

**IMPACT OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT ON URBAN CRIME IN OREDO  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA**

**BY**

**ODEY FAVOUR**

**SSC2008704**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**

**BENIN CITY**

**MARCH, 2025**

**IMPACT OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT ON URBAN CRIME IN OREDO  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA**

**BY**

**ODEY FAVOUR**

**SSC2008704**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND  
ANTHROLOGY, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.SC) DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROLOGY,  
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY.**

**FEBRUARY, 2025**

## **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that this project was carried out by **ODEY FAVOUR** with the matriculation number **SSC2008704**, of the department of sociology and anthropology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University Of Benin, Benin City, under the supervision of:

---

**Dr. Mrs. I. L. OSUNDE**  
**(Project Supervisor)**

---

**Date**

---

**Prof. A.O. DOKPESI**  
**(Head Of Department)**

---

**Date**

## **DEDICATION**

This project is dedicated to God Almighty for his unconditional love shown towards me, to my mother Rosemary Odey for her support towards this journey and to my mentor who has being a father to me Engr Righteous Osazemwinde for his love and support.

## **Acknowledgement**

My sincere gratitude goes to my supervisor Dr (Mrs) I. L. OSUNDE for her moral and intellectual support in the course of writing this project, to my beloved parent Mr and Mrs Odey Michael for their support through this journey, and to Engr Righteous osazemwinde for his prayers and encouragement through out the course of my study.

Also I extend my earnest gratitude to the Head Of Department Prof. A. O. Dokpesi, for his fatherly love and guidance and to the lecturers of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, most to Dr Longe Joshua for his passion to impart knowledge which gave me a different view and approach to my academic journey.

My sincere appreciation goes to my siblings Odey Esther, and Odey Emmanuel for their financial support through the course of my study. I would also to acknowledge my friends, Christabel, Elijah and Benjamin for being there for me throughout my stay in this great institution.

Finally, to all my course mate, class of phoenix 2024 for making this four years memorable, great and exciting, I say a big thank you.

## **TABLE OF CONTENT**

**CERTIFICATION**

**DEDICATION**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**TABLE OF CONTENT**

**ABSTRACT**

**CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

- **Background of the study**
- **Statement of problem**
- **Research question**
- **Research objective**

**Significant of the study**

- **Scope of study**

**Definition of key words**

**CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

**2.1 Theoretical Framework**

**2.2 Conceptual Overview**

**2.2.1 Definition and Scope of Youth Unemployment**

**2.2.2 Urban Crime: Concepts and Classifications**

**2.3 Youth Unemployment in Nigeria**

**2.3.1 Historical Trends and Statistics**

**2.3.2 Social and Economic Impacts**

**2.4 Urban Crime in Nigeria**

**2.4.1 Common Forms of Urban Crime**

**2.5 Link Between Youth Unemployment and Urban Crime**

**2.5.1 Mechanisms and Pathways**

**2.5.2 Evidence from Nigeria and Global Studies**

**2.6 Causes of Youth Unemployment in Nigeria**

**2.6.1 Structural Factors (Economic Policies, Education System)**

**2.6.2 Cultural and Societal Influences**

**2.7 Effects of Youth Unemployment on Society**

**2.7.1 Economic Consequences**

**2.7.2 Social Instability and Criminal Tendencies**

**2.8 Case Studies and Empirical Research**

**2.8.1 Relevant Nigerian Case Studies**

## **2.8.2 Comparative Analysis with Other Countries**

## **2.9 Summary of Literature Review**

### **CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY**

- **Introduction**
- **Research Design**
- **Population of the Study**
- **Sampling size and sampling techniques**
- **Method of data collection**
- **Instrument of Data collection**
- 

### **CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS**

- **Data presentation and analysis**
- **Data presentation and personal data**
- **Data presentation based on the responses to the questionnaires**
- **Discussion of findings**

### **CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **Summary of the study**
- **Conclusion of the study**
- **Recommendation**

### **REFERENCES**

## **ABSTRACT**

Youth unemployment is a pressing issue in many urban areas, and its consequences extend far beyond economic instability. In Oredo Local Government Area (LGA) of Edo State, Nigeria, the rising levels of unemployment among young people have become a key concern, particularly with regards to its impact on urban crime. This study explored the relationship between youth unemployment and the prevalence of crime in Oredo LGA, focusing on how limited access to employment opportunities for young individuals contributes to rising criminal activities in urban settings. The research analyzed how the lack of employment opportunities for young people in Oredo LGA influences the rate of criminal activities, particularly in urban areas. Using quantitative method, data were collected through the use of questionnaire. Strain theory was adopted as the theoretical framework how individual turn to crime in order to meet the societal goals.

The findings suggest that high unemployment rates among youth correlate significantly with an increase in criminal activities such as theft, robbery, and drug abuse. Additionally, the study highlights the role of social and economic factors, including limited access to education and skills development, in exacerbating the problem. The research also examined potential policy interventions to address youth unemployment and reduce crime in urban areas. Ultimately, this study underscores the importance of creating sustainable employment opportunities, vocational training, and community support systems to mitigate the adverse effects of youth unemployment on urban crime in Oredo LGA.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Background of the study**

Unemployment refers to a situation where individuals who are capable of working and are actively seeking jobs are unable to find employment. Youth unemployment specifically pertains to young people actively seeking work but unable to secure employment. This phenomenon is a critical socio-economic issue often linked to poverty and social instability (Awogbenle et. al., 2010). The issue of youth unemployment and urban crime is a critical concern in Nigeria, where the unemployment rate among youth is alarmingly high (Ejikeme 2014). There has being a desire to eradicate or reduce this problems in order to create a better a society.

Youth unemployment in Nigeria has been identified as a significant social issue, closely linked to rising criminal activity. According to a 2023 study, the lack of job opportunities, combined with factors like frustration, hunger, and idleness, drives many young people to engage in criminal behavior as a means of survival (Attah, Adalikwu & Ngele, 2023). The study found that the deprivation experienced by unemployed youths, along with societal factors such as political stagnation, exacerbate this issue. In urban areas, young people often resort to crime when they see no alternative means to meet their needs (IIARD, 2023). Numerous studies have linked teenage unemployment in society to an increase in crimes like cultism, prostitution, robbery, and kidnapping, among many others (Ejimeke 2014). Researchers such as Jelilov and Ndanitsa (2015) have found a positive correlation between unemployment and crime in society.

In many countries around the world, including Nigeria, insecurity, poverty, unemployment, and crime are modern societal issues that endanger human-social coexistence in addition to inadequate administration and bad leadership. Many have frequently committed crimes as a result of this dire circumstance. Youth unemployment in the region has contributed to a recent surge in crime, including armed robbery, kidnapping, prostitution, and numerous other social vices. Political administrators worsen the situation by abandoning their large and alluring campaign promises when they take office following an election.

Crime, according to the Oxford Dictionary of Sociology (2009), in Adebayo (2013), is defined as offence which goes beyond the personal rule of law, to which legitimate punishments or sanctions are attached, and which requires the intervention of a public authority. In other words, crime is a violation of codified laws, which attracts negative sanctions by law enforcement agents. To Adebayo (2013) crime is a threat to the fabric of the society. When individuals are denied basic living necessities, they are more likely to resort to crime in order to survive. According to Ajufo (2013), unemployment is a significant issue that contributes to criminal behavior among adolescents and jeopardizes the continent's socioeconomic stability. He also noted that young Nigerians have become plagued by unemployment, which has fueled militancy, violent crime, kidnappings, unrest, and socially unacceptable conduct.

The creation of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), the National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP), the Poverty Alleviation Program (PAP), and the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Program (SURE-P) etc, these programmes aims to

combate the menace of unemployment but despite the implementation of these programmes youth unemployment and crime have continued to exist. The failure of these developmental programs to achieve their primary objectives maybe attributed to various factors, including policy inconsistency, discrepancies in fund disbursement, instances of embezzlement, lack of sincerity among organizers, inclusion of fictitious names instead of actual unemployed youth in shortlists, unwarranted interference, and manipulation by politicians.

### **Statement of the Problem.**

Youth unemployment significantly contributes to the prevalence of urban crime in Oredo Local Government Area. This social phenomenon leads to financial instability, hopelessness among young people, and a high level of poverty in the nation. Despite the government's ongoing efforts to address this issue, it persists, indicating that the programs and strategies currently in place may not be sufficiently effective. Inability to be gainfully engaged has turned many youths to devil's workshop. Adebayo (2013) observed further that most Nigerian youths are either underemployed or unemployed. As a result, some of them opt to perpetrate various crime. The rate of unemployment in Nigeria as of the second quarter of (2020) is 27%, meaning that 21,764,618 Nigerians are still unemployed, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (2020).

According to Kazeem et al. (2020), the unemployment rate in Nigeria has more than tripled in the last five years and will only worsen, resulting in more poverty. In this regard, Kuhe (2016) stated that Youth unemployment significantly contributes to the prevalence of urban crime in the nation. This social phenomenon leads to financial instability, hopelessness among young people, and a high level of poverty in the nation. Despite the government's ongoing efforts to address this

issue, it persists, indicating that the programs and strategies currently in place may not be sufficiently effective. poverty means insecurity, powerlessness, and exclusion of individuals, households, and communities from the scheme of things. It also signifies vulnerability to violence, and it frequently implies living in marginal or vulnerable surroundings with no access to clean water or sanitation, kuhe (2016). Unemployment is, therefore, a critical social issue that must be addressed immediately. Unemployment can be caused by a variety of circumstances, including corruption and poverty, educational system, poor management practice, neglect of the agricultural sector, lack of purposeful leadership, poor governance, constant infrastructural decay, stringent terms and conditions placed on most jobs, undesirable and unfavorable government reforms, over population, the challenge of globalization and lack of industrialization. These have prompted many young men and women to engage in stealing, prostitution, kidnapping, armed robbery, vandalism of government property, automobile stealing, illicit petroleum bunking, arms importation, and other antisocial acts Adebayo(2013). People no longer sleep with their eyes closed, and there is no guarantee of safety during the day. Despite the presence of security personnel throughout the city, crime appears to be increasing. Year after year, postsecondary institutions produce thousands of graduates who are unable to find suitable employment. This situation leads to frustration, idleness, and, in many cases, a sense of hopelessness among the youth. Without meaningful engagement and economic opportunities, many young people may resort to criminal activities as a means of survival or as an expression of their discontent with their socio-economic conditions.

Areas with high rates of youth unemployment have been found to have higher rates of a number of crime types. According to this correlation, young people who are

unemployed are not only deprived of security and income, but are also encouraged to engage in illicit activities that provide high and rapid returns. This situation produces an endless cycle in which criminality further discourages economic activity and investment, increasing unemployment and social instability in the nation.

## **RESEARCH OBJECTIVE**

The main objective of the study is to examine the impact of youth unemployment on crime rate in Oredo Local Government Area while the specific objective are;

- To examine the factors responsible for youth unemployment in Oredo Local Government Area.
- To examine the relationship between youth unemployment and crime in Oredo Local Government Area.
- To examine the consequences of youth unemployment and crime on individual and the general public in Oredo Local Government Area.
- To examine the mechanism for addressing crime in Oredo Local Government Area.

## **RESEARCH QUESTION**

The following questions is formulated to guide this study.

- What are the impact of youth unemployment on crime in Oredxo Local Government Area.
- What are the factors responsible for youth unemployment in Oredo Local Government Area.
- What is the relationship between youth unemployment and crime in Oredo Local Government Area.
- What are the consequences of youth unemployment and crime on individual and the general public in Oredo Local Government Area.
- What are the mechanisms for addressing crime in Oredo Local government Area.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The significance of this study is to inform the government about the impact of unemployment on urban criminality and its effects on social stability. The findings aim to assist in shaping policies and implementing effective programs to reduce unemployment in society. Additionally, it seeks to help young people understand the personal consequences of crime and how they can overcome this challenge.

The study provides a comprehensive understanding of the implications of unemployment and crime on the economy and explores ways to increase employment rates to enhance economic growth and social stability. It seek to contributes to the existing literature on the impact of youth unemployment and urban crime, serving as a valuable reference for future researchers conducting similar studies.

### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

This study focuses on examining the impact of youth unemployment on urban crime within Oredo Local Government Area, Benin City, Nigeria. It seeks to investigate the relationship between high rates of youth unemployment and the prevalence of criminal activities in the area. Also to explore the socio-economic and psychological effects of unemployment on young individuals and the broader implications for societal stability.

Specifically, the research seeks to analyze how unemployment among the youth contributes to different forms of urban crime, such as theft, armed robbery, and drug-related offenses. It seeks to identify the root causes of youth unemployment, including educational, economic, and structural factors, and how these issues perpetuate urban criminality.

References:

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Concept of Unemployment

Unemployment is a condition in which individuals who are ready and qualified to work cannot secure appropriate paid employment, as defined by Fajana (2009). Youth are defined as individuals between the ages of 15 and 29, according to the *Nigeria National Youth Policy* (2019). Youth unemployment specifically pertains to young people actively seeking work but unable to secure employment (Awogbenle and Iwuamadi 2010). Similarly, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) defines youth unemployment in Nigeria as the number of young people within the working-age group (15–29 years) who are without work but are available for and actively seeking employment (National Bureau of Statistics 2020). As of the second quarter of 2020, the youth unemployment rate stood at 27%, a figure that has steadily risen, contributing to increasing social tensions and economic challenges across the nation (International Labour Organization 2019). This issue is one of the economic problems every government is expected to monitor and regulate, as higher unemployment rates in society often correlate with increased poverty and crime (Adebayo and Olatunji 2020).

Youth unemployment can be further categorized into several forms. Frictional unemployment refers to temporary unemployment during transitions between jobs, while

structural unemployment occurs due to a mismatch between the skills of job seekers and the requirements of available jobs. Cyclical unemployment, on the other hand, is caused by economic downturns that reduce labor demand (Obeng and Osei 2021). These categorizations help to understand the nuances of youth unemployment and the varied challenges faced by young job seekers. Employment criteria play a significant role in defining youth unemployment. To be classified as unemployed, an individual must meet specific conditions, including being without work, actively seeking work within a recent period (e.g., the past four weeks), and being available to take up work (National Bureau of Statistics 2020). In many developing countries, including Nigeria, youth often face underemployment, where they are engaged in jobs below their skill level or for fewer hours than desired. This further compounds the unemployment challenge, contributing to economic instability and limited growth (Okojie 2019).

The socio-economic impact of youth unemployment is profound, particularly in urban areas such as Oredo Local Government Area. Unemployed youth often face poverty, social exclusion, and diminished life prospects, contributing to broader societal challenges (Chukwu 2019). High levels of youth unemployment strain government resources and exacerbate economic inequality. Moreover, youth unemployment is closely linked to social vices, including urban crime, as frustrated and disillusioned youth may resort to illegal activities as a means of survival or as an expression of dissatisfaction with their socio-economic conditions (Akinyele and Akintoye 2022). Precisely, in Oredo Local Government Area, the phenomenon of youth unemployment is exacerbated by rapid urbanization, population growth, and limited economic opportunities. These factors create a complex environment where many young people struggle to find meaningful

employment, leading to an increase in criminal activities and undermining the area's socio-economic stability (Olayemi 2018; Adebayo and Olatunji 2020).

## **2.2 Urban Crime**

Crime, like many concepts in social sciences, lacks a universally accepted definition. The Oxford Dictionary of Sociology (2009) states that “a crime is considered to be an offense that transcends personal matters and enters the public domain, violating prohibitory laws or regulations to which legitimate penalties or consequences are applied, necessitating the involvement of a public authority... for an act to be classified as a crime, it must attract attention and be processed by an administrative system or enforcement agency. It should be reported and documented by the police (or another investigative body); it may then become part of criminal statistics; it may be subject to investigation; and it may or may not lead to a legal proceeding.

Urban crime involves illegal actions occurring in city or metropolitan regions, marked by high population density, varied socio-economic conditions, and notable economic inequalities. The urban setting can create a backdrop that encourages crime due to issues such as economic disparity, joblessness, and dense populations (Chukwu 2019). Urban crime includes various types of offenses, such as theft, violence, and vandalism, each posing unique challenges for city residents and law enforcement. Across the globe, every five years, 60% of urban residents experience some form of crime, with more than half of these incidents being personal crimes, such as arson, fraud, cheating, and the 419 scheme. It has been observed that cities in Nigeria serve as conducive

environments for criminal activities due to the anonymity they offer for such behavior (Okafor 2011).

### **2.2.1 Types of Urban Crime:**

1. Theft encompasses various actions like burglary, pickpocketing, and shoplifting. In urban settings, theft is frequently driven by financial necessity or the presence of tempting opportunities for illegal earnings (Adebayo and Olatunji 2020).

2. Violence includes serious offenses such as assault, robbery, and homicide, which are pressing issues in urban regions. Studies have linked high unemployment rates and socio-economic hardships with rising rates of violent crimes, as individuals facing frustration may turn to violence as a way to vent their anger or gain power (Akinyele and Akintoye 2022).

3. Vandalism comprises actions like graffiti, property destruction, and various forms of damage to both public and private properties. In urban environments, vandalism often mirrors problems related to social dissatisfaction and a lack of a sense of community ownership (Olayemi 2018).

### **Characteristics Specific to Urban Areas**

Urban crime has certain characteristics that differentiate it from rural crime. These include higher rates of repeat offenses due to greater anonymity in densely populated areas, increased opportunities for criminal activities due to economic diversity, and more sophisticated methods of committing crimes (Obeng and Osei 2021). Additionally, urban areas often experience high state of gang activities and drug trafficking, which are closely associated with poverty and unemployment (Chukwu 2019). The fast-paced and interconnected nature of city life also makes it easier for criminals to plan and execute

their activities, further complicating law enforcement efforts (Adebayo and Olatunji 2020). Also criminals can operate with relative impunity because of weaker community bonds and reduced social oversight. This anonymity enables crimes like theft, fraud, and organized criminal activities to flourish. Studies suggest that the likelihood of being apprehended decreases in urban areas due to the sheer volume of crime and the challenges of effective policing in densely populated regions (Smith, 2018).

### **2.2.3 Relationship between Youth Unemployment and Crime**

One of the most significant challenges confronting Nigeria's economy is the increasing rates of unemployment and crime. As the most populous nation in Africa and the eighth worldwide, Nigeria had a population exceeding 140 million according to the 2006 census. With a nominal GDP of \$207.11 billion and a per capita income of \$1,401, it boasts the second-largest economy in Africa (Salami, 2011). However, these economic figures conceal severe socio-economic issues, especially those related to youth unemployment and crime. The high rates of unemployment, underemployment, and the ensuing criminal activity represent a major socio-economic challenge for Nigeria. While the labor force continues to grow with an increasing proportion of youth, employment opportunities remain inadequate to absorb new entrants into the labor market. Consequently, many youths are particularly affected by unemployment, which often drives some into criminal activities (Okafor, 2011). Moreover, young people in Nigeria are more likely to be employed in low-quality jobs, underemployed, working long hours for low wages, or engaged in dangerous and short-term or informal employment arrangements (National Bureau of Statistics, 2023). This precarious employment situation has significant socio-

economic, political, and moral consequences, including the rise of crime in Nigeria, which has become chronic.

Unemployment and crime are so intertwined that the two are often inseparable in public discourse. Although employment does not entirely eliminate the possibility of criminal behavior, underemployment often exacerbates the likelihood of criminal activity. For the purposes of this analysis, unemployment encompasses both outright joblessness and underemployment. These conditions represent the failure to fully utilize a critical factor of production labor for fostering economic growth in Nigeria. Low returns to labor and high unemployment rates contribute significantly to the prevalence of crime (Adebayo, 2013). Crime, in turn, inhibits investments in education, health, and other areas that could increase productivity and reduce unemployment. Structural unemployment and widespread criminality are major factors behind the activities of militant youths in the Niger Delta and the Boko Haram insurgency in northern Nigeria. These issues have led to the declaration of states of emergency in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States (NDLEA, 2023). The persistent nature of these problems also discourages foreign and domestic investment, further aggravating unemployment and crime (International Labour Organization, 2020). Addressing this vicious cycle is crucial for fostering economic growth and stability in Nigeria.

#### **2.2.4 The Link between Unemployment and Crime: Theoretical Perspectives**

The relationship between youth unemployment and urban crime has been explored through multiple theoretical lenses, each offering unique insights into the dynamics that

connect economic deprivation to criminal behavior. These perspectives help to clarify why unemployment among youth often correlates with higher crime rates in urban areas.

- **Social Disorganization Theory** argues that communities with high levels of unemployment, poverty, and residential mobility lack the social cohesion necessary for maintaining order and preventing crime. Youth unemployment contributes to this breakdown by eroding trust and social bonds within neighborhoods, creating an environment where criminal behavior can thrive without sufficient community resistance.
- **Routine Activities Theory** This theory posits that the occurrence of a crime depends on the convergence of three elements: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and a lack of capable guardianship. Youth unemployment plays a role by increasing the number of motivated offenders, as jobless youth may be more inclined to engage in criminal activities when legitimate economic opportunities are scarce. In urban areas where social and economic conditions are strained, suitable targets and weak guardianship further exacerbate crime rates.
- **Labeling Theory:** This theory emphasizes the impact of societal reactions and stigmatization on individuals. Youth who experience prolonged unemployment are often labeled as unproductive or deviant, which can reinforce a sense of exclusion from mainstream society. Over time, these negative labels may push young people toward criminal activity, as they internalize these perceptions and conform to the roles society has imposed on them.
- **Relative Deprivation Theory** highlights the psychological effects of perceived inequality. Youth unemployment worsen feelings of deprivation by exposing young people to disparities in wealth and opportunity, particularly in urban areas where

socioeconomic contrasts are more visible. These perceptions can breed resentment and a sense of injustice, motivating some to engage in criminal acts to address these imbalances or express their frustration.

- **Opportunity Theory** developed by Cloward and Ohlin, suggests that crime arises not just from a lack of legitimate opportunities but also from the availability of illegitimate ones. In urban areas with high youth unemployment, organized criminal networks or informal economies often provide alternative pathways to economic gain. This theory explains how unemployed youth may be drawn into criminal activities when they perceive these as viable alternatives pathway to economic success.
- **Marxist Theory** views crime as a product of social and economic inequalities. From this perspective, youth unemployment is a manifestation of broader systemic issues, such as capitalist exploitation and unequal resource distribution. Crime, in this context, is seen as a form of resistance or survival strategy for those marginalized by the economic system, particularly in urban settings where disparities are stark.

### 2.3 Youth Unemployment in Oredo local government

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported that as of 2023, the unemployment rate in Edo State was approximately 40%, with urban areas like Oredo experiencing disproportionately higher rates (NBS, 2023). These alarming figures are fueled by various factors, including an influx of rural migrants seeking better opportunities, limited industrial expansion, and a mismatch between skills taught in educational institutions and labor market demands (Idahosa and Uhunmwangho, 2021). A report by the **Edo State Ministry of Youth and Social Development** (2022) highlights that many youths in

Oredo lack access to formal employment due to inadequate job creation and weak private sector growth. This leads to a rise in informal economic activities, which, while partially mitigating unemployment, leave many youths vulnerable to exploitation and instability. The unstructured nature of informal jobs often drives those seeking better prospects into criminal activities

## **2.4 Urban Crime Patterns in Oredo LGA**

The prevalence of urban crime in Oredo is closely tied to youth unemployment. Studies show that unemployed youths are overrepresented in crimes such as burglary, armed robbery, and cult-related violence in Benin City (Osagie and Adebayo, 2022). Urban centers like Oredo often serve as hotspots for cultism, with rival groups frequently clashing in violent confrontations. According to a study by **Okon and Agbonlahor (2021)**, 65% of reported cult-related violence in Edo State from 2015 to 2021 occurred in Oredo, and the majority of perpetrators were unemployed youths aged between 18 and 30. The growing involvement of unemployed youth in cybercrime, commonly referred to as *Yahoo Yahoo* in Nigeria, is another alarming trend. The proliferation of internet cafes and mobile technology in Oredo has provided the tools for youths to engage in phishing scams, identity theft, and online fraud. A report by the **Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) (2023)** identified Edo State, particularly Benin City, as one of the regions with the highest incidence of cybercrime in the country, with youth unemployment being a primary driver.

## **2.5 Mechanisms and Pathways**

Youth unemployment in urban areas, such as Oredo Local Government Area, is not merely an isolated challenge but a complex phenomenon rooted in various interrelated factors. Understanding the mechanisms and pathways of youth unemployment requires an exploration of the underlying economic, social, and political structures that create and sustain this issue. These mechanisms not only explain why unemployment persists but also illuminate how it contributes to broader urban challenges, including crime, poverty, and social instability.

The pathways linking youth unemployment to societal outcomes are equally significant, highlighting the ripple effects on economic development, social cohesion, and governance. For instance, unemployed youths often resort to informal economic activities or, in some cases, engage in illicit behaviors as a means of survival. This creates a cycle of poverty and urban instability that reinforces unemployment as a systemic problem.

### **2.5.1 Mechanisms Leading to Youth Unemployment**

Youth unemployment in Oredo Local Government Area stems from a combination of economic, social, and political mechanisms. These mechanisms reveal the structural and systemic factors that perpetuate unemployment among the youth.

#### **A. Economic Mechanisms**

##### **i. Limited Job Opportunities:**

Oredo's economy, like many urban centers in Nigeria, faces significant challenges in creating enough jobs for its growing youth population. The reliance on a service-oriented economy, coupled with a lack of large-scale industries, limits job availability. A report by **Osagie and Adebayo (2022)** indicates that over 60% of businesses in Oredo operate in

the informal sector, which offers temporary or low-paying jobs without long-term stability. The **National Bureau of Statistics (2023)** states that the unemployment rate among Nigerian youth reached 42%, with Edo State reflecting similar trends due to an underdeveloped private sector.

ii. **Educational Mismatch:**

The skills provided by educational institutions in Oredo do not align with the demands of the labor market. For example, many youths graduate with degrees in fields like arts and social sciences, while industries in demand—such as information technology or manufacturing—require technical or vocational skills (**Eze and Osamudiamen, 2022**). This mismatch not only limits their employability but also contributes to underemployment.

iii. **Technological Changes:**

Automation and digital transformation have reduced the need for manual labor in sectors such as banking and retail, which traditionally absorbed large numbers of youths. According to **Adebisi and Adeyemi (2021)**, technological disruption disproportionately affects urban youths in Oredo, where digital literacy remains low.

iv. **Lack of entrepreneurship Skills**

Lack of entrepreneurship skills amongst youth today is alarming, the rate at which youth are no longer interested in learning skills and developing themselves is a major reason for the high rate of unemployment. Due to this, there has been an increase of unemployment amongst the youth. This further illustrate that there is no quite number of ongoing programs geared up in creating awareness of entrepreneurial skills. The society at large

has failed to drastically enlighten the Youth on the important of entrepreneurial skills and also the consequences of fraud in the society. Research shows that about 50% of youths are been enticed into this GET-RICH-QUICK scheme which has discouraged the youth from engaging in entrepreneurial skills. Such Get-rich-quick-scheme are in the forms of Yahoo-Yahoo, Sport Betting etc.

## **B. Social Mechanisms**

### **1. Rapid Urbanization:**

Oredo's position as an economic and administrative hub attracts migrants from rural areas, leading to overpopulation and increased competition for limited jobs. Research by **Idahosa and Uhunmwangho (2021)** reveals that Oredo's population grew by 30% between 2010 and 2020, overwhelming the labor market. Many young migrants resort to informal jobs or remain unemployed, contributing to urban poverty and crime.

### **2. Cultural Norms:**

Traditional attitudes prioritize formal education over vocational training, discouraging youths from pursuing alternative careers. Studies by **Eze and Osamudiamen (2022)** show that only 25% of youths in Oredo view vocational training as a viable career path, exacerbating the skills gap in the labor market.

## **C Political Mechanisms**

### **1. Governance Issues:**

Corruption and inefficiency undermine government programs designed to address youth unemployment. The **Edo State Youth Empowerment Scheme (ESYES)** launched in 2018 was intended to provide skill development and employment opportunities but faced criticisms for poor implementation and lack of transparency (**Okoro and Obaseki, 2021**).

## 2. **Policy Gaps:**

Government policies often fail to address the root causes of unemployment. Inconsistent or poorly funded initiatives make it difficult to create sustainable employment opportunities for youths in Oredo.

### 2.5.2 **Pathways from Youth Unemployment to Urban Challenges**

Youth unemployment has far-reaching consequences for urban areas like Oredo, impacting economic stability, social cohesion, and governance.

#### A. **Economic Impacts**

##### 1. **Dependence on Informal Sector:**

Unemployed youths often turn to the informal sector, which is characterized by low wages, job insecurity, and poor working conditions. This perpetuates poverty and economic inequality. According to **Osagie and Adebayo (2022)**, over 70% of youths in Oredo are engaged in informal activities such as street vending and motorcycle transportation.

##### 2. **Prolonged Family Dependency:**

Unemployment delays financial independence, forcing many youths to rely on their families for extended periods, thereby straining household resources.

## **B. Social Impacts**

### **1. Crime Pathway:**

Unemployment among youths is a significant driver of urban crime, such as burglary, theft, and cultism. A report by the **Edo State Police Command (2022)** identified youth unemployment as a major factor behind the rise in cult-related violence and property crimes in Oredo.

### **2. Psychological Effects:**

Unemployed youths often experience feelings of frustration, low self-esteem, and depression. Research by **Uwaifo (2020)** highlights the link between unemployment and increased rates of substance abuse and mental health challenges among urban youths in Edo State.

## **C. Policy Pathways**

### **1. Impact of Policy Intervention:**

Targeted policies can help mitigate the effects of unemployment. For instance, initiatives that promote vocational training, entrepreneurship, and access to credit can empower youths to create their own jobs.

### **2. Consequences of Policy Failures:**

Inconsistent or poorly implemented policies exacerbate unemployment, leading to a cycle of poverty and urban instability.

## **2.6 Theoretical framework**

This study is grounded in the theoretical framework of Anomie **or** Strain Theory, originally developed by Émile Durkheim and later expanded by American criminologist Robert K. Merton. Durkheim argued that the specialized division of labor and the rapid growth of industrial society pose a threat to social solidarity. He used the term "Anomie" to describe a state of social deregulation. Durkheim defined **Anomie** as a condition where societal norms are either unclear or absent. According to Wickert (2022), Durkheim viewed Anomie as an indicator of societal disintegration. He observed that as social differentiations—such as the divide between rich and poor, urban and rural, or religious and secular groups—became more pronounced due to industrialization and the division of labor, social cohesion weakened. When traditional rules and structures of order are abandoned, common norms are disregarded, leading to a breakdown in social order and the onset of Anomie. Durkheim believed this represented a collapse in society's general procedural rules, or the accepted guidelines for individual behavior. This state of normlessness, as noted by Haralambos and Holborn (2007), often results in deviant behavior.

Building on Durkheim's work, Merton further developed the Anomie theory into what is now known as **Strain Theory**. Merton argued that modern industrial societies establish uniform goals for all their citizens, yet fail to provide equal means to achieve them. He referred to these success goals—such as obtaining a good education, securing a stable job, marrying, owning a house, and driving a car—as part of the **American Dream**. While these goals are universally desired in American society, not everyone has the same opportunities or resources to attain them. As a result, a state of Anomie emerges, where

those unable to achieve these goals through conventional means often resort to deviant behavior as an alternative way to meet societal expectations.

Furthermore, while considerable attention is given to the success goals, little focus is placed on ensuring equal access to the means necessary to achieve these goals. Merton introduced in (1938) argued that “fraud, corruption, vice, crime, and in fact, the entire range of forbidden behaviors, become increasingly prevalent when the emphasis on culturally prescribed success goals is disconnected from a coordinated institutional effort.” In addition to the conformists, who have the institutionalized means to reach society's defined goals, Merton identified four deviant modes of adaptation, which are outlined below.

- i. **Conformity** - This refers to individual who align themselves with both the cultural approve success goals and the legitimate means to accept these goals. Conformist follows the societal rules and norms without deviating, they believe in the system.
- ii. **Innovation** – This is a form of adaptation where individuals, known as innovators, accept the established societal goals but resort to dishonest or illegal methods to achieve them, since they are unable to reach success through legitimate means. Innovators, such as kidnappers, armed robbers, and white-collar criminals, use unlawful tactics to gain wealth and accomplish their objectives when the proper paths to success are out of reach.
- v. **Ritualism** – This group of deviants adheres to the accepted means of achieving success but rejects the societal goals associated with it. Ritualists believe in using the proper methods to succeed but do not buy into the success standards set by society. They feel restricted by unfair social systems. While they earn a legitimate income, they do not accept society's

defined goals of success. Examples include laborers, cleaners, and individuals in low-paying jobs who are denied access to educational opportunities.

**Retreatism** – This group, known as the Retreatists, rejects both the accepted means and the societal goals of success. They turn away from all of society's prescribed objectives and the methods to achieve them. Examples of Retreatists include alcoholics, drug addicts, individuals with mental health issues, vagrants, and others who struggle to find purpose in life and show little interest in social norms and values.

**vii. Rebellion** – This group of deviants rejects both the traditional societal goals and the established means of achieving them, instead seeking to replace them with their own goals and methods. They push for a new social order that challenges current norms and structures. Rebels view the existing social system as unjust, benefiting only a few, and aim to establish a more inclusive alternative. Examples of rebels include groups such as Boko Haram.

The significance of the Anomie and Strain Theory lies in its explanation of why individuals resort to crime as a result of social changes and the expectation of a new social order, which many individuals cannot adapt to. Faced with unfavorable conditions for conformity, they are forced into crime and deviance. This theory is relevant to this study because it suggests that the strain of unemployment, which deprives youth of the means to achieve societal success, pushes them toward deviant behaviors as illegitimate alternatives for achieving success.

However, Merton's Structural Strain Theory has some weaknesses:

1. He equates success with material wealth, while some groups, such as religious communities, may define success in terms of spiritual value or heavenly rewards.

2. He assumes that providing "equal means" would lead everyone to achieve success, overlooking the fact that not everyone would utilize these means to attain their goals.
3. Merton also fails to consider that individuals experiencing the same strain may respond differently; some may conform to societal norms, while others may resort to crime and deviance

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter explains the methods that will be used in gathering relevant data for the study, such as research design, population study, sample and sampling techniques, instruments for data collection and methods of data analysis are explained in this section.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The research design adopted for this study is the cross sectional survey research design. This is the type of survey in which information is collected from only a fraction of the population selected in such a way as to represent the whole. A study of this nature using survey design allowed the researcher to draw inferences that were generalized to the larger target population at a reduced cost and time. Survey design will be used to carry out the study aimed at knowing the Impact of Youth Unemployment and Crime in Oredo Local Government Area. The research incorporates both quantitative and qualitative instruments and methods for data collection and analysis, providing a comprehensive understanding of the issue.

### **3.2 Population of the Study**

The population of the study will be the youth in Oredo Local Government which consist of about 166,215 according to the 2006 census. These are individual who are at the age of employment but not employed and those who are employed, will help provide valuable insights on the impact of youth unemployment on urban crime in the area. They form the principal respondents and also the target population. By exploring the experiences and perspectives of the youth, the study seeks to deliver a detailed understanding of the impact of youth unemployment and crime in the Oredo Local Government Area.

### **3.3 Sample Technique and Sample Size.**

The difficulty of surveying the entire population has often promoted the use of sampling which involves the selection of a subset of individuals from the general population of Oredo Local Government Area.

Respondents will be selected using the simple random technique across the area. Simple random technique is a type of probabilistic sampling in which the researcher randomly select a subset of participants from the population.

### **3.4 Instrument for Data Collection**

The instrument for data collection will be quantitative research instrument. The major instruments for quantitative data collection will be the questionnaires which will be validated by the researcher. The questionnaire will consist of two parts. The first part will deal with the socio-demographic information of the respondents and the second part will

deal with the Impact of Youth Unemployment on Urban Crime in Oredo Local Government Area.

### **3.5 Method of Data Collection**

The study will make use of the survey method in the collection of data. This will be based on a one-time survey method. The reason is that the study will be conducted once. The researcher will go to the field and engage the respondents once without going a second time with the aid of questionnaires.

### **3.6 Method of Data Analysis**

The study will employ descriptive statistics for analyzing quantitative data from questionnaires, including frequency and percentage calculations.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

#### 4.1 DATA PRESENTATION

In this section, the data collected through the questionnaire is presented, analyzed, and interpreted using tables.

#### 4.2 SECTION A: SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

**TABLE 1**

|               | <b>Response</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>GENDER</b> | <b>Male</b>     | <b>43</b>        | <b>43%</b>        |
|               | <b>Female</b>   | <b>57</b>        | <b>57%</b>        |
|               |                 | <b>100</b>       | <b>100%</b>       |

Sources: field work, 2025

From the table above, the study shows that we have more female than male. 57% of the entire population are female and 43% are male respondents.

**Table 2**

|            | <b>Response</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>AGE</b> | <b>15 – 19</b>  | <b>22</b>        | <b>22%</b>        |
|            | <b>20 – 24</b>  | <b>40</b>        | <b>40%</b>        |
|            | <b>25 - 29</b>  | <b>38</b>        | <b>38%</b>        |
|            |                 | <b>100</b>       | <b>100%</b>       |

Source: Field Work 2025

The table above shows that majority of the respondents are within the age of 20-24, as they constitute 40% of the entire respondents while respondents within the age of 25-29 and 15-19 years make up 38% and 22% respectively.

**Table 3**

|                              | <b>Response</b>           | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>EDUCATIONAL<br/>LEVEL</b> | <b>Primary School</b>     | <b>15</b>        | <b>15%</b>        |
|                              | <b>Secondary School</b>   | <b>20</b>        | <b>20%</b>        |
|                              | <b>Tertiary Education</b> | <b>46</b>        | <b>46%</b>        |
|                              | <b>Others</b>             | <b>19</b>        | <b>19%</b>        |
|                              |                           | <b>100</b>       | <b>100%</b>       |

Source: field work, 2025

This table shows the educational level of the respondents ranking from tertiary education with 46%, followed by secondary education and primary school which constitute 20% and 15% respectively and others 19% .

**TABLE 4**

|                              | <b>RESPONSE</b> | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENTAGE</b> |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>EMPLOYMENT<br/>STATUS</b> | Employed        | 37               | 37%               |
|                              | Unemployed      | 53               | 53%               |
|                              |                 | 100              | 100%              |

Source: Field Work 2025

The table above shows the employment status of the respondents, 53% of the respondents are unemployed while 37% of the respondents are employed. This table shows the high rate of unemployment among the youths in Oredo Local Government Area.

**Table 5**

|                           | <b>RESPONSE</b> | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENTAGE</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>MARITAL<br/>STATUS</b> | Single          | 68               | 68%               |
|                           | Married         | 32               | 32%               |
|                           | Divorced        | Nil              | Nil               |
|                           | Widow/Widowed   | Nil              | Nil               |
|                           |                 | 100              | 100%              |

Source: Field work 2025

The study shows that among the respondents we have more single which constitute 68%, while 32% of the respondents are married.

## **Section B: Impact of Youth Unemployment on Crime**

**Table 6**

| <b>Do you think youth<br/>unemployment<br/>contributed to crime<br/>in Oredo LGA</b> | <b>RESPONSE</b> | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENTAGE</b> |
|--|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
|  | <b>Yes</b>      | <b>77</b>        | <b>77%</b>        |
|  | <b>No</b>       | <b>33</b>        | <b>33%</b>        |
|  |                 | <b>100</b>       | <b>100%</b>       |

Source: Field Work 2025

The result in the above table indicate that 77% of the respondents think that youth unemployment contribute to crime, while 33% do not think so. This suggest that youth unemployment contribute to crime in Oredo Local Government Area.

**Table 7**

|   | <b>RESPONSE</b> | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENTAGE</b> |
|---|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>If yes, which crime do you are most associated with youth unemployment in Oredo?</b> | Burglary        | 15               | 15%               |
|   | Armed Robbery   | 12               | 12%               |
|   | Cultism         | 15               | 15%               |
|   | Cyber crime     | 37               | 37%               |
|   | Drug Abuse      | 17               | 17%               |
|   | Others          | 4                | 4%                |
|   |                 | 100              | 100%              |

**Source: Field Work 2025**

The table above shows that cyber crime are most associated with youth unemployment which constitute 37% of the participants, drug abuse 17%, while burglary and cultism are 15% each respectively, armed robbery and others are 12% and 4% respectively. This finding shows that cyber crime, cultism, drug abuse etc, are due to unemployment in the area.

**Table 8**

|   | <b>RESPONSE</b>  | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENTAGE</b> |
|---|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>How would you rate the impact of youth unemployment on crime in Oredo?</b> | <b>Very High</b> | <b>31</b>        | <b>31%</b>        |
|   | <b>High</b>      | <b>47</b>        | <b>47%</b>        |
|   | <b>Moderate</b>  | <b>22</b>        | <b>22%</b>        |
|   | <b>Low</b>       | <b>0</b>         | <b>0%</b>         |
|   |                  | <b>100</b>       | <b>100%</b>       |

**Source: Field work 2025**

The table above shows that the impact of youth unemployment on crime in Oredo is High agreed 47% of the respondents, while Very High and Moderate are 31% and 22% respectively. This shows that the rate of crime in Oredo is High due to youth unemployment.

### Section C: Factors responsible for youth unemployment

**TABLE 9**

|  | <b>RESPONSE</b>                | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENTAGE</b> |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>What do you think are the major factors responsible for youth unemployment in Oredo</b> | Lack of Job opportunities      | 28               | 28%               |
|  | Low educational qualifications | 18               | 18%               |
|  | Corruption and Nepotism        | 28               | 28%               |
|  | Economic Challenges            | 21               | 21%               |
|  | Skills Mismatch                | 5                | 5%                |
|  | Others                         | 0                | 0%                |
|  |                                | 100              | 100%              |

**Source: Field Work 2025**

The study in the table above shows that lack of job opportunities, corruption and nepotism agreed by 28% respondents respectively are factors responsible for youth unemployment, while economic challenges and low educational qualifications 21% and 18% respectively, skill mismatch 5%. This finding indicate that there not much job opportunities for the youth, also other factors like corruption and educational qualifications has made majority of the youth engage in crime as an alternative.

**Table 10**

|  | <b>RESPONSE</b> | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENTAGE</b> |
|--|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Do you believe Government policies have adequately addressed unemployment in Oredo | Yes             | 27               | 27%               |
|  | No              | 73               | 73%               |
|  |                 | 100              | 100%              |

Source: Field Work 2025

The table above show that 73% of the participants agreed that government policies have not adequately addressed youth unemployment in Oredo, while 27% of the participants believe it has to some level.

**Section D: Relationship Between Youth Unemployment and Crime**

Table 11

|  | <b>RESPONSE</b> | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENTAGE</b> |
|--|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Do you believe there is a strong relationship between youth unemployment and crime in Oredo? | Yes             | 67               | 67%               |
|  | No              | 33               | 33%               |
|  |                 | 100              | 100%              |

Source: Field Work 2025

From the table above, 67% of the respondents agreed that there is a strong relationship between youth unemployment and crime while 33% disagreed.

**Table 12**

|  | <b>RESPONSE</b>                                   | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENTAGE</b> |
|--|---|------------------|-------------------|
| If yes, how would you describe this relationship | Direct (Unemployment directly leads to crimes)    | 60               | 60%               |
|  | Indirect (Others factor mediate the relationship) | 40               | 40%               |
|  |   | 100              | 100%              |

Source: Field Work, 2025

From the table above, it shows that 60% of the participants agreed that unemployment directly leads to crime, while 40% of the participants agreed that unemployment indirectly leads to crime.

**Table 13**

|  | <b>RESPONSE</b>              | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENTAGE</b> |
|--|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| In your opinion what drives unemployed youth to engage in Crime? | <b>Financial desperation</b> | <b>50</b>        | <b>50%</b>        |
|  | <b>Peer Influence</b>        | <b>30</b>        | <b>30%</b>        |
|  | <b>Lack of alternatives</b>  | <b>20</b>        | <b>20%</b>        |
|  | <b>Others</b>                | <b>0</b>         | <b>0%</b>         |
|  |                              | <b>100</b>       | <b>100%</b>       |

**Source: Field Work 2025**

Result from the above table shows that 50% of the participant agreed that financial desperation drives youth to engage in crime, while 30% believe that peer influence drives youth to crime, as youth are easily lure into criminal activities, and lack of alternative 20%. This lead to the conclusion that unemployment drives youth to engage in crime.

### **Section E: Consequences of Youth Unemployment and Crime**

**Table 14**

|  | <b>RESPONSE</b>                | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENTAGE</b> |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>What are the consequences of youth unemployment and crimes on individual in Oredo</b> | <b>Poverty</b>                 | <b>49</b>        | <b>49%</b>        |
|  | <b>Psychological stress</b>    | <b>25</b>        | <b>25%</b>        |
|  | <b>Involvement in deviance</b> | <b>21</b>        | <b>21%</b>        |
|  | <b>Others</b>                  | <b>5</b>         | <b>5%</b>         |
|  |                                |                  |                   |
|  |                                |                  | <b>100</b>        |

**Source: Field Work 2025**

The result in the above table shows that poverty is as a result of youth unemployment agreed by 49% of the participants, while psychological stress and involvement in deviance are 25 and 21% respectively, others 5%. With this finding, it indicate that these individuals who can't meet the basic necessities of life such as house rent, food and clothing due to unemployment involve

themselves in criminal activities to meet this needs just as the privileged employed individuals in the society.

**Table 15**

|   | <b>RESPONSE</b>           | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENTAGE</b> |
|---|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>What are the broader consequences of youth unemployment and crime on the public?</b> | <b>Insecurity</b>         | <b>50</b>        | <b>50%</b>        |
|   | <b>Economic decline</b>   | <b>30</b>        | <b>30%</b>        |
|   | <b>Social Instability</b> | <b>20</b>        | <b>20%</b>        |
|   | <b>Others</b>             | <b>0</b>         | <b>0%</b>         |
|   |                           | <b>100</b>       | <b>100%</b>       |

**Source: Field Work 2025**

In the table above, as agreed by 50% of the respondents that insecurity is a broader consequences of youth unemployment and crime on the public, while economic decline and social instability are 30% and 20% respectively. From the above findings, criminal activities like kidnapping, rape, prostitution, armed robbery etc leads to insecurity, economic decline, social instability in the society.

#### **Section F: Mechanism for Addressing Youth unemployment and Crime**

**Table 16**

|  | <b>RESPONSE</b> | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENTAGE</b> |
|--|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Are you aware of any program or strategies addressing youth</b> | <b>Yes</b>      | <b>40</b>        | <b>40%</b>        |
|  | <b>No</b>       | <b>60</b>        | <b>60%</b>        |

|   |  |            |             |
|---|--|------------|-------------|
| <b>unemployment and crimes<br/>in Oredo</b> |  | <b>100</b> | <b>100%</b> |
|---|--|------------|-------------|

**Source: Field Work 2025**

The result from the above table shows that 60% of the participants are not aware of any government programs or strategies addressing youth unemployment and crime in Oredo Local Government Area, while 40% are aware of such programs.

**Table 17**

|   | <b>RESPONSE</b>             | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENTAGE</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>If yes, how effective<br/>are these programs<br/>or strategies</b> | <b>Very effective</b>       | <b>6</b>         | <b>6%</b>         |
|   | <b>Moderately effective</b> | <b>30</b>        | <b>30%</b>        |
|   | <b>Not effective</b>        | <b>60</b>        | <b>60%</b>        |
|   |                             | <b>100</b>       | <b>100%</b>       |

**Source: Field Work 2025**

The table above shows that 30% of the participants agreed that the programs are moderately effective, while 6% very effective and 60% of the participants not effective.

**Table 18**

|   | <b>RESPONSE</b>            | <b>FREQUENCY</b> | <b>PERCENTAGE</b> |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>What mechanism do<br/>you think should be<br/>implemented to<br/>address youth</b> | Job creation initiatives   | 35               | 35%               |
|   | Skills acquisition program | 33               | 33%               |
|   | Community policies         | 12               | 12%               |
|   | Strengthening educational  | 20               | 20%               |

|   |              |     |      |
|---|--------------|-----|------|
| <b>unemployment and crime in Oredo?</b> | institutions |     |      |
|   |              | 100 | 100% |

Source: Field Work 2024

The table shows that 35% of the participant agreed that job creation initiative should be implemented as well as Skills acquisition programs as agreed by 33% of the participant, while Community Policies and Strengthening educational institution are 12% and 20% respectively.

**Questions 19: Any additional suggestions for addressing youth unemployment and crime in Oredo Local Government Area?**

|   | <b>Responses</b>                   | <b>Frequences</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Suggestions for addressing youth unemployemny and crime in Oredo Local Government Area</b> | <b>Job creation</b>                | <b>50</b>         | <b>50%</b>        |
|   | <b>Good parenting</b>              | <b>25</b>         | <b>25%</b>        |
|   | <b>Affordability of education</b>  | <b>15</b>         | <b>15%</b>        |
|   | <b>Reduction of cost of living</b> | <b>10</b>         | <b>10%</b>        |
|   |                                    | <b>100</b>        | <b>100%</b>       |

Source: Field Work 2025

From the table above, the result shows that 50% of the respondents suggested that government should create jobs for the youths in Oredo Local Government Area, while 25% of the respondents suggested that parents should teach their children good moral as the family make up the society, and 15% suggested that the government should make education affordable for all in the society and 10% suggested that they should be a reduction of the cost of living

### 4.3 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This discussion focuses on the findings obtained from analyzing data collected through a questionnaire administered to 100 respondents. Using simple percentage analysis, key findings were identified, revealing the impact of youth unemployment and crime in Oredo Local Government Area. From the finding of this study, it is observed that the increasing rate of crime in Oredo Local Government Area especially internet fraud is as a result of youth unemployment. It is an error for the government to neglect the youth in the employment process, as they would turn to various criminal activities to survive. However, if these youth are engage in productive activities, they would contribute to the development of the society and the nation as a whole, Oputah(2015) observed that youth are the cornerstone of the any nation, as the rate of the nations development and security are determined by their energies, resourcefulness, orientation and character.

Youth unemployment is a major issue in the society which gives rise to criminal tendencies in the youth, such as armed robbery, internet fraud, prostitution, kidnapping and many more. And it has been observed that what holds true for many unemployed youth is the fact that crime has become a means of survival for them. As noted Okafor(2011) large number of graduates are produced but majority of them are without employment. Therefore, the streets are filled with youth doing menial jobs, who originally should have gainful employment in professional establishments. The social consequences of unemployment are felt by the individual and household level before extending to the general public. The unemployed youths who are not able to earn money to meet their financial responsibilities and the basic needs of life as observed from research study, experience frustration, idleness, depression, hunger, etc which eventually push them into crime. This fact is also supported by the view of Edward(2011) and Ajeagbu(2012),

they stated that the issue of crime in Nigeria has been worsen by the high rate of unemployment and the high standard of living, which has pushed many unemployed youth to crime.

Unemployment and crime are intertwined, wherever unemployment exist, crime abounds in such a society. However from the data above, a few respondents believes that unemployment does not directly leads to crime, as such criminal youths are part of a family and family makes up the society. This findings indicate that children should be thought good morals and parents should be a strong and good examples to them before becoming a part of the larger society.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **5.1 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY**

This research explores the Impact Of Youth Unemployment On Urban Crime In Oredo Local Government Area (LGA). The study helps to understand how high levels of youth unemployment contribute to social instability and leads to increased criminal activities within the community. Youth unemployment is a growing concern in many parts of Nigeria, including Oredo Local Government Area, and this study investigates how lack of employment opportunities can lead to a sense of frustration, hopelessness, and economic deprivation among young people. It is observed that such feelings may push some unemployed youth towards criminal activities, including theft, drug abuse, and violent crimes, as coping mechanisms or survival strategies.

Chapter one provides the research background, it also discuss the statement of study, objective of the study, research questions, significant of the study and scope of study. Chapter two discuss a comprehensive literature review, presenting work of renowned scholars and theoretical framework. Chapter three detailed the research methodology and chapter four present data analysis and interpretation. This study provides valuable insights for policymakers, community leaders, and organizations working to address youth unemployment and crime prevention. The findings are expected to offer recommendations for creating job opportunities, vocational training, and community programs that can help mitigate the negative impact of unemployment on crime in Oredo LGA.

#### **5.2 RECOMMEDATION OF THE STUDY**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed to address the issue of youth unemployment and its impact on urban crime in Oredo Local Government Area:

- 1. Government Intervention and Job Creation**

The government at both state and local levels should implement targeted employment programs to provide job opportunities for unemployed youth. Policies such as vocational training, entrepreneurship support, and public-private partnerships can help create sustainable employment.

## **2. Skill Development and Education**

Educational institutions and vocational training centers should be strengthened to equip young people with marketable skills that align with industry demands. Special attention should be given to technical and entrepreneurial training to encourage self-employment.

## **3. Youth Empowerment Initiatives**

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations should collaborate with the government to implement empowerment programs that engage youths in productive activities, reducing their likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior.

## **4. Crime Prevention Strategies**

Law enforcement agencies should work closely with community leaders to implement community policing strategies. Proactive policing, intelligence gathering, and crime prevention campaigns can help deter youth involvement in criminal activities.

## **5. Access to Financial Support**

Financial institutions should provide soft loans, grants, and startup capital for young entrepreneurs to encourage self-reliance and reduce unemployment-related crime. Government policies should also create a favorable business environment for young business owners.

## **6. Public Awareness and Civic Engagement**

Sensitization campaigns should be carried out to educate young people on the dangers of crime and the benefits of legitimate employment. Religious institutions, community leaders, and media houses should collaborate in promoting moral values and responsible citizenship.

#### **7. Urban Planning and Infrastructure Development**

The government should invest in urban infrastructure and recreational facilities to engage idle youths in productive activities such as sports, arts, and technology-based initiatives, thereby reducing criminal tendencies.

By implementing these recommendations, stakeholders—including the government, private sector, civil society, and the youth themselves—can work together to reduce youth unemployment and mitigate its impact on crime in Oredo Local Government Area.

## REFERENCES

Attah, S., Adalikwu, S., and Ngele, C. (2023). Youth Unemployment and Increasing Crime Rate: A Study of Calabar Metropolis in Cross River State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews*.

IIARD (2023). *Economic Factors and Unemployment in Nigeria*. International Institute of Academic Research and Development.

Awogbenle, A. C., & Iwuamadi, K. C. (2010). Youth unemployment: Entrepreneurship development programme as an intervention mechanism. *African Journal of Business Management*, 4(6), 831-835.

Kazeem, Y. (2020). Nigeria's unemployment rate has more than tripled in the last five years– and it will only get worse.

Kuhe, A. (2016). Youth unemployment and its impact on urban crime in Nigeria. *Journal of Social Sciences and Policy Review*, 8(1), 34-48.

Adebayo, A. (2013). Youths' unemployment and crime in Nigeria: A nexus and implications for national development. *International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, 5(8), 350-357.

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). (2020). *Labor force statistics: Unemployment and underemployment report (Q2 2020)*. Abuja: National Bureau of Statistics.

Scott, J., & Marshall, G. (2009). *Oxford Dictionary of Sociology* (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press.

Kuhe, A. (2016). The implications of poverty on national development in Nigeria. *International Journal of Development Studies*, 11(2), 45-60.

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/10/how-nigerias-youth-bulge-can-become-a-demographic-dividend/>

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). (2020). *Labour Force Statistics: Unemployment and Underemployment Report (2020)*. National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria.

Adebisi, Tunde, and Grace Adeyemi. "Technology and Youth Employment in Urban Nigeria." *African Journal of Economics and Development Studies* 12, no. 2 (2021): 56–78.

Edo State Police Command. Crime and Youth Unemployment Report. Benin City: Edo Police Headquarters, 2022.

Eze, Kingsley, and Osamudiamen Oghale. "Cultural Perceptions and Youth Employment in Edo State." *Nigerian Journal of Development Sociology* 10, no. 3 (2022): 22–40.

Idahosa, Precious, and Edith Uhunmwangho. "Educational Gaps and Unemployment in Benin City." *Journal of Nigerian Studies* 12, no. 1 (2021): 22–34.

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). *Labor Force Statistics: 2023 Annual Report*. Abuja: NBS, 2023.

Okoro, Uche, and Festus Obaseki. "The Role of Governance in Addressing Youth Unemployment in Edo State." *Journal of Public Administration* 8, no. 4 (2021): 31–49.

Osagie, Blessing, and Adebayo Akin. "Youth Unemployment and Crime in Benin City." *Nigerian Journal of Sociology and Development* 17, no. 2 (2022): 43–59.

Uwaifo, Obinna. "The Role of Agriculture in Reducing Youth Unemployment in Urban Nigeria." *African Policy Review* 15, no. 1 (2020): 77–88.

Adebisi, Tunde, and Grace Adeyemi. "Technology and Youth Employment in Urban Nigeria." *African Journal of Economics and Development Studies* 12, no. 2 (2021): 56–78.

Eze, Kingsley, and Osamudiamen Oghale. "Cultural Perceptions and Youth Employment in Edo State." *Nigerian Journal of Development Sociology* 10, no. 3 (2022): 22–40.

Idahosa, Precious, and Edith Uhunmwangho. "Educational Gaps and Unemployment in Benin City." *Journal of Nigerian Studies* 12, no. 1 (2021): 22–34.

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). *Labor Force Statistics: 2023 Annual Report*. Abuja: NBS, 2023.

Okoro, Uche, and Festus Obaseki. "The Role of Governance in Addressing Youth Unemployment in Edo State." *Journal of Public Administration* 8, no. 4 (2021): 31–49.

Osagie, Blessing, and Adebayo Akin. "Youth Unemployment and Crime in Benin City." *Nigerian Journal of Sociology and Development* 17, no. 2 (2022): 43–59.

Uwaifo, Obinna. "The Role of Agriculture in Reducing Youth Unemployment in Urban Nigeria." *African Policy Review* 15, no. 1 (2020): 77–88.

Wickert, C. (2022). Concept of Anomie (Durkheim). Retrieved from <https://soztheo.de/theories-of-crime/anomie-strain-theories/concept-of-anomie-durkheim>

Merton, R. K. (1938.) Social Structure and Anomie. *American Sociological Review*, 3(5), 672–682

Ajaegbu, O. O. (2012). Rising Youth Unemployment and Violent Crime in Nigeria. *American Journal of Social Issues and Humanities*, 2 (5), 315 – 321

Okafor, E. E. (2011). Youth unemployment and implications for stability of democracy in Nigeria. *Journal of sustainable Development in Africa*, 13(1), 358 – 373

Bassey, A. O., Abia R. P., Attah, F. and Bassey, U. A. (2015). Corruption as a social problem and its implications on Nigeria Society: A Review of anticorruption policies. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, 4 (1), 423–430