means of recruitment for individuals involved in political violence. Furthermore, it has been revealed that the perpetration of cybercrime in the State is predominantly carried out by unemployed youth. The pervasive issue of cybercrime has significantly undermined the societal fabric of Nigeria, with Delta State being particularly affected. There is a disproportionate representation of unemployed young individuals within the cohort engaged in these activities.

Youth unemployment is closely associated with the practise of oil bunkering, which significantly hampers the nation's foreign income. Despite possessing a significant

volume of crude oil, the inhabitants of Delta State harbour a pervasive sentiment of prolonged neglect. Protests and calls for increased restriction of resources have emerged as a response to this issue. Due to the absence of authorization, a considerable number of individuals, particularly young individuals lacking alternative sources of sustenance, engage in activities including the sabotage of pipelines and the illicit acquisition of petroleum products. The results were substantiated by the perspectives of the participants, who opined that a considerable number of unemployed youths engage in acts of pipeline vandalism and militancy. The study additionally discovered a significant correlation between the elevated prevalence of prostitution, commonly referred to as sex work, in the region and the heightened levels of unemployment. Engaging in the exchange of one's body for monetary compensation may be considered a rational course of action for individuals who find themselves lacking marketable skills and a dependable means of financial sustenance or support.

The findings from the qualitative analysis also indicated a prevalence of various criminal activities among unemployed youth, including ballot box or election crimes, stealing, armed robbery, and political thuggery. Additionally, crimes such as armed robbery, drug misuse/abuse, and juvenile restiveness/clashes were seen. The findings of Suleiman and Aminu (2015) and Adebayo (2013) align with the notion that youth unemployment in Nigeria is associated with many forms of criminal behaviour, such as armed robbery, political thuggery, kidnapping, insurgency, and other related activities.

Furthermore, the findings of aim three indicate that youth development initiatives within the state are facing challenges as a result of inconsistencies in policy and programming. The findings presented in this study support the assertions made by Ikechi-Ekpendu (2016) on the implementation and discontinuation of government initiatives targeting the enhancement of youth well-being. Additionally, it was established that this phenomenon was attributed to the exclusion of fictional identities from the analysis, rather than the inclusion of real unemployed youth. This observation suggests that the empowerment programmes did not universally benefit all unemployed young individuals. The observation that political interference and manipulation pose significant obstacles to the effectiveness of these programmes provides support for this hypothesis.

The results of the study also revealed that the effectiveness of the developmental projects was influenced by factors such as inadequate implementation of the programmes, politicisation of the initiatives, misallocation of funds, and lack of sincerity among organisers. According to the findings of Olaleye (2000), a significant portion of the funds allocated for youth development are subject to theft or misappropriation, hence posing challenges in effectively fulfilling the intended objectives. The presence of inconsistency in cash distribution, as well as insufficient control or administration, were additional

factors that contributed to the situation. The qualitative data revealed indications of overspending, staff burnout, inadequate planning, and a lack of enthusiasm to acquire knowledge.

The results obtained from the analysis of aim four suggest that prioritising practical training over academic qualifications would be advantageous for both the programmes and the rate of youth unemployment. This finding aligns with the assertions made by Emeh (2012), who posits that Nigerian school graduates may lack sufficient preparation for a more practical and meaningful existence unless the focus on academic achievements is substituted with the acquisition of practical skills. There is a growing endorsement for the implementation of mandatory sports specialisation programmes in educational institutions, with the aim of fostering the athletic potential of young individuals. The research furthermore revealed that the enhancement of the tourism industry may be facilitated through the instruction and empowerment of young individuals in foreign languages such as French, Spanish, Chinese, Dutch, and others. The area would experience an influx of investors and tourists, hence leading to an augmentation in the country's export revenue.

Additionally, it has been found that the establishment of employment services is underway to address the need for temporary staffing in small-scale enterprises. The agency has the capability to facilitate connections between individuals and companies within their geographical vicinity, who are actively seeking candidates possessing qualifications that align with their respective job openings. This measure can aid in safeguarding job-seekers from falling victim to ritualistic practises whereby recruitment advertisements are utilised as lures. Furthermore, it has been ascertained that the implementation of stringent legislation pertaining to embezzlement and other forms of misconduct within youth empowerment initiatives is crucial in order to effectively achieve the commendable objectives of these programmes. This finding corroborates the assertions made by Alabi (2014), who advocated for the implementation of fresh legislative measures aimed at enhancing the economic and social circumstances of Nigerians.

The findings additionally indicated that participants held the belief that educational institutions might potentially contribute to the development of entrepreneurs by providing students with essential resources and cultivating an environment conducive to entrepreneurial growth. Furthermore, the qualitative data uncovered several strategies to enhance the effectiveness of the programmes and address the issue of youth unemployment. These strategies include providing comprehensive orientation or awareness programmes for young individuals, integrating vocational skills training into educational institutions, ensuring timely disbursement of funds, enacting legislation that obligates trainees to utilise allocated resources appropriately, fostering partnerships

between multinational corporations, philanthropic individuals, and the government, and promoting a thorough value reorientation.

The findings from the initial hypothesis testing have substantiated the presence of a causal relationship between policy inconsistency and the phenomenon of youth unemployment. The data provided in the study provided support for the second hypothesis, indicating a statistically significant association between unemployment among adolescents and engagement in criminal behaviour. Wayas et al. (2019) suggest that there exists a strong correlation between young unemployment and criminal conduct, and our collected data aligns with this assertion. The third hypothesis reveals that there is significant variation in the challenges faced by youth development initiatives in Delta State.

Summary of Findings, Conclusion and Recommendations

Summary of Findings

This study examines youth unemployment, crime incidences and the challenges of youth development programmes in Delta State, Nigeria. The study made a number of findings and they are summarized as follows;

1. The respondents knew a lot about the problems with youth unemployment, criminality, and human development initiatives in the State.
2. Lack of entrepreneurial skills, corruption/embezzlement of public funds, political leadership's inability to fulfil promises of job creation, government's inability to provide enabling environment for job opportunities and thriving economic activities, poor governance/lack of insight on how to effectively utilise resources to create jobs, over-reliance on oil at the expense of other sectors that could provide jobs, and over-reliance on oil at the expense of other sectors that could provide jobs are all major causes of youth unemployment.
3. Political thuggery (electoral crimes), cybercrime, oil bunkering, pipeline vandalism and militancy, prostitution (sex work), armed robbery, misuse/abuse of narcotics, young restiveness/clashes, and theft were identified as criminal incidents caused by youth unemployment.
4. Further, inconsistency, short-listing of ghost names rather than real unemployed youth, undue interferences/manipulation by politicians, improper implementation of programmes, politicisation of the programmes, embezzlement of funds, insincerity of organisers, lack of proper supervision/managerial skills, insufficient funds, overstretching of personnel, logistical issues, and unwillingness to learn were all obstacles standing in the way.

5. Vocational skills acquisition rather than over emphasis on paper qualifications, incorporating sports speciality as a mandatory course in school curriculum to enable youth to harness their potentials in that area, teaching/empowering of youth with foreign languages, like French, Spanish, Chinese, Dutch, etc., which would help create jobs and develop the tourism

Again, inconsistency in policy was found to be significantly related to youth unemployment ($p=.032, 0.05$). Unemployment was found to have a statistically significant correlation with juvenile delinquency ($p=.000, 0.05$). There is a statistically significant ($p.000$) split in the difficulties faced by youth development activities in Delta State.

Conclusion

This essay posits that the current surge in youth unemployment in Delta State, Nigeria can be mitigated, drawing upon research on the correlation between youth unemployment, criminal activity, and the challenges encountered by youth development initiatives. The presence of human inconsistency, ineptitude, inability to fulfil campaign promises, embezzlement, and other errors has exacerbated the issue at hand. Consequently, a considerable number of youthful individuals, who exhibit a deficiency in the capacity to endure the wait for a favourable circumstance to manifest, resort to engaging in criminal activities as a method of securing sustenance. The absence of marketable talents upon reaching maturity or completing formal education raises legitimate concerns. The experience of anger may potentially result in the adoption of extreme actions.

However, a significant concern arises when the government's efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of unemployment are exploited. Hence, this study posits that the phenomenon of youth unemployment renders them increasingly vulnerable to criminal influence. Additionally, it highlights the numerous obstacles faced by government empowerment initiatives, which, unless effectively addressed and pursued with determination, will perpetuate the state of youth unemployment and its potential implications as a societal menace.

Recommendations

In view of the findings, this study recommends that;

Emphasis from secondary to tertiary education should be on vocational training that would arm graduates with relevant skills needed in present world. This can be skills such as ICT, woodwork, electronics repair, clothes making etc, which would help our schools to turn out self-reliance individuals and job creators in the society.

The government should intensify her efforts on job creation and youth empowerments programmes as to engage the youth. This is because idleness can easily expose someone to crimes which ordinarily

the person would not involve if had properly engaged. By having something meaningful that puts food on their table, it would be difficult for desperate politicians or criminal elements to recruit them.

There should be effective legislation to make empowerment programmes consistent and also to strengthen the fight against corruption. This will not only help eliminate the issue of inconsistency and lack of continuity, but would also help to send strong message that no one is expected to tamper with resources meant for such programmes.

The government should establish a recruitment data base agency that would be saddled with the responsibility of collecting data of graduates and skilled youth for onward vacant placement. This would not only help to provide agencies or organizations with easy access to needed manpower, but would also help to eliminate dangers and stress of job hunt in the face of the present precarious security challenges.

Acknowledgement

The authors wish to acknowledge the following organisations for funding and logistical support in successfully carrying out this project. They include; Global Intelligence Peace and Security Institute (GIPSI) for a grant of \$4000, Global Peace Nigeria for logistical support and Centre for Intelligence and Security Studies, Novena University, Nigeria for logistical support and encouragements. We are greatly indebted to these organisations for their kind gesture and we remain immensely grateful.

References

- Abomaye-Nimenibo, W.A.S. (2018). The socio-economic and pathological effects of youth unemployment in Ogu/Bolo Local Government Authority Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. *Global Journal of Human-Social Science: Economics*, 18(3), 9-32.
- Adebayo, A.A. (2013). Youths' unemployment and crime in Nigeria: A nexus and implications for national development. *International Journal of Sociology & Anthropology*, 5(8), 350-357.
- Ajibike, T. (2019, March 15th). Youth and cybercrime in Nigeria. The Punch. Retrieved 10th October, 2021, from <https://punchng.com/youth-and-cybercrime-in-nigeria/>
- Akande, T. (2014). Youth Unemployment in Nigeria: A Situation Analysis. Africa in Focus. Retrieved 11th April, 2022 from <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2014/09/23/youth-unemployment-in-nigeria-a-situation-analysis/>
- Akpakan, M., Bariledum, K. & Nwibor, B.L. (2015). National Insecurity and Youth Unemployment in Nigeria: The Case of Niger-Delta Region. *British Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences*, 13(1), 104-155.
- Alabi, R.A & Osagie, I.D. (2006). *Income Generation by participants in the National Directorate of Employment in Edo State*. Ibadan, Nigeria: NES.
- Alabi, T. (2014). Youths' unemployment and crime control: an analysis of Nigerian experience. *European Scientific Journal*, 10(2), 301-312.
- Alanana, O.O. (2013), Youth unemployment in Nigeria: Some implications for the third Millennium. *Global Journal of Social Sciences*, 2(1), 21-26.

- Aliyu, A. (2003). Federal Government Poverty Eradication Efforts, 1999-2002 Abuja, p. 1.
- Aramo-Immonen, H. (2013). Mixed methods research design. Retrieved 19th March, 2022 from https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-642-35879-1_5
- Aremu, M.A & Ahmed, Y.A. (2011). An investigation of security and crime management in developing society: The implications for Nigeria democratic set-up. *Int. J. Acad. Res. Bus. Soc. Sci.*, 3(1), 390-399.
- Arewa, A. & Nwakanma, P. (2012). Potential-Real GDP and Growth Process of Nigerian Economy: An Empirical Re-evaluation of Okun's Law. *European Scientific Journal*, 8(9): 25-33.
- Audu, R., Yusri, B. K. & Farhad, B. (2013). Technical Vocational Education: As a Veritable Tool for Eradicating Youth Unemployment in Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities & Social Science Invention*, 2(1), 49-56.
- Delta State Government (2022). About Delta. Retrieved 20th April, 2022, from <https://www.deltastate.gov.ng/about-delta/>
- Delta State Ministry of Youth Development (2022). RYSA: Introduction. Retrieved from <http://www.youthdev.deltastate.gov.ng>
- Ejikeme, J.N. (2014). Unemployment and poverty in Nigeria: A link to national insecurity. *Global Journal of Politics & Law Research*, 2(1), 19-35.
- Ekpo, A.H. (2008). The Nigerian economy: Is it at the crossroad? Presidential Address at the NES Annual Conference, pp: 67-105.\
- Emeh, I.E.J. (2012). Tackling youth unemployment in Nigeria; the Lagos State development and empowerment programmes initiatives. *Afro Asian Journal of Social Sciences*, 3(3.4), 1-30.
- European Youth Forum (2011). Youth Unemployment in Europe: A Call for Change. Brussels: European Youth Forum. Retrieved from http://issuu.com/yomag/docs/a_call_for_change
- European Youth Forum (2011). Youth unemployment in Europe: A call for change. Brussels, European Youth Forum. Retrieved 1st April, 2022 from http://issuu.com/yomag/docs/a_call_for_change
- Eze, O. (2012). Youth unemployment and its socio-economic implications in Nigeria. *Journal of Social Sciences & Public Policy*, 4(1), 32-41.
- Federal Republic of Nigeria (2019). National youth policy: Enhancing youth development and participation in the context of sustainable development. Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Abuja, 2019 Edition. Retrieved from <https://www.prb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Nigeria-National-Youth-Policy-2019-2023.pdf>
- Gbagolo, H.M.O & Eze, B.I. (2014). Skills Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Training for Youth, a Panacea for Unemployment and Nigerian Insecurity. *European Journal of Business & Management*, 6(25), 96-101.
- Gilbert, L.D. (2010). Youth Militancy, Amnesty and Security in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. In Ojatorotu, V. & Gilbert, L.D. (Eds.), *Checkmating the Resurgence of Oil Violence in the Niger Delta of Nigeria*, pp. 51- 70.

- Ibekwe, C.C. (2021). Prevalence and risk factors associated with Ponzi schemes among undergraduates in public tertiary institutions in Anambra State, South-East, Nigeria. A Ph.D Dissertation Submitted to the School of Postgraduate Studies, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka.
- Ikechi-Ekpendu, C. (2016). Evaluation of the challenges facing the Nigerian youth and policy towards national growth. *International Journal of Advanced Scientific Research & Management*, 1(9), 24-31.
- ILO (2012). Global Employment Trends for Youth 2012. International Organization for Migration.
- Inyang, B. & Simon, E.D. (2012). Unemployment and Persistent Poverty in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria: A Constraint to Sustainable Development in the 21st Century Nigeria. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, 3(2), 27-34.
- Islam, R. (2004). The Nexus of Economic Growth, Employment and Poverty Reduction: An Empirical Analysis Issues in Employment and Poverty. Discussion Paper, No. 14. Geneva: International Labour Organization, Recovery and Reconstruction Department.
- Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (2021). N-Power. Retrieved 20th April, 2022, from <http://www.nasims.gov.ng>
- National Bureau of Statistics (2012). National Baseline Youth Survey. p. 63. Retrieved 19th April 2022, from https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/pdfuploads/2102%20National%20Baseline%20Youth%20Survey%20Report_1.pdf
- National Bureau of Statistics (2020). National Baseline Youth Survey. NBS Final Report.
- NBS (2013). 2012 national baseline youth survey. National Bureau of Statistics in Collaboration with Federal Ministry of Youth Development. Final Report, 1-146.
- Nedeljkovic, V. (2014). Consequences of High Youth Unemployment. Retrieved from <http://www.bridgingeurope.net/consequences-of-high-youth-unemployment.htm>
- Okaba, B. O. & Nte, N. D. (2008) "Youth Conflict and Urban Africa: a Review of some Niger Delta Cities". Common Wealth Youth Development, Vol. 6 No.1, UNISA Press.
- Nwankwo, C.A. & Ifejiolor, A.P. (2014). Impact of unemployment on Nigerian economic development: A study of selected Local Government Area in Anambra State, Nigeria. *European Journal of Business & Management*, 6(35), 103-112.
- Odumade, A.S. (2020). Effects of youth unemployment and its consequences on economic growth in Nigeria. *Kampala International University (KIU) Journal of Humanities*, 5(3), 33-40.
- Ojenike, J.O., Shodiya, O.A. & Jolaosho, S.O. (2016). Youth empowerment and security: A panacea for national development. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, 18(4), 120-136.
- Ojolo, T. (2017). Youth perception on yahoo-yahoo (cybercrime): a case study of Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State Nigeria. Thesis Submitted to the School of Applied Human Sciences, University of KwaZulu Natal, Howard College, Durban, South Africa.
- Okafor, E.E. (2011). Youth unemployment and implications for stability of development in Nigeria. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, 13(1), 1520-5509.

- Okechukwu, E.U. & Nwekwo, M.N. (2020). Youth entrepreneurial development: a panacea for overcoming security challenges and unemployment in Nigeria. *Unizik Journal of Business*, 3(1), 26-42.
- Okoye-Nebo, C., Iloanya, K. & Udunze, U. (2014). Youth unemployment and entrepreneurship development: Challenges and prospects in Nigeria. *Kuwait Chapter of Arabian Journal of Business & Management Review*, 4(4), 20-35.
- Olaeye, M.O. (2000). Poverty alleviation programmes as an empowerment. *Gender & Development*, 21(1), 691-704.
- Olurounbi, R. (2021). Nigeria unemployment rate rises to 33%, second highest on global list. Bloomberg. Retrieved from <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-03-15/nigeria-unemployment-rate-rises-to-second-highest-on-global-list>
- Ongbali, S.O., Afolalu, S.A & Udo, M.O. (2019). Factors causing youth unemployment problem in Nigeria: A review. *International Journal of Mechanical Engineering & Technology*, 10(01), 1847-1879.
- Oni, B. (2016). Employment Generation: Theoretical and Empirical Issues. In NSE, Employment Generation in Nigeria: Selected Papers for the 2006 Annual Conference pp. 11-30, Ibadan: Nigerian Economic Society
- Onoyase, A. (2019). Causal factors and effects of unemployment on graduates of tertiary institutions in Ogun State South West Nigeria: Implications for counselling. *Journal of Educational & Social Research*, 9(4), 119-127.
- Onwuka, E.M., Ugwu, K.E., Chukwuma, E.D. & Chijioke, D.E. (2015). Implications of youth unemployment and violent crime on the economic growth: a case study of Anambra State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Economics, Commerce & Management*, 3(9), 387-403
- Oseafiana, O.J., Ajike, A.K & Esedebe, J.E. (2017). Assessing the Contributions of the National Directorate of Employment to Employment Generation and Poverty Alleviation in Delta State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Business Systems & Economics*, 11(2), 54-68.
- Osinubi, T.Y. (2006). The politics and solutions. Vanguard Newspaper. July 19, pp.14.
- Sanusi, L.S. (2012). Beyond political rhetoric: Investing in youth as an economic strategy. Paper delivered at the 2012 Oxford Pan-African Conference. University of Oxford, UK.
- Schnurr, J. & Newing, H. (2007). A Conceptual and Analytical Framework for Youth Enterprise and Livelihood Skills Development: Defining an IDRC Niche. Canada: IDRC.
- Shimfe, H.G. & Wajim, J. (2020). Youth Unemployment: The Cause of Ethnic Conflict and Criminal Activities in Takum Local Government Area of Taraba State Nigeria. *International Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities Invention*, 7(04), 5882-5890.
- Suleiman, M.N. & Aminu, K.M. (2015). Cycle of bad governance and corruption: The rise of Boko Haram in Nigeria. *Sage Open*, 5(1), doi: 2158244015576053.
- Tangban, E. E., Isokon, E, B & Obeten, U. B. (2020). Challenges of ethnicity and social work interventions in Nigeria. *International Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities Reviews*, 10(3), 216-226.

- Uddin, P.S.O. & Uddin, O.O. (2013). Causes, effects and solutions to youth unemployment problems in Nigeria. *Journal of Emerging Trends in Economics & Management Sciences (JETEMS)*, 4(4), 397-402.
- Ugal, G.A., Nwagbara, E.N. & Uyang, F.A. (2011). Youth unemployment and its consequences in Calabar Metropolis: Need for government intervention. *Global Journal of Social Sciences*, 10(1&2), 75-82.
- Vremudia, P.D. (2012). African youth empowerment programmes: Guidelines for accelerating implementation. Addis Ababa: UNDP/African Union Commission Publication.
- Wayas, G.G., Selvadurai, S. & Awang, A.H. (2019). Youth Unemployment and Terrorism in Nigeria: The Case of "Boko Haram". *International Journal of Recent Technology & Engineering (IJRTE)*, 8(2S9), 442-449.