

Research Article

CONSEQUENCES OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AFTER GRADUATION IN ANAMBRA STATE: IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra state. Three research questions guided the study. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study comprised of 52855 registered National Youth Council of Nigeria in Anambra State. The sample comprised of 600 undergraduate youths. The sample was composed using simple random sampling method. Data collected were analyzed using mean. The findings of the study revealed that high rate of armed robbery, cultism, high rate of divorce, higher suicide rate, no value for life and properties, brain drain among others are the social consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State. The economic consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State such as poor parenting, excessive debts, investors being scared of making investments because of insecurity, encourages begging for arms and leads to fraud/embezzlement of public funds. The findings of the study showed that depression among poor youths, anxiety, low self-esteem, aggression, mental disorder, lack of focus among graduates negative self-concept and family stress were the psychological consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State. The consequences of unemployment in contemporary time cannot be overemphasized. It is against the backdrop that unemployment has so many attendant consequences on graduates in Anambra State. Most of the apprehended criminals are graduates without gainful employment. Thus, the rising level of social disorder and insecurity permeating the entire state is attributable to the problem of unemployment. It is therefore necessary that every necessary step are taken to stem the tide of unemployment in the society so as to minimize its influences on crime.

Keywords: Consequences, Unemployment, After Graduating

INTRODUCTION

In any democratic society, education is seen as a catalyst for change and an instrument for economic, social, political and technological development. The national policy of education (NPE) stipulates that Nigeria philosophy of education is based on the integration of an individual into a sound and effective citizen (FRN, 2004). Education therefore is the skillful process of bringing out the innate potentialities in an individual. It develops human endowments and aims at the development of the entire personality of an individual (Isichei & Olufowobi, 2003). Education equips an individual to participate in the social life of their community and make their contributions towards the development of their society. It can be perceived as one of the main mechanisms for promoting social change and for adjusting the roles of individuals to meet the demands of social and economic change (Pearson and Gishown, 2004). Education is a potent force that brings about change in the attitude, skills, values and interests of individuals. It is these changes that bring about cognitive, psychomotor and affective orientation required for national development (Offor and Offiah, 2021). These changes could be learnt formally in the school. These changes are very crucial to members of the society for an overall growth and development. Therefore, education is the most important vehicle of change and an instrument per excellence for effective national development. In the most societies, the school has taken over the educative functions of the home. The school assists in the shaping of the personalities of the crèche to university level. Students in the university are mainly the youths. They graduate from the universities every year. Their mode of studies differs. Some stay 4 years, 5 years and 6 years in the university. To graduate means to have academic excellence.

People with higher education are presumed to have more knowledge, understanding, higher income and better job status. These make them more capable and more inclined to contest elective posts and make contributions to various political activities and organizations. Educational attainment therefore is of a paramount importance to everyone participating in politics and a job seeker. Educational attainment acts as a sorting mechanism that allows citizens to obtain higher prestige, occupations, higher wealth and greater involvements in voluntary organizations (Peter, 2013). In the recent past in Nigeria, students who were in their final year received a lot of job offered to them by the government, different companies and universities while in school. In fact after graduation from the university, one would be selecting the kind of job he/she preferred with the best working condition. Nigeria which is the biggest black nation in the world ought to have a very strong economy capable of employing almost all employable citizens (Ozo, 2013). But unfortunately, the unemployment rate in Nigeria is alarming. Unemployment could be defined as people who are not working but actively searching for work. The term unemployment denotes a condition of joblessness or lack of employment. In other words, anyone who is fit and available to work but fails to get one may be considered as being unemployed for that concerned period. There are types of unemployment; frictional unemployment; it is caused by industrial friction. There are jobs but people cannot fill them because they do not have the skills or are unaware of the existence of the jobs. This occurs due to ignorance immobility of labour, shortage of raw materials. Second is structural unemployment this type of unemployment is caused by the shift in the country's economy causing a mismatch between the skills required by the employers and the skills proposed by employees. Also there is technological unemployment: it is caused by the constant technological changes that have increased mechanization of production. This results in reduced demand for manpower and displacement of human labour. In the case of cyclical Unemployment:

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It is as a result of a decrease in the demand for goods and services. It is often caused by the economic recession or situation that forces companies to lay off workers in order to reduce costs. More so, another form of graduate unemployment is residual Unemployment; this type of unemployment is caused by old age, physical or mental disability, irresponsible attitude towards the job and inadequate training (Otutu, 2013). Unemployment is a global phenomenon whereby eligible work force of a nation is disengaged in the service of the nation. It is not only a serious economic issue but has social implications that affect almost all countries and all people directly or indirectly. According to International Labour Organization (ILO), over 900 million persons are living below the \$2 a day poverty line. It is estimated that 4.56 million workers around the world are living in extreme poverty (Below \$1.25 a day). The ILO further stated in its report on "Global Employment Trend, 2012" that the situation would worsen in Africa and parts of Asia unless governments at all levels unite against the global threat unemployment causes social disquiets and it is the harbinger of spate of crimes, perennial youth unrest and unstable socio-economic structure that have bedeviled several nations. The state of unrests witnessed recently in the Middle East, North Africa and even the riots in the United Kingdom as well as several others could be attributed to increasing rate of unemployment in those developing nations. For instance, Nigeria is currently facing serious unemployment as well as Anambra State. There are so many reasons for unemployment in Nigeria; corruption is one of the reasons for unemployment in Nigeria. When those in government who divert public money for building more industries are busy embezzling the funds for their selfish use. Nigeria is said to be 8th most corrupt country in the world. The corruption in Nigeria makes the government to spend less on the welfare of the citizens of the country. In Nigeria, lack of skills has been a major reason for unemployment. Most Nigerian youths have disdained acquisition of skills thinking that time spent on such is wasted and opting for so called "white collar job". With such mentality, these youths have grown into middle age and senior age without any skill to rest on, thus becoming liabilities to themselves and the society at large (Roche, 2014). Youths recently have been referred to as "highly qualified personnel". In today's knowledge economy, this level of qualification is a valuable asset for an increasing number of jobs. This is because qualified graduates possesses excellent thinking skills, ability to integrate data and information from multiple sources, and written communication skills, skills in a range of analytical techniques using sophisticated instrument at tasks requiring precision, ability to coordinate or co-supervise the work of others, ability to identify problems and to develop and implement innovative solutions as well as ability to work independently and in teams. Nonetheless, for these graduates to utilize their skills suitably for self or gained employment, the Nigeria's government is expected to create enabling environment where these graduates can function effectively. Also, negligence of agriculture and other natural resources contributed to unemployment in Nigeria. Nigeria as a country is blessed with many unutilized resources which are enough to gainfully engage every un-employed person. But the craze for quick oil money has made both government and individuals to direct all attention to only the oil industry. Lack of regular electric power supply; it is one of the major reasons for unemployment. The same problem has affected many companies both local and foreign who could not cope with the high cost of running electric plants and generators all the time and were thus forced to fold up and threw their employers into the labour market. Insecurity; the rising level of unemployment in the country can be attributed for the increase in security challenges in the country. These include rise in armed robbery, kidnapping, insurgency, ethnic conflicts and activities of Boko Haram sect. millions of Nigerians and some foreigners resident

in the country have been killed as a result of one problem or the other. While property worth millions of naira has been lost to insecurity in the country, no state is considered safe in the country. The country has witnessed several ethnic and religious crises which appear to be escalating at an intolerable scale. These crisis and crimes have activities that create insecurity and breach of peace that are likely to affect legitimate social and economic activities in the country. These security challenges have very damaging consequences of giving the signal to the rest of the international community that Nigeria is not a safe place and as such not suitable for economic investment and activities. Insecurity is a risk factor which investors all over the world dread as security uncertainty is not only considered bad for business. It sends warning to investors to take their investible fund to another country where there is adequate security. Unemployed graduates therefore serve as security threat to the country. The various security challenges been faced by the country have been attributed to unemployment in many cases. According to the popular maxim, "The idle mind is the devil's workshop"; the situation whereby majority of the people are poor and hungry and a lot of graduates are jobless and unemployed, will, doubtlessly, engender high insecurity in the country. It is now the norm to see thousands of the unemployed turn up in response to advertisement for jobs where only a handful is to be employed. The country is faced with a gross abuse and under utilization of human resources with direct impact on national productivity and competitiveness. Thus, unemployment has driven many graduates into various activities that constitute a threat to the country's security. There have been instances in which young graduates were arrested for being involved in one form of crime or another. Most of these criminal graduates attribute their involvement in these crimes to the unemployment situation in the country. For instance, the cover story of The News Magazine (26 September 2019) was captioned "Graduate Bandits on the Prowl". According to the report, most of the graduate robbers that were interviewed argued that they took to crime for want of job. Unemployment can therefore create economic, social and psychological implications in psycho-socio, economic cum political environs. Ojo (2018) posited that unemployment can lead to depression, anger, anxiety, low self esteem, aggression and mental disorder. It can also lead to poor education, poor academic performance, higher suicide rate, high rate of school drop-out, teenage pregnancy, unwanted pregnancy, violence, drunkenness and kidnapping. In addition, theft and bribery, excessive debts, lack of finance to solve personal issues, street begging and fraud/embezzlement of public funds could surface because of unemployment in any state in Nigeria such as Anambra state In Anambra state, the issue of unemployment is generating more attention as never before. The social indicators used as a measuring rod of unemployment are security challenges that does not exist in the State before now such as kidnapping and hostage taking, vandalization of public property, youth restiveness to mention a few. This is more prevalent in Onitsha, Nnewi and some parts of Awka South. Crimes like armed robbery, kidnapping, cybercrime, terrorism, political thuggery, kidnapping and all facets of violence are being committed. People often note from the social media that most of the apprehended criminals are graduates without gainful employment. Thus, the rising level of social disorder and insecurity permeating the entire state is attributable to the problem of unemployment. Armed robbery incidents and secrete cult activities taking place in Awka South in daylight whereby some police men, military officers and several passersby were killed is a concrete indication that such an operation could not have been carried out by unintelligent criminals but by neglected unemployed graduates.

Research Question 1

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the social consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State?
2. What are the economic consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State?
3. What are psychological consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State?

METHOD

Descriptive survey design was adopted in the study. The population of the study comprised of 52855 registered NYCN youths in Anambra State (NYCN, 2021). The youths were involved in this study because majority of them are unemployed and are passing through endemic hardship. The sample of the study was 600 youths. In composing the sample, simple random sampling technique was used select two Local governments in each senatorial zone: Anambra south, Anambra central and Anambra North; making a total of six Local Governments Areas. From each of the six Local Governments Areas, two communities were selected and in each of the selected community, 50 youths were selected through simple random sampling giving rise to a total of 600 youths that constitute the sample of the study. The instrument used in collecting data for the study was the structured questionnaire titled Consequences of Graduate Unemployment Questionnaire (CGUQ). The questionnaire was validated by three experts, two in the area of sociology of education and the other in measurement and evaluation, all in Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. The reliability of the instrument was done using trial testing. 50 youths from two Local Government Areas in Imo State were used to determine the reliability of instrument. Cronbach Alpha Analysis was used to obtain reliability coefficients of 0.79, 0.77 and 0.76 respectively. The instrument was deemed high enough and the instrument was taken as reliable. The researcher with the help of 15 research assistants distributed copies of the questionnaire to the youths in Anambra State. In addition it took them three weeks to visit all the youths in the area. All the questionnaires distributed were retrieved because of the on-the-spot method adopted for data collection. Data collected were analyzed using the statistical weighed mean. This was because of the four-point rating scale which was adopted in the study. A mean of 2.50 was used as the cutoff point for making decisions. The decision rule was that any item that scored a mean of 2.50 and above would be seen as having attracted positive responses, while items that scored less than 2.50 would be regarded as having attracted negative responses.

RESULTS

Research question one:

What are the social consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State? Results for this research question was show in-

Table 1:

The following are the social consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State

S/N	ITEMS	\bar{X}	DEC
1.	It will increase the rate of armed robbery and cultism	2.66	Agreed
2.	It could lead to high rate of divorce	2.85	Agreed
3.	It could lead to higher suicide rate	3.10	Agreed
4.	it reduces value for life and properties	2.59	Agreed

5.	It encourages brain drain	2.90	Agreed
6.	It could also lead to unwanted pregnancy	2.88	Agreed
7.	It could lead to violence	3.01	Agreed
8.	It leads to drunkenness	2.95	Agreed
9.	It leads to kidnapping	3.08	Agreed
10.	It increases the rate of gambling among graduates	3.11	Agreed
11.	It leads to social discrimination among youths	3.15	Agreed
12.	It increases the rate of prostitution among female graduates	3.54	Agreed
13.	It will encourage youth restiveness		
	Total	35.83	Agreed

		13	
	Cluster	2.75	Agreed

Data in Table 1 showed that the respondents agreed to the items with mean scores well above 2.50. Also the cluster mean of 2.75 indicated that the respondents agreed to the social consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State

Research Question two:

What are the economic consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State?

Results for this research question was show in-

Table 2:

The following are the economic consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State

S/N	ITEMS	\bar{X}	DEC
14.	It encourages poor parenting	3.43	Agreed
15.	It leads to excessive debts	3.14	Agreed
16.	Investors are scared of making investments because of insecurity	3.71	Agreed
17.	It encourages begging for arms	2.76	Agreed
18.	It leads to fraud/embezzlement of public funds	3.22	Agreed
19.	It can lead to endemic poverty	2.94	Agreed
20.	It makes youths who are married to engage in poor parenting because they do not have enough to take care of their children	2.89	Agreed
21.	It increases the rate of child labor in the society	2.67	Agreed
22.	it leads to low standard of living among youths	2.89	Agreed
	Total	27.65	
		9	
	Cluster x	3.07	Agreed

Data in table 2 showed that all the items attracted positive responses with scores well above 2.50. With the cluster mean of 3.07 indicated agreement with the economic consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State

Research Question three:

What are psychological consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State?

Results for this research question was show in-

Table 2:

The following are the psychological consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State

S/N	ITEMS	X	DEC
23.	It leads to depression among poor youths	3.01	Agreed
24.	It leads to state of anxiety	2.59	Agreed
25.	It leads to low self-esteem	2.99	Agreed
26.	It can lead one to being aggressive	3.03	Agreed
27.	It leads to mental disorder	2.97	Agreed
28.	It leads to lack of focus among graduates	2.75	Agreed
29.	some unemployed youths develop negative self-concept	3.09	Agreed
30.	It increases family stress among graduates	2.69	Agreed
	Total	23.12	
		15	
	Cluster x	2.89	Agreed

Data in table 2 showed that all the items attracted positive responses with scores well above 2.50. With the cluster mean of 2.89 indicated agreement with the psychological consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State

DISCUSSION

The findings of the study revealed that high rate of armed robbery and cultism, high rate of divorce, higher suicide rate, no value for life and properties and brain drain are the social consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State. To strengthen these findings, Nwigwe (2018) supported that unemployment encourages brain drain syndrome, suicide and insecurity among graduates. Other social consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State include: unwanted pregnancy, violence, drunkenness, kidnapping and high rate of gambling among graduates. In that vein, Kuku, Ibrahim and Bulus (2011) agreed that insecurity in form of kidnapping and cultism were the major social effects of unemployment. Findings also showed that unemployment leads to social discrimination among youths, increases the rate of prostitution among female graduates and encourage youth restiveness. In that vein Kelvin (2012) supported that people who are unemployed often discriminate themselves from others in their environments. The findings of the study revealed that the economic consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State such as poor parenting, excessive debts, investors being scared of making investments because of insecurity, influences to street begging for arms and leads to fraud/embezzlement of public funds. These findings are in relation with the findings by Kalou, (2013) who agreed that poverty embezzlement of funds and lack of investment were the economic effects of graduate unemployment in Nigeria. Also Haralambos and Holborn. (2012), supported that street begging, poor parenting and child labour were the economic effects of unemployment. The findings of the study revealed that endemic poverty, increase in the rate of child labor in the society, low standard of living among youths are the economic consequences of youth unemployment after graduation in Anambra State. Similarly, the findings by Danziger and Haveman, (2011) agreed that low standard of living is prevalent among youths because of unemployment. Finally the findings of the study showed that depression among poor youths, anxiety, low self-esteem, aggressive, mental disorder, lack of focus among graduates negative self-concept and family stress were the psychological consequences of youth unemployment after graduation

in Anambra State. To support these findings, Kat (2012) revealed among others that depression, frustration, low self esteem were the impact of unemployment on youths,

CONCLUSION

The consequences of unemployment such as social discrimination, prostitution among female graduates youth restiveness, discrimination among others in Anambra State in contemporary time cannot be overemphasized. Most of the apprehended criminals are graduates without gainful employment. Unemployment has made it difficult for parents to pay school fees for their wards and children. Thus, the rising level of social disorder and insecurity permeating the entire state is attributable to the problem of unemployment. It is therefore necessary that very necessary steps are taken to stem the tide of unemployment in the society so as to minimize its influences on crime.

Implications of the Societal Development

If unemployment is not addressed, there will be high rate of crime, kidnapping, armed robbery, violence, insecurity, cyber criminals will be on the increase, ritualism, chaos etc. Also, economic activities will be highly disrupted and all facets of violence will be committed because of unemployment. The people residing in such areas will not have free movement and as such will look for a more safety place to live and do their businesses. Development will be very far from such society This means that future of youths will be jeopardized and this can affect the overall socio-economic development of Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Government should come out with functional agricultural policies to promote the economic sector and reduce unemployment among youths.
2. Anambra State government should make education functional to reduce unemployment and facilitate national development by integrating entrepreneurial education programme
3. Government should create employment opportunities so that thousands of Anambra State youths looking for jobs can be employed.
4. There should be free education up to the last class of post primary schools
5. The school curriculum should be more flexible in such a way to allow combining studies with employment where applicable. This will help poor students to cope better.

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