**EFFECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH IN IJEBU ODE**

**CHAPTER ONE**

**INTRODUCTION**

* 1. **Background To The Study**

Unemployment is a global phenomenon, but it is more prevalent in most developing countries of the world, with resultant social, economic, political and psychological consequences (Ayinde, 2008; Emeka, 2011). One of the pressing challenges facing the Sub - Saharan African economies today is the trend of unemployment that has been on over the years. Unemployment is one of the major challenges facing developed and some developing countries. As it is been usually phrased, the phenomenon of Graduate unemployment (GU) in the developing countries constitute an unusual problems to labour market and the general economy of these countries. (Sulaimon, Rahim, Akintunde, &Ajiroba, 2016). Nigeria's current unemployment situation is short of expectations, such that a large percentage of educated, able and qualified citizens cannot secure paid employment (Omotosho, 2009). This indicate that Nigeria over the years has steadily crumbled from its extremely resilient and esteemed position among developing nations (Ipaye, 1998).

According to Oye, Ibrahim and Ahmad (2011), the state of unemployment demoralizes and increases the need of those who are able and enthusiastic to work but cannot find jobs. One of the major concerns of various administrations in Nigeria is the growing rate of unemployment in the country and it has consistently form part of the macroeconomic objectives of the government for the past decades (Omotosho, 2009). According to the World Bank Report (1993), the growing trend of employment and productivity of the Asian Tigers and Japan is responsible for their enviable and brilliant economic performance. Evidently, absence of the necessary framework to enhance employment and productivity level in Nigeria is the sole cause of the retard nature of Nigeria, the acclaimed giant of Africa. The trend and problem of unemployment in Nigeria remains obstinate with a tendency of growing geometrically to alarming rate of 3 million unemployed youth annually (Adelodun, 2006).

The trend of unemployment in Nigeria has a devastating effect on the youths from an extensive gamut of socioeconomic clusters, both the highly and less educated, even though it has mainly troubled a sizeable portion of youths from less privilege backgrounds (Ipaye, 1998). According to Adebayo and Ogunrinola, (2006), unemployment trend in Nigeria touches the job seekers within the ages of 20 - 24 and 25 - 44 years more while there is fewer prevalence of unemployment within the ages of 15 -19, 55 - 59 and 65 years and above. The rate of open unemployment was 12% in March 2005; it rose to 19.7% in March 2009 while the rate of underemployment hovered around 19% in 1998 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2010). From this point of view, it is apparent that unemployment, particularly the unemployment of young graduates, hinders Nigeria's progress in so many ways. Aside from economic issue, it also creates eminent danger for political stability of our dear country (Ipaye, 1998).

Consequently, massive youth unemployment as it is presently recorded in Nigeria portends a serious multifaceted problems and the threat of unemployment has gradually been acknowledged as a pressing Nigeria (Ipaye. 1998, Udu & Ugu. 2005). According to Umaru and Zubairu (2001), unemployment has been recognized as one of the major impediments to social-economic growth in most developing countries. It reduces the aggregate output of the economy and results in underutilization of human resources. The need to avert the negative effects of u7nemployment has made the tacklingof unemployment problems of feature very prominently in the development objective of developing countries (Omotor&Gbosi 2006). The issue of real output and employment growth in developing nations is a sine qua non for poverty reduction and a more equitable income distribution (Fofana, 2001). Omotor and Gbosi (2006) noted that the seriousness and nature of unemployment in Nigeria is relatively high when placed on the same pedestal with those of other African countries. According to them, in absolute terms; it is estimated that there are presently about 22 million youths unemployed in Nigeria.

* 1. **Statement Of The Problem**

Unemployment constitutes a serious socio-economic problem in Nigeria and is really a tragic condition that requires urgent and proactive attention. Indeed, it is alarming and worrisome to observe that Nigeria's graduates who are educated, able and willing to work cannot find a job. The situation is becoming hopeless, as the rate of unemployment keep rising without any proactive attempt to curb the menace (Kayode, Samuel & Silas, 2014). The trend of events in Nigeria, most especially, the falling oil prices, economic recession, insurgence in the Northern parts of the country among other factors. As a matter of fact, unemployment is one of the major developmental challenges facing Nigeria at the moment (Ipaye, 1998). Obadan and Odusola (2010) have found that the prevalence of unemployment in Nigeria especially in this 21st century is getting deeper and more pathetic, spiteful through ail faces of age groups, educational level and geographical spread. The challenge of youth unemployment is very presence in Nigeria, because every year thousands of graduates are turnout for whom there are no jobs opportunity (Emeka, 2011). Hence, the Nigerian labour markets are beleaguered with youth hawkers who typically would have found beneficial employment in some organizations (Echebiri, 2005; Uwoma, 2006). Given the large percentage of unemployed youths, the trend of unemployment is capable of destabilizing peace as they portend a serious threat in view of nascent democracy and blatant disregard for party politics (Adepegba, 2011). Unemployment has negative consequence on the physical well-being of the peoples. The unemployed have high tendency to experience such feelings as downheartedness, melancholy, anger, acrimony and mortification (Goldney 1997).

In addition, different form of misconducts like deceit, fraud, robbery and ferocity usually occur in a society with large number of unemployed populace. Britt (1994), Weich and Lewis (1998) and Reynolds (2000) studies have documented other forms of mental and health disorders, such as drug abuse, sexual assault, unwanted pregnancy, prostitution, and psychosomatic with unemployment. Compounding the challenges further is the absence of reliable statistics on the level of unemployment, as no organization has so far produce precise figures presenting the current unemployment rate in Nigeria (Udu & Agu, 2005), as in most occasion, the figures released by National Bureau of Statistics, and the World Bank, appeared contradictory. The reasons, alluded to the contradiction in employment statistics according to Raheen (1993), is the fact that only open unemployment is recognized and published by the official statistics. A review of extant reveals that most studies conducted on Nigeria's employment nature and structure situation have been largely devoted to unemployment and its determinants and or its impacts on economic growth (Adebayo &Ogunrinola, 2006; Omotor & Gbosi 2006). However, to the best knowledge of the author of this study, not much research attention has been given to the investigation of socio-economic effects of unemployment in Nigeria. Thus, the aforementioned challenges that motivated this study include the seemingly unabated high rate of unemployment in the country, the negative effect of unemployment on economic growth, the traumatizing effect of unemployment on Nigeria graduates and not being able to specify the exact causes of unemployment peculiar to Nigeria.

* 1. **Objectives of the study**
1. Determine the socioeconomic variables of youths in Ijebu Ode.
2. Ascertain is the Prevalent and forms of Youth Unemployment in Ijebu Ode.
3. List the Causes of Youth Unemployment in Ijebu Ode.
4. Examine are the Effects of Youth Unemployment on Socio Economic Development in Ijebu Ode.
	1. **Research Questions**
5. What are the socioeconomic variables of youths in Ijebu Ode?
6. What is the Prevalent and forms of Youth Unemployment in Ijebu Ode?
7. What are the Causes of Youth Unemployment in Ijebu Ode?
8. What are the Effects of Youth Unemployment on Socio Economic Development in Ijebu Ode?
	1. **Significance Of The Study**

Owing to the down turn in the economic fortunes of this country over the years, the Nigerians have lost their pride of place, their status in the society has continued to dwindle. Today, it is sheer mirage for fresh graduates to dream of the good things of life. They are made to understand and accept that the graduates, unemployment should be seen as a passing phase in the history of the nation. It is very doubtful if the much desired change in the near future will bring us anything. Therefore, this study is aimed at showing how these effects of unemployment have on socio-economic growth in Nigeria economy. In conclusion, the findings of this work will help young graduates to know that white man’s job or white collar’s job as it is sometimes called is not the only means of survival. It will also stand as a guideline to them on the best way to live instead of engaging in social vices and also provide them with some ways of being self-employed, self-sufficient and even employing others.

* 1. **Definition Of Terms**

In this aspect we are concerned about the impact of unemployment and it socio-economic effect on youth. According to the Advanced Learner Dictionary, unemployment is defined as the amount of labour unused. When factor of production is not doing any job, we say it is unemployed. Unemployment is a very dangerous phenomenon to an industrialized economic system. Future primitive communities in Nigeria was usually self-sufficient and no unemployment problem through their standard of living is a very low living. The following terms are identified and defined as they are used in this study.
**Employment:** This is the state of being employed, it is when work is being done in order to earn money or a living. It can also be seen as the act of being employed in an institution or organization to perform some certain duties and earn money at the end.

**Unemployment:** This is a situation whereby one is able and willing to work at a prevailing wage rate but does not have work, or is not being engaged into any meaningful or well rewardable venture.

**Employed:** This is the condition or instance of being engaged into any meaningful, gainful and rewarding venture or activity in a place, and it also means persons in this situation of being engaged into meaningful activities.

**Unemployed:** This is the situation of not having a work or the issue of staying idle, not having job, and secondly it also means persons in this situation of not having a work, staying idle or not having job.

**Unemployment rate:** This is the percentage of labour force without jobs but they are willing and available for work.

**Poverty:** This is a living condition in which an individual is unable to take care of his or her basic needs like financials, clothing, food, shelter, inability to meet social and economic obligations, lack of gainful employment and other environmental opportunities at his or her disposal.

**National Income:** This is the total amount of income given to a country from economic activities especially on imports and exports transactions usually in a given year or the total value of goods and services produced annually in a country.

**Economy:** This is the relationship between production, trade and supply of money and consumption (and it patterns) in a particular area or region.

**Economic Development:** This refers to the concentrated actions of policy makers and communities that promote the standard of living and economic health of a specific area. It can also be referred to as the qualitative and quantitative changes in the economy.

**Development:** This is the improvement of something that is being regarded to the gradual change or growth of something that it becomes mores advance.

**Society:** This means the particular communities of people, who share the same customs, laws, believes etc.

**Underutilization:** This is when factors of production such as labour, capital and material resources like raw materials and funds are been used with very little or no capacity.

**Mobilization**: This is the act of moving people, factors of production such as labour and capital, resources and other tangible and intangible materials from one place to another where they are needed or to be useful.

**CHAPTER TWO**

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

**Introduction**

Meanwhile large-scale unemployment has become the prime social and economic issue in Nigeria and a number of developing countries, It is a colossal waste of human potential and national product; it is responsible for poverty and inequality; it erodes human capital; and it creates social and economic tensions wherever it strikes (Snower & De La Dehesa, 1997: 1). Hence, this chapter is based on both economic and social theories relating to unemployment in Nigeria. The chapter focuses critically on the different definitions and types of unemployment; unemployment employment and marginalisation in Nigeria; causes of unemployment as well as Structural unemployment in Nigeria.

**Definition of Unemployment**

Barker (1999: 165) defines the unemployed person as the one who is without work, is currently available for work, and is seeking or wanting to work. The unemployment rate is defined as the number of unemployed persons taken as a percentage of the economically active population , which includes both the employed and the unemployed. Human Science Research Council (1985) found that most definitions of unemployment requires that a person not only wants to work but also looks for it actively. This ignores the discouraged work-seekers who may want to work at the going wage, but has given up looking because he perceives the chance of getting it to the be very slim. This type of unemployment is sometimes known as hidden unemployment. Although no market signals are generated by those in hidden unemployment, it is not conceptually different from the open unemployment. In hidden unemployment, many people are engaged in second-choice non-employment activities, such as education or housekeeping primarily because job opportunities are not available either at the level of education already attained or, for women, due to social mores (Todaro, 1994: 229). Educational institutions and households become employers of last resort. Moreover, many people enrolled for higher education may be among the less able as indicated by their inability to compete successfully for jobs before pursuing further education.

Also, presumably hidden unemployment cannot normally exist in a dynamic and growing economy without open unemployment, as it is usually the fact that there are too many people seeking the jobs on offer which discourages others from joining the seekers. Thus, market signals will normally be generated, but the full extent of the problem may not be realised. Hence, open unemployment is usually defined in relation to market clearing.

Although the notion of open unemployment is fairly clear, the concept of underemployment is considerably less so. Underemployment can be defined in a way consistent with open unemployment, i.e., a man who is working less than full-time but would like more work at the going wage rate is openly underemployed. Thus, underemployment is used to describe a whole variety of other phenomena covering the other types of labour market malfunctions and other forms of labour market underutilisation. The term underemployment is used to describe what may be called low-wage or low-productivity employment. A person is regarded as being underemployed if he does not earn adequate income. Adequacy is based on whether a person and his dependents are able to meet their basic needs, both long-term and short-term from income. An adequate income is therefore defined in a way that is totally unrelated to the market for wage labour, and is essentially a normative concept.

The Statistics Nigeria, previously known as the Central Statistical Services, recently revised its definition of the official unemployment rate in line with the main International Labour Organisation definition. The definition is used more than eighty percent of both developed and less developed countries, and in Nigeria as a major trading partner.

On this new definition, the unemployed are those people within the economically active population who:

did not work during the seven days prior to the interview;

want to work and are available to start work within a week of interview

; and have taken active steps to look for work or to start some form of self- employment in the four weeks prior to the interview.

The economically active population consists of both those who are employed and those who are unemployed. Its magnitude therefore differs according to the definition of unemployment used. Thus, the official unemployment rate is calculated as the percentage of the economically active population which is unemployed, according to the above definition.

The new official unemployment rate corresponds to what Statistics Nigeria previously called the strict unemployment rate, i.e. using criterion (c) as well as (a) and (b), set out above. By contrast, the expanded unemployment rate does not require criterion (c), but only (a) and (b), and was the basis of the official definition until recently.

**Different Types of Unemployment**

In order to address the problem of unemployment successfully, a distinction should be drawn between different types of unemployment. This gives an indication of the possible reasons for unemployment, and therefore some idea of how the problem should be addressed (McConnell and Brue,1995).

**Frictional Unemployment**

In a world of scarce and costly information, there will be at any point of time an ever-changing pool of unemployed job seekers in search of better paid and more suitable jobs and employers in search of particular types of workers. Those engaged in search attempt to match the marginal costs and benefits of such activity. For the proper functioning of the market, search unemployment is both inevitable and useful. Search costs are generally accepted as one of the factors which make the natural unemployment greater than zero.

Frictional unemployment arises as a result of normal labour turnover that occurs in any dynamic economy and the time lags involved in the employment of labour. Because there are people moving between jobs and new entrants in the labour market, at any given time there are both unemployed persons and vacancies which can be filled by them, and usually takes time for those seeking work to find and fill these positions. Frictional unemployment can exist in a situation where there is no skill or location mismatch. Frictional unemployment also refers to an economically rational process of job search where people voluntarily remain unemployed while they seek out and weigh up suitable job vacancies.

In Nigeria, search involves more physical effort and time on the part of job seekers who are less able to make use of modern communication facilities (e.g. telephones) than, say, American workers. Furthermore, the geographical and vertical mobility is limited by variety of labour market restrictions and the many urban dwellers who do not possess the required documents are deterred from seeking work through the normal channels.

Frictional unemployment is relatively of short duration, which can be reduced even further by improving labour market information and placement services, so that the employer and the work-seekers can find each other sooner and more effectively (Barker,1999: 165).

Even when aggregate demand is sufficient to employ all the labour force and when those who are unemployed posses skills matching those required by firms with job openings, the nation’s unemployment rate will remain positive. People will continuously quit present jobs to shop for new ones, look for new jobs after losing previous ones, enter the labour force to seek work for the first time, reenter the labour force after periods of absence, and move from one job to take another within the next 30 days.

Likewise, employers continuously search for replacements for the workers who quit or retire, discharge some employees in hopes of finding better ones, and seek new workers to fill jobs created by expansion of their firms.

**Cyclical Unemployment (Demand Efficient Unemployment)**

Demand deficient inflation arises during recessionary periods, when aggregate demand and therefore also the demand for labour, is low. During recessionary periods few or no jobs are created for new entrants to the labour market, and even existing workers might lose their jobs through retrenchments. Once the economy recovers, however, the cyclically unemployed are taken up again. In Nigeria cyclical unemployment has a dimension that makes it uneasy to address successfully: it is superimposed on large-scale structural unemployment. As a result, the unemployment problem is severe, complex and difficult to alleviate. The National Manpower Commission has addressed this topic in a special report (National Manpower Commission,1994).

Meanwhile cyclical unemployment arises from periodic downswings in the business cycle, such downturns may be initiated, for, example, by autonomous decrease in consumption, investment, or exports, and reinforced by an attendant degree of wage rigidity. Whilst the issue of wage rigidity has attracted a good deal of attention in the current literature, it generally refers to the inability of wages to adjust in a downward direction. When this occurs, any decrease in the demand for labour must perforce give rise to an excess supply of labour, or cyclical unemployment.

Cyclical unemployment occurs when output is below its full-employment level. In other words, cyclical unemployment is associated with an insufficient level of aggregate demand, and therefore also called demand-deficiency unemployment. When aggregate demand rises, firms increases their hiring. When aggregate demand falls, firms lay off workers.

However, it should be noted that the relationship between aggregate demand and the rate of unemployment is not unambiguous. For instance, an increase in the demand for labour increases quits at the same time as it reduces layoffs. A person thinking of living a job to search for another would be more likely to quit when the job market is good and the demand is high than when there is a heavy unemployment and the prospects of finding a good job quickly are low. In fact, quits and layoffs tend to move in opposite directions. Moreover, there are lags between changes in aggregate demand and changes in employment (or unemployment). When aggregate demand falls, firms do not immediately dismiss or lay off workers. Similarly, when aggregate demand increases, there is some delay before aggregate employment increases. There might be some idle capacity. Otherwise firms initially try to meet the increased demand by working overtime.

**Structural Unemployment**

This type of unemployment is more difficult to define, but generally refers to the overall inability of the economy, due to structural imbalances, to provide employment for the total labour force even at the peak of the business cycle. This type of unemployment is not sensitive to changes in aggregate demand. Hence, structural unemployment is the unemployment that exists when the economy is at full employment. Unemployment experienced in Nigeria is largely structural rather than cyclical (Chadha,1994: 23). Even during periods of high economic growth, job opportunities do not increase fast enough to absorb those already unemployed and those newly entering the labour market. There are various reasons for this, for example the rapid growth of the labour force, the use of capital or skill- intensive technology, or an inflexible labour market.

Structural unemployment could also refer to a skill mismatch, i.e. between the skill that the employers require and those that employees offer, or a geographical mismatch, i.e. between the location of job vacancies and those of job-seekers. The major proportion of unemployment in Nigeria is Structural. Structural unemployment is caused by changes in the composition of labour supply and demand.

Structural unemployment is part of the nation’s natural rate of unemployment. However, this unemployment shares many of the same features as frictional unemployment but is differentiated by being long-lived. It therefore can involve considerable costs to those unemployed and substantial loss of forgone output to society (McConnell, R 1995: 547).

Improvements in agricultural technology over the past 100 years caused job losses for many farm operators and labourers who did not have readily transferable job skills in expanding areas of employment and who were not geographically mobile.

Unemployment resulting from job losses associated with the spate of merges in the United States over the last decade is another example of structural unemployment, as is unemployment resulting from the deregulation of trucking and airline industries (McConnell, R 1995:547).

**Seasonal Unemployment**

Seasonal unemployment occurs due to normal and expected changes in economic activities during the course of a single year. It is found in many sectors, with agriculture probably the best example. Persons working during peak periods and unemployment in off-peak periods are described as seasonal workers or seasonally employed. This unemployment occurs on regular and predictable basis.

**Unemployment and Marginalisation in Nigeria**

The sectoral model of labour (Berry and Sabot,1978) holds that much Third World unemployment is not involuntary. It is based on the following propositions: Labour is fairly mobile between the various sectors of the economy and as such it is fair to talk about a national labour market; The bottom end of the labour market (such as the modern informal sector and the traditional sector) is characterised by market clearing either because it has additional labour absorption capacity, or because it is driven by market clearing in the neoclassical sense; and that there is significant wage dispersion.

Unemployment in this model is voluntary in the sense that it represents rational search behaviour rather than an aggregate shortage of opportunities. People are pulled from relatively poorly paying bottom end opportunities into voluntary unemployment in order to search for better jobs. They are not pushed into involuntary unemployment by the absence of opportunities.

In Nigeria, there is ample evidence of wage differentials for apparently similar workers. This is a crucial piece of evidence in itself. Relevant to the current discussion is that the differentials could motivate some search unemployment. However, although there is some debate as to wether this has always been the case, extreme oversupply seems to have been the case for at least the last fifteen or twenty years. This conclusion is supported by direct household survey evidence, which uniformly shows that the Nigerian unemployment have negligible unemployment prospects (for example, Moller,1992; Bhorat and Leibbrandt,1996), and by the consideration of low- wage, potential market clearing sectors of the economy.

The candidates for a low-wage sector are the informal and subsistence sectors. Traditional agriculture has performed woefully. Second, despite claims to the contrary based on its fairly large size (perhaps 20% of the labour force), and rapid employment growth during 1993, the informal sector also appears to be unable to offer high rates of pay. In countries with vibrant informal sectors there is important manufacturing for niche markets 1985 & Amin, 1988). In Nigeria, less than one-fifth of informal sector jobs involve production. Most work (about two-thirds) is driven by retailing (hawking and vending), mainly offered to low-income earners from a limited number of suitable locations in an extremely competitive environment. Much of this poor work is conducted by women (who outnumber men three to one in the informal sector as a whole). Earnings are very low: a Central Statistical Study showed that 80% of non- White persons involved in informal activities received a monthly income of less than R650 per month - an amount which could be regarded as a minimum living level (Ligthelm and Kritzinger Van Niekerk,1990).

The informal sector appears to be for the most part “disguised unemployment’. In a study of perceptions of township dwellers, Moller (1992) found that 70% agreed that most unemployed people who open up their own businesses in the sector are barely able to scrape a living. The fact that women predominate is also telling: women also have the highest unemployment rate. That the informal sector does not for the most part provide an adequate living is supported by the finding that less than 40% of informal sector workers in 1991 (Central Economic Advisory Service, 1993). Most informal sector participants were either students or housewives (42%) or were “moonlighting” from formal sector jobs (17%).

It is however interesting to observe that the search incidence from informal sector workers is very low: according to official statistics, only about 6% of informal sector workers were actively searching for formal sector jobs in 1989. In 1991 (when unemployment was higher) the figure was only about 4%.

Therefore, although there is evidence of significant wage dispersion, there appears to be a significant overall surplus of labour, particularly at the lower end of the wage spectrum. This surplus has had a considerable effect on the nature of labour supply in Nigeria. Several strands of evidence suggest that the labour market is heavily segmented, to the extend that a large part of the labour surplus is marginalised. In the Nigerian context, models based on unified labour markets - in other words markets where there is significant mobility between sectors are appropriate.

In fact, the argument can be made that the unemployed and the employed seem to be fairly distinct groups, with very limited turnover between the two. First, a very large proportion of the unemployed live in rural and non- metropolitan areas, from which search must be all but impossible. During the 1980s, unemployment rate in the Black homeland areas were consistently more than double those in the metropolitan areas. By 1987, still more than half of all unemployed were living in these national states (Ligthelm,1993). Although the claim that as many as three workers arrive in urban areas for every job being created (Ligthelm,1993) sounds impressive, and suggests that pull unemployment is important in a national labour market, the statistics does not in fact represent a great deal of population movement, given the rate of growth of employment. This is despite the breakdown of apartheid restrictions from the early 1980s and the demise of the apartheid labour recruitment system, which was geared to hiring labour for urban purposes for rural areas. The result is that, by 1994, Black unemployment rates were still considerably higher in rural (41.8 %) areas (Bhorat & Leibbrandt,1996).

What Ligthelm’s quotation does serve to illustrate, however, is one of the most important barriers to migration, namely high and involuntary urban unemployment. The evidence suggest that the concept of national labour market linking rural and urban areas may no longer be appropriate for Nigeria. Considerable marginalisation has arisen.

The second piece of evidence to question the underlying assumption of the sectoral model is that of a considerable “discouraged worker” effect. About 70% of the Nigerian unemployed have been out of work for a year or more or have never worked (Moller,1993 & Ligthelm,1993). Low re-employment probabilities are likely to discourage search activity. This is supported by 1991 census data, which indicate a near perfect inverse relationship between unemployment and labour force participation rates (defined in terms of search) by race and gender. The low participation rate of Black workers are startling when compared to 1960 figures (National Manpower Commission,1991) - when unemployment was much lower, and confirm that low participation is not due to a low degree of class or race stigmatisation. Since then, Black male participation has declined by almost 20 %. For Black females, who have the highest unemployment rate, participation has barely risen (45.5% to 46.8%).

Further evidence of discouraged workers is provided by analyses of the occupations of individuals classified by the census as being outside the labour force. Nine per cent of the Black population between the ages of 20 and 64 were students. The next highest race group in this category is Whites, at 3%, followed by Indians at 2%. Black have higher population growth rate and therefore a larger school-age cohort, and there are several factors suggesting that Black individuals take on average longer to attain any level of education (poorer pass rates, education deferred during the protests at the end of apartheid). Black individuals also have a much lower penetration into higher levels of secondary school and tertiary education. It would appear that many Black youngsters are staying at school because there are no jobs. This motive is supported by evidence that returns to education are very low for Black pupil up until completion of secondary education (Pillay,1993). This phenomenon is particularly marked for females, and has resulted in what describe as the “peculiarly Nigerian phenomenon” of Black women having on average higher education than Black males, yet experiencing far higher rates of unemployment.

The other non-labour force interesting category is that of people not working or seeking work, for unspecified reasons. For Black people this category is 11% of the working-age population. It is 5% for Coloured, 4% for Asians and only 1% for Whites. This follows exactly the same ranking as unemployment rates, indicating that many of the unspecified are probably discouraged workers.

**Causes of Unemployment**

The theoretical explanations of unemployment follows from the essential thinking of different schools of thought, for example , the Keynesian approach and the Monetarist approach.

**The Keynesian Approach**

Traditionally, the Keynesian focus has been on cyclical unemployment. The simple Keynesian explanation of unemployment points to insufficient expenditure, i.e. a demand deficiency. This causes the macroeconomic equilibrium to be below the full employment level. In more modern Keynesian theory - the aggregate demand - aggregate supply framework - a similar story is told for an equilibrium point to the left (diagrammatically) of the long-run supply curve Aggregate Supply (Long-Run). Such an equilibrium emerges due to a decline in aggregate demand.

The modern theory also allows for an unemployment equilibrium that arises due to a curtailment in aggregate supply. This also pushes the economy to the left of Aggregate Supply (Long-Run) diagrammatically. The perpetuation of the supply-induced unemployment can still be ascribed to insufficient aggregate demand in the sense that an increase in demand (shifting Aggregate Demand right) would have pushed the equilibrium toward higher employment levels (i.e. the case where non-accommodation of a supply shock perpetuates unemployment.

However, cyclical fluctuations in employment (and hence in unemployment) are explained in the Keynesian view by two kinds of causes: Fluctuations in aggregate expenditure, more especially in the inherent instability of private expenditure; and the shocks from the supply side of the economy which can be either internal or external.

In the Keynesian view periods of cyclical unemployment can be quite prolonged. It is true that one can show that, in theory, the supply adjustment process would move the economy back from an unemployment equilibrium to an equilibrium on the long-run supply curve Aggregate Supply (Long-Run). However, Keynesian maintains that in reality this process is likely to take very long (if it occurs at all). It requires prices and wages to adjust downwards, but in practice prices and wages are rigid downwards. Therefore, in the absence of policy steps, short-to medium term cyclical unemployment would be a reality (Frederick & Fourie,1999: 362).

**The Monetarist Approach**

As with the Keynesian approach, the Monetarist approach is concerned only with short-run or cyclical unemployment. Yet its concern is not the same from the Keynesian view. The Monetarist maintains that involuntary unemployment is not a long-run problem - the economy is inherently stable and self-stabilising, and would spontaneously return to a full employment equilibrium following any disturbances. Thus, fluctuations in employment would be small and temporary. The normal operation of the market forces of demand and supply would soon eliminate unemployment.

In the Aggregate Demand-Aggregate Supply framework this means that the supply adjustment process occurs speedily. In actual fact, only the long-run supply relationship issues - the long-run movement back to full employment equilibrium is assured and decisive. Coupled with this is the Monetarist that the “long-run” occurs soon.

However, if large and sustained deviation from full employment do occur, they can have only one cause which is government intervention. Such intervention could maybe stem from Keynesian thinking and doomed efforts at Keynesian “stabilisation” policy. Government intervention is the cause of, and not the solution for, sustained unemployment. The Monetarists maintains that the government does not stabilises but it destabilises.

Instead of pursuing “stabilisation” policy, government should practice fiscal abstinence. If this is complemented by monetary policy which reduces money supply growth to a fixed growth rate - a monetary rule - the problem of prolonged unemployment will disappear together with any inflation. The elimination of unemployment should therefore not be an active policy objective.

Meanwhile the two viewpoints differ fundamentally, they both appear to view unemployment as a relatively unimportant problem. In the long-run which could come either sooner (in the Monetarist view) or later (in the Keynesian view), unemployment should disappear by itself or can be eliminated by the policy (the Keynesian view).

**Structural Unemployment in Nigeria**

Unemployment data shows a sustained and, indeed, increasing unemployment rate in Nigeria since 1975 - in spite of the business cycle upswings in the periods 1978 - 1981, 1983 - 1984, 1986 - 1989 and since the middle of 1993. Jobless growth appears to be the norm. This shows that the major part of the Nigerian unemployment does not react much to cyclical changes in the level of economic activity (as measured in real Gross Domestic Product).

However, this means that the major part of the Nigerian unemployment is of permanent nature. In other words, the largest part of unemployment in Nigeria is structural unemployment. Cyclical fluctuations in production and employment, explained in the Aggregate Demand-Aggregate Supply framework, actual amount to waves upon a sea of underlying, enduring unemployment. These fluctuations happen around a permanently high level of unemployment, previously indicated as the structural rate of unemployment which corresponds to the level of saturated market employment.

Since the standard macroeconomic theory, Keynesians as well as the Monetarists, mainly provide explanations for fluctuations along the long-run (underlying structural) unemployment rate, or at most for non-permanent unemployment, one has to consider beyond standard macroeconomic theory if one wishes to understand the causes of structural unemployment in Nigeria and elsewhere. The existence of structural unemployment means that the employment opportunities brought about by the normal operations of the labour market are always less than the total labour force.

Only a limited portion of the labour force is absorbed into the market. The rest of the labour force is excluded from the operation, influence and benefits of the labour market.

The phenomenon of structural unemployment can be ascribed to structural rigidities, distortions and imperfections in markets and the way in which the general economy is organised. Structural unemployment arises from the nature, location and pattern of employment opportunities. A major portion of unemployment is due to intrinsic mismatches between worker skills and the skill requirements of available jobs. The type of products that are chosen for production, the kind of inputs used and especially the way in which they are combined in production determine what kinds of, and how much labour can be employed.

**Causes of Structural Unemployment**

Being a complex phenomenon, the causes of structural unemployment covers a wide spectrum of factors. Some of these are common to all market economies, others are specific to Nigerian economic and political order. The following is a list of possible causes: The labour market is not a single or united market. It is in reality a segmented market, comprising of a number of relatively isolated sub-markets. Labour mobility between these market segments is limited. Employees who become redundant in one segment of the market will not necessarily find employment in another segment, even if there is a labour shortage in that segment, and even if the person is willing to work at a lower wage. These segments differ with respect to the required level of training, specialised skills, etc.

In addition, a simple example is the agricultural labour versus the industrial labour market, or even different agricultural labour markets. In the so-called white-collar jobs there are even more severe barriers to mobility between sectors or segments. A skilled and experienced worker who becomes unemployed in one segment does not necessarily possess the necessary skills to find employment in an entirely different section of the market, in any case, not immediately or without some retraining. Labour is simply not homogeneous and the demand for labour can be very skill-specific.

Democratic factors are also very important in Nigeria. The rate of population growth causes the labour force to grow faster than the normal labour absorption of the market. Migration patterns in Nigeria contribute to this problem, and hence also population growth in neighbouring countries. Population growth has increased in momentum. Changes in the composition of the economically active population, e.g, the proportion that are young or very old, or the gender or racial composition, also contribute to the absorption problem. Changes in the age structure, as well as the participation rates, are particularly important in this regard. The level of education, training, skill and experience of the labour force is also important (Mohr and Rogers,1988: 281).

Changes in the pattern of demand and output affect labour absorption in certain market segments. The pattern of activity in the Nigerian economy has changed markedly in the past 50 years. This was part of the development process in the economy, which has stimulated the industrial and service sectors. Factors such as climate (in agriculture), and world commodity prices, such as the gold price (which has dramatically affected the mining sector), have played an important role in permanently depressing employment in certain segments of the economy. Mohr and Rogers (1988: 280) maintains that the structure of aggregate demand is also equally important. Even if the level of aggregate demand remains constant there may be significant shifts in the structure of total demand sectors that might cause unemployment to increase. A structural slow-down in the growth of aggregate demand has also been mooted as a major cause of the increase in structural unemployment in Nigeria.

A related factor is the apparent long-term decline in the growth performance of the Nigerian economy since the 1960s. Many factors may have contributed to this in different periods: the post-war boom in international trade and commodity exports slowed down; the gold price stagnated after 1980; trade and financial sanctions, disinvestment and political disorder hampered economic growth; balance of payments constraints put a ceiling on the growth rate that could be sustained; the extent of underdevelopment limited the availability of suitable economic actors to drive growth in the modern sector of the economy.

The high rate of increase in nominal wages during the 1970s has been attributed to factors such as the growth of the trade union movement and the increased militancy of trade unions, widely-held notions of equity and fairness (supported by social pressure, international codes of conduct or legislation), and increases in minimum wages of unskilled, inexperienced workers. At the same time the monetary authorities pursued a low interest rate policy. The reluctant increase in the price of labour is often regarded as a major cause of the substitution of capital for labour and the concomitant increase in unemployment (Biggs,1982). Others (such as Bell and Padayachee,1984) argue, however, that the role of factor price distortions has been overplayed.

The introduction of labour-saving technology is often referred to as

technological unemployment. Although some economists argue that the many labour-saving innovations introduced in the 1970s and 1980s have not permanently replaced labour, their arguments tend to be based on a confusion between income and employment. The fact that no purchasing power is lost in the aggregate when a labour-saving machine is introduced does no imply that no employment is lost. The problem has been aggravated in Nigeria by the fact that most of the labour- saving machines are imported. The increased capital intensity therefore contributes to the country’s balance of payments problems which, in turn, limits the expansion of output and employment in the domestic economy.

Many economists argue that unemployment compensation adds to structural unemployment. The presence of benefits allows longer job search, since it is less urgent for the unemployed to obtain jobs. Furthermore, the fact that a laid- off worker will not suffer a larger loss from being unemployed makes it more attractive for an employer to lay off workers temporarily than to attempt to keep them on the job. The existence of unemployment compensation also increases the measured rate of unemployment since people have to register as unemployed to receive the benefits. Unemployment insurance in Nigeria is, however, not nearly as generous as in most western countries and cannot therefore be regarded as a significant cause of structural unemployment.

The high intensity of production methods in Nigeria is part of a broader pattern in the use of capital and labour which is typical of Western market economies. This pattern causes low growth in demand for labour, even in periods of economic upswing or high recovery.

Many possible causes of excessive capital intensity have been identified in Nigeria, namely: Tax incentives, e.g, the accelerated write-off of capital goods for tax purposes, encourage the use of capital and machinery. Over the years the Nigerian tax system has spawned a plethora of such incentives, supposedly to promote economic growth; the unqualified admiration of, an importation of, production methods and high technology from industrialised countries, designed for an entirely different production environment with a shortage of unskilled labour. The latter tendency has been aggravated by the dominant role of foreign corporations in the investment decisions of local subsidiaries; capital intensity is also increased by an unqualified acceptance of high productivity methods of production, often defined as the ability to produce high output with fewer labourers; the pressure from international competition, which appears to force Nigerian producers to adopt low cost production methods similar to foreign countries like Asia, even though our pattern of natural and human resources may be quite different.

The other causes are a lack of appropriate skilled workers such as workers equipped for the employment opportunities offered by a modern economy, also contribute to higher capital intensity. Meanwhile this is part of the developmental context, this problem is often ascribed to a discriminating education system which is in the past did not provide education and training of the same standard for all Nigerians. The earlier practice of job reservation also limited skills development among sections of the population. Another view is that there is surplus of skilled labour at the moment. Graduates often encounter difficulty in finding employment, and structural unemployment does occur only among the lower skilled; the development of consumer preferences which can be satisfied only with relatively capital-intensive methods of production. This often in limitations of overseas trends and fads; the market domination of large capital intensive corporations excludes small labour-saving businesses or forces them to mechanise too; and the growth and belligerence of labour unions that forcefully claim a larger share of the profit share for the workers.

However, factors such as threatened minimum wage legislation may have contributed to the tendency to mechanise. High minimum wages and non-wage costs (employee benefits) may also make employers reluctant to expand their workforce in good times. Cumbersome dismissal procedures contribute to this. Hence, employers may choose to pay existing workers for overtime rather than take on new workers, since the former step can easily be reversed in bad conditions. This may explain part of the phenomenon of jobless growth in Nigeria and in , for example, European Union. High wages may also prevent the creation of large numbers of low-level, low-skill service jobs in, for example hotel, retail, recreation, health care and service industries.

On the other hand, a factor that has been more important in Nigeria than in most other countries, is the distortion of labour market caused by artificial restrictions on the geographical and occupational mobility of labour. Restrictions on labour mobility such as on the geographical or occupational mobility of people is important cause of structural unemployment. In this respect influx control and job reservation immediately come to mind.

A related category of possible causes of structural unemployment is the different institutional impediments to small businesses. We had in the earlier decades measures such as influx control, group areas, labour preference areas and job reservations. International and bureaucratic obstacles facing small businesses was also an important factor. Affirmative action and the national transformation of institutions have during the 1990s led to restrictions on the occupational mobility of certain groups (often leading to an important amount of unemployment of skilled workers).

Employment in agriculture has grown at a very slowly pace. Since the 1960s the growth rate of employment in agriculture was actually negative (-0.5% per annum). The increasing implementation of large scale mechanised farming methods for reasons similar to those mentioned above has made a significant contribution to this trend. Furthermore, agriculture is also involved in another political economic cause of structural unemployment. This is evident in the historical interdependence of the state and, notably the mining sector in Nigeria.

The mining sector (but also manufacturing and commerce) has at the turn of the century had a large need for cheap labour. The state’s heavily dependent on tax revenue from mining was all too willing to introduce legislation to secure a stable supply of cheap black labour to the mines. The state and the private sector were in agreement on what had to be done. Taxation and legislation affecting the possession of land (eg the Land Act of 1913) effectively brought to an end the right of blacks to farm in large parts of the country. This forced to seek wage jobs in the mines and cities. This caused a structural labour surplus that could not be absorbed in the mining or other non-agricultural sector.

**Conclusion**

Theory on literature survey gives guidance of policy formulation, strategic development and on finding the necessary measuring instruments that could yield meaningful results . Hence, different unemployment policies are generally based on different theories of unemployment, and our confidence in a policy should depend - at least in part - on the ability of the underlying theory to account for some prominent empirical regularities in unemployment behaviour. The Keynesian and the Monetarists theories have been used on what causes unemployment.

**CHAPTER THREE**

**RESEARCH METHOD**

This section presents the detailed methodology used in this study using the following sections;

**3.1. Research Design**

The study was cross-sectional and descriptive in design, employing both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

**3.2. Study Setting**

Ijebu-Ode is a town in Ogun State, South Western geopolitical zone in Nigeria, close to the A121 highway. The city is located 110 km by road Northeast of Lagos; it is within 100 km (62 mi) of the Atlantic Ocean in the eastern part of Ogun State and possesses a warm tropical climate. According to the Britannica, by the 16th century, it was established as the chief town, and since pre-colonial times it has been the capital of the Ijebu kingdom. It has an estimated population of 222,653. It is home to Sungbo's Eredo one of the largest ramparts in West Africa. As with most Ijebus, people from Ijebu Ode have a nationwide reputation of being natural entrepreneurs, The primary cultural food is "Ikokore".

**3.3. Study Population**

Though, Ijebu Ode has an estimated more than one hundred and fifty thousand youth population (NPC, 2016), due to time factor and other resources, only four hundred and twelve (412) respondents were randomly selected from the twenty three (23) LGAs to represent the population using Taro Yamanes’ sample size determination formula.. Study participants were males and females from 18 years and above.

**3.5. Sampling Procedure and size**

The study employed clustered and simple random sampling techniques to select its respondents. Simple random technique was then employed to drawn 412 respondents (comprising males and females youth) across the local government areas to represent the entire population

**3.6. Data Collection and analysis**

Semi – structured questionnaires (SSQs) and key semi - structured interviews (SSIs) were used to elicit data from the respondents. The gathered data was then analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively. Specifically, data on socio-demographic attributes of respondents were analysed quantitatively using statistics such as percentages and frequency distribution tables. Apart from the above, all other information elicited from the respondents were analysed qualitatively. Descriptive and inferential statistical measures were used to analyze and generate data into frequency tables. Analysis of qualitative data was done using thematic narratives and direct quotation of responses.

**CHAPTER FOUR**

**DATA ANALYSIS**

Table 1: Socio-demographic variables of respondents

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Variable | Frequency (f) | Percentage (%) |
| Age |  |  |
| 15-20 | 169 | 41.94 |
| 21-30 | 178 | 44.17 |
| 31 and above | 56 | 13.90 |
| **Educational Attainment** |  |  |
| No formal education | 106 | 27.18 |
| Primary education | 142 | 36.41 |
| Secondary education | 92 | 23.59 |
| Tertiary education | 50 | 12.82 |
| **Marital status** |  |  |
| Single | 86 | 22.05 |
| Married | 304 | 77.95 |
| Christianity | 285 | 73.08 |
| Islam | 13 | 3.33 |
| Traditional | 84 | 21.54 |
| Other | 8 | 2.05 |
| **Occupational status** |  |  |
| Farming | 95 | 24.36 |
| Civil service | 66 | 16.92 |
| Business | 88 | 2.5 |
| Studying | 78 | 20 |
| Applicant /Unemployed | 63 | 16.16 |
| **Monthly income** |  |  |
| Less than N5000 | 157 | 40.26 |
| N6,000 N 15,000 | 141 | 36.15 |
| N16,000 and above | 92 | 23.59 |
| Source: Field Survey, 2024 |  |  |

**Prevalence and forms of Youth Unemployment**

This section examined the prevalence of youth unemployment in Ijebu Ode. From the findings, 178 (44.17) stated that, youth unemployment is increasing, declining accounted for 127 (31.51) while 98 (24.32) opted for stable. The data is summarized in table 2 below

**Table 2: The prevalence of youth unemployment**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Variable** | **Percentage** |
| Increasing | 178 | 44.17 |
| Declining | 127 | 31.51 |
| Stable | 98 | 24.32 |
| Total | 403 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey 2024

It can be inferred that, youth unemployment is increasing in the study area. This was confirmed by a 40 year old man in Olowo who asserted that:

The problem of youth unemployment has become so rampant in recent times. Most of the youths have no gainful employment. Few are self employed while majority of them roam around this environment with higher certificates. Many years ago, the situation was different from what is obtainable now. Unfortunately, our government seems to be less concerned about the problem. Data was also collected on the form of youth unemployment more prevalent in Ijebu Ode. It was found that, majority 158 (39.21) state that frictional unemployment was more common in the study area, 135 (33.50) said it was seasonal and cyclical unemployment. For 60 (14.89) of the respondents, it was technological and residual unemployment while 50 (12.41) concluded that, it was structural unemployment. The data is summarized in table 3 below:

**Table 3: Forms of Youth Unemployment**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Frequency | Percentage |
| Structural Unemployment | 50 | 12.41 |
| Frictional Unemployment | 158 | 39.21 |
| Seasonal/ Cyclical Unemployment | 135 | 33.50 |
| Technological/Residual Unemployment | 60 | 14.89 |
| Total | 403 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey 2024

The findings show that, structural unemployment was more common in the study area.

**Causes of Youth Unemployment**

The causes of youth unemployment in Ijebu Ode were examined. The data is summarized in table 4 below.

**Table 4: Causes of Youth Unemployment**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Factors** | **Frequency** | **Percentage** |
| 1 | The inability of government to empowerment programmes Effectively implement youth | 33 | 8.19 |
| 2 | Corruption by government officials | 56 | 13.90 |
| 3 | Overpopulation | 21 | 5.21 |
| 4 | Improper socialization | 25 | 6.20 |
| 5 | Peer pressure | 36 | 8.93 |
| 6 | Decaying moral values | 42 | 10.42 |
| 7 | Rapid urbanization | 28 | 6.95 |
| 8 | Ignorance | 19 | 4.71 |
| 9 | Lack of entrepreneurship skills | 49 | 12.16 |
| 10 | Lack of industrialization | 44 | 10.92 |
| 11 | Outdated school curriculum | 15 | 3.72 |
| 12 | Untimely business policies | 12 | 2.98 |
| 13 | Poor economic growth in the country | 23 | 5.71 |
|  | Total |  |  |  | 403 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey 2024

The effects of Youth Unemployment on Socio Economic Development

This section assessed the effects of youth unemployment on socio economic development in Ijebu Ode. The data is presented in table 4 below:

**Table 4: The Effects of Youth Unemployment on Socio Economic Development**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/N | Social Effects | Frequency | Percentage |
| 1 | Violence | 28 | 6.95 |
| 2 | Armed Robbery, | 12 | 2.98 |
| 3 | Election Rigging. | 17 | 4.22 |
| 4 | Murder | 19 | 4.71 |
| 5 | Abduction | 16 | 3.97 |
| 6 | Hostility | 23 | 5.71 |
| 7 | Depression | 25 | 6.20 |
| 8 | Frustration | 30 | 7.44 |
| 9 | Stress | 21 | 5.21 |
| 10 | Political Instability | 27 | 6.70 |
| 11 | Drug Abuse | 23 | 5.71 |
| 12 | Proliferation Of Arms | 19 | 4.71 |
| 13 | Vandalism | 26 | 6.45 |
| 14 | Insecurity | 36 | 8.93 |
| 15 | Political Thuggery | 24 | 5.96 |
| 16 | Prostitution | 14 | 3.47 |
| 17 | Militancy | 18 | 4.47 |
| 18 | High dependency rate | 15 | 3.72 |
|  | Poverty |  |  |
|  | Total | 403 | 100 |

**Discussion of Findings**

The causes of youth unemployment identified include inability of government to effectively implement youth empowerment programmes, corruption by government officials, overpopulation. Others include improper socialization, decaying moral values, rapid urbanization, ignorance, lack of entrepreneurship skills, lack of industrialization, outdated school curriculum, untimely business policies and poor economic growth in the country.

As noted by a key informant:

One major factor is that of population growth. Nigeria has continued to experience high rate of population growth. This increasing population growth has produced an overwhelming increase in the youth population thereby resulting in an increase in the size of the working age population. Related to the rapid population growth is the massive rural-urban migration by the youth.

This finding collaborate with Saanu, G. (2013) the high degree of geographical mobility of youth in Africa is in form of rural to urban which has been influencing youth unemployment. In Nigeria, youth migrate to the cities more than other migrants and in the cities, job opportunities are very limited. Thus, the rate of urbanization of the youth has continued to create unemployment. Lack of employable skills due to inappropriate school curricula is another factor contributing to the rising youth unemployment. Analysts have argued that in Nigeria generally, the skills that job seekers posses do not match the needs and demands of employers. According to them, the education system in Nigeria has its liberal bias which indeed over supplies the labour market with graduates who do not possess the skills required by employers. Many graduates in Nigeria lack entrepreneurial skills to facilitate self-employment (Oladele, Akeke & Oladunjoye, 2011).

Another key informant notes:

One of the causes of youth unemployment is the perception of policy makers and the youth themselves about employment. To the policy makers and the youth, employment means a job with salary and working for someone else. It is this perception that has continued to influence the institutions in Nigeria that provide skills and training. Based on this, curricula and training programmes are generally tailored towards preparing young people for formal sector jobs. Since these jobs do not exist, there is often a mismatch between the skills possessed by the job seekers and the available jobs.

In the words of another key informant:

Various factors such as rapid growth of population resulting to outstripping supply of jobs in the market, rapid growth of labour force arising from rural–urban migration interms of push/pull factors, lack of employable skills, cultural barriers, lack of awareness, lack of vibrant manufacturing sector (industries, factories) and massive corruption are the causes of youth unemployment in Nigeria. This finding agrees with that of Alanana (2003), Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010), Ayinde (2008) who equally observed that, the major causes of youth unemployment were among others as rural urban- migration, rapid growth of population, lack of employable skills, lack of vibrant industrial sector and massive corruption were among the causes affecting unemployment of youth.

The social and economic effects were found to include violence, armed robbery, insecurity, political thuggery, prostitution, militancy, vandalism. Others include proliferation of arms, drug abuse, political instability, stress, frustration, depression, hostility, abduction, murder, election rigging. The findings from key informant interview confirmed these findings as noted by a male key informant:

Youth are made to become willing tools in the hand of politicians, to use them for anti-social and dirty political activities and as a tool to perpetuate ethno-religious clashes in the study area, which can equally cause great social upheavals in the country. Also unemployed youth are utilized as local militants to attack, destroy properties and lives which affect the socio economic status of the study area in questioned and Nigeria at large. Again youth are used in various anti-social vices such as arson, assault, abduction, stealing, armed robbery, terrorism, sex offences and so on and therefore, this and others has the potential to destabilize and truncate the democratic and development process in the study area and Nigeria at large and the need to adjust.

The findings highlight some of the implications of unemployment on socio economic growth. This is because unemployment has left much to be desired as far as sustainable development in Nigeria is concerned. One of the obvious implications of unemployment in Ijebu Ode is that poverty has become an order of the day in Nigeria because of the high level of unemployment among the youth. Poverty is a serious problem that has a lot of implications for lives of individual’s families and nations. Most of the unemployed youth cannot meet the basic needs of their lives that cannot guarantee Nigeria’s sustainable development.

A key informant observed that:

Many Nigerians cannot meet the basic needs of life because they have no jobs. Graduates are being churned out yearly in various institutions with dimmed prospect of getting jobs. The few jobs available are not based on merit or competence, rather on favoritism. The implication of unemployment on Nigeria’s sustainable development therefore cannot be overemphasized because unemployed people cannot afford their basic things of livelihood.

Unemployment is a waste of human resource in view of the national resources put in training the unemployed. These resources could have been used in other areas of development particularly the provision of infrastructure.

Another key informant observed that “The returns to the various types of investment in human resources are unnecessarily minimized by unemployment”. Absence of social security in Nigeria also deprives the unemployed a share in the national income that makes the life of the unemployed miserable. Utilization of labour after investing a lot of resources on training is a colossal lost to the country. Unemployment is a condition where the available labour force is not used or utilized for the country to derive the benefit in national development. Therefore, in Nigeria as a whole, “the productive capacity of a significant portion of the labour force is unutilized.

In the words of another key informant: “It is imperative to note that the essence of manpower training is to be able to make effective use of it so as to add value to the development of the country.” Anything less than this is absolutely a waste of resources. This has led to the emergence of “area boys” or political thugs in so many parts of the country who are used as agents of harassment and intimidation of political opponents in places it is pertinent to state that the emergence of these “area boys” cannot be unconnected with the high level of unemployment being experienced in the country. The unemployed are ready to be employed for any kind of assignment as long as they are paid for it, because the unemployed also have needs which need to be met.

This attitude is detrimental to the survival of the country because it is one of the major social problems affecting the growth and development of this country in terms of sustainable development which of course we are yearning for. No young man who has acquired Western education without a job would remain himself without engaging in one thing or the other for him to survive. What he does matters a lot to the development of the country positively or negatively.

As noted by a key informant:

Emergence of insurgency groups such as Boko Haram, Niger Delta boys, Cults, militia and thuggery to mention but a few. These deadly organizations came into existence as a result of unemployment the country is going through. These terrorist groups have not only destroyed properties but also lives in places where they are operating such as Benue state and these influences inspire vices in Ijebu Ode.

There is no doubt that this negative attitude has directly affected the socio-economic development of the country. It is unfortunate that man has become a wolf to his fellow human being which has direct bearing on Nigeria’s sustainable development. People that are contributing to the development of the country are killed like ants. Government has also deployed a lot of funds to take care of the various attacks that should have been used in other areas for development.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, Youth unemployment is considered to be a menace in Nigeria, which constitutes a bottle neck to the democratic and developmental process of our contemporary Nigerian society and particularly Ijebu Ode. This is because; the youths in question could be manipulated to undermine the stability of Nigeria’s democracy at any point in time. Against this background, there is the need by government at all levels, international community and other stakeholders to embark on massive job creation to take these youths off the streets. Hence, Nigerian leaders should strive to promote good governance in order to engender youth empowerment, employment and socio-economic development.

Unemployment is a serious problem in Nigeria and it is unfortunate that the country is being threatened by unemployment whose impact on Nigeria’s sustainable development cannot be overemphasized. The social vices that have characterized the nation such as armed robbery, trafficking, kidnapping, terrorism, prostitution among others cannot be unconnected with unemployment crisis, the rate at which is alarming today. Until adequate measures are taking, the future of Nigeria’s development will be a mirage.

**Recommendation**

These problems are tied to poverty caused by unemployment that is inimical to sustainable development.

1. Thus, skills acquisition centres should be established across the state to enable the youths acquire entrepreneurship capabilities. Most importantly, efforts should be made to make agriculture more lucrative to make youths to venture into it.
2. Education at all levels should conform to best standards to adequately development the minds of learners to be creative and thus become employers of labour.
3. Ensuring effective industrialization to accommodate youth across levels of learning will help to tackle youth unemployment in Ijebu Ode.

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**Questionnaire**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Age | Please tick |
| 15-20 |  |
| 21-30 |  |
| 31 and above |  |
| Educational Attainment |  |
| No formal education |  |
| Primary education |  |
| Secondary education |  |
| Tertiary education |  |
| Marital status |  |
| Single |  |
| Married |  |
| Christianity |  |
| Islam |  |
| Traditional |  |
| Other |  |
| Occupational status |  |
| Farming |  |
| Civil service |  |
| Business |  |
| Studying |  |
| Applicant /Unemployed |  |
| Monthly income |  |
| Less than N5000 |  |
| N6,000 N 15,000 |  |
| N16,000 and above |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Category | Please tick |
| Increasing |  |
| Declining |  |
| Stable |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Category | Please tick |
| Structural Unemployment |  |
| Frictional Unemployment |  |
| Seasonal/ Cyclical Unemployment |  |
| Technological/Residual Unemployment |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Factors | Please tick |
| The inability of government to empowerment programmes Effectively implement youth |  |
| Corruption by government officials |  |
| Overpopulation |  |
| Improper socialization |  |
| Peer pressure |  |
| Decaying moral values |  |
| Rapid urbanization |  |
| Ignorance |  |
| Lack of entrepreneurship skills |  |
| Lack of industrialization |  |
| Outdated school curriculum |  |
| Untimely business policies |  |
| Poor economic growth in the country |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Social Effects | Please tick |
| Violence |  |
| Armed Robbery, |  |
| Election Rigging. |  |
| Murder |  |
| Abduction |  |
| Hostility |  |
| Depression |  |
| Frustration |  |
| Stress |  |
| Political Instability |  |
| Drug Abuse |  |
| Proliferation Of Arms |  |
| Vandalism |  |
| Insecurity |  |
| Political Thuggery |  |
| Prostitution |  |
| Militancy |  |
| High dependency rate |  |
| Poverty |  |