

**SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION ON UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG THE
NIGERIA YOUTHS: A CASE STUDY OF OREDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AREA IN EDO STATE**

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**BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
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CERTIFICATION

We, certify that this research project was carried out by **RAPHAEL INEGBENOSE DIVINE** in the Department of Social work, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria. It is adequate in scope and quality in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Science (BSc.) degree in Social Work.

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DEDICATION

This project is wholeheartedly dedicated to God Almighty, the source of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. His unending grace, divine guidance, and unfailing love have been my strength throughout this academic journey.

I owe every success and achievement in this work to His mercy, grace and faithfulness, which have continually sustained me in moments of challenge and triumph. To Him be all the glory, honor, and praise, now and forever.

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ABSTRACT

This study examines Social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria youths, using Oredo Local Government in Edo State. Nigeria has come a long way since 1922 in terms of the number and spread of political parties. Unemployment continues to be a global issue even as the world population continues to increase. Some countries have effectively put in place policies that mitigate this growing issue while others have failed to plan and continue to suffer the consequences of their actions and inactions on a daily basis. The study adopts a survey design and employs quantitative research methods. Primary data is collected through structured questionnaires administered. The sample size is determined using Taro Yamane 1967 sample size determination formula, yielding approximately 218 respondents, selected through stratified random sampling to ensure proportional representation.

The data collected from the instruments were organized in tables using simple percentages. Cronbach's Alpha is employed to test the reliability of the research instrument, ensuring consistency in measuring the variables.

Findings from the study revealed that there are social work interventions on unemployment among the Nigeria Youths. It was also revealed that there is a relationship between the youth unemployment rate and the gross domestic product of Nigeria. The study offers valuable recommendations that Professional associations, such as the National Association of Social Workers (NASoW), should implement membership education and continuing education programmes for recertification, ensuring members stay informed about social welfare policies and programmes. This initiative will empower them to engage relevant stakeholders effectively in efforts to reduce youth unemployment.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Unemployment continues to be a global issue even as the world population continues to increase. Some countries have effectively put in place policies that mitigate this growing issue while others have failed to plan and continue to suffer the consequences of their actions and inactions on a daily basis. According to International Labour Organization (ILO) report, (World Employment and Social Outlook Trends, 2018), there are 201 million people currently unemployed globally and by the year 2019 more than 212 million people of the world's population will be out of work.; fortunately Countries like Singapore, Qatar, Thailand etc. were able to make long-term policies that have helped stabilize their unemployment rate.

Reports from the 1952 census held in Nigeria indicate that the Country witnessed stable employment during that period, four decades after reverse was the case. This threw the Country in disarray and led to build up of unlawful practices in Nigeria. (Ojo, 2017). According to the Central Bank of Nigeria (1992) in 1990 unemployment rate in Nigeria stood at 3.2%, by 1995 it improved and reduced to at 1.8%. By 2003 it rose to 2.3%, ever since then it has kept on increasing with no practical solutions from the government to help in curbing the factors responsible for the increase. (Uniamikogbo, 2017).

Unemployment among youths remains a cankerworm which has eaten deep into the crucibles of the nation. It remains a subject of discourse which requires quick and immediate solution in a country that yearns to compete with developed nations of the world. The youths comprise of the active labour force of a country in its production and policy implementation process and there is a need to fully engage them in the affairs of the nation. “The role of youths in nation building in recent times has generated serious discussions and clear cut policy agenda which are necessary for the development, plan and policy action of any country” (Aniefiok, 2018). This indicates the importance of the youths in nation building and their capacity in nation building must not be underestimated as they remain Nigeria’s future leaders.

The definition of a youth differs from one country to another based on the laws governing such country. The youth as defined by the Nigerian Population Commission in Osakwe (2018) are young persons between the ages of 18 and 24 as the conundrum here is that the legally considered age of an adult is 18 with a voting right. According to the Second National Youth Policy Document of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2009) youths are persons between the ages of 18-35 years, male and female who are citizens of Nigeria. The United Nation has defined youth as persons in the age range of 15-24 years, while the World Health Organization reporting on violence and health categorize youth as persons between the ages of 10 and 29. In Sierra-Leone, the United Nation Peace-Building Commission defines youth as belonging to the ages of 15 and 35.

The productivity and development of a country is determined by the size of its labour force, according to the available World Bank data, the percentage of Nigeria's labour force between the ages of 15-24 who are unemployed are 13.6% as at 2014 from a total labour force of 55,784, 248. The figure of Nigeria's labour force according to the National Bureau of Statistics data have increased to 83,875,253 in 2016. According to Anthony (2018), chronic youth unemployment is evident in Nigeria as every year, thousands of graduates are produced but there are no jobs for majority of them. It is so sad these days to see what some of the youths have become, one dependent on the inability to define a path for them in the affairs of nation building. Instead, they have chosen a path for themselves one built on avarice and the love of financial gains through illicit means. These illicit means are those frowned upon by the law and most of them end-up becoming convicts in their father land as well as in foreign countries.

Social work profession is one of the most demanding of the helping professions, but has not really taken its pride of place in Nigeria, probably because Nigerians still enjoy a lot of social support from their families. It must be born in mind that notwithstanding the fact that family support systems have a lot of positive assistance (physical and psychological) to afford members, with increase in urbanization, globalization, pursuit of education and economic breakthrough, as well as reduction in family size, it has become rather impossible for family members to take adequate care of both psychological and physical needs of one another. Friendships in Africa have also been likened to extended family relations, which give succor to friend at times of distress.

This also cannot be overstretched considering that current socio-economic and political realities join to limit the resources available for the other person.

More importantly, the complexities of modern life which places heavy pressures that tax and often exceed people's adjustive mechanisms bring to the fore the need for prompt and sustained assistance and proactive measures so as to avoid catastrophic break down in intra personal, interpersonal and intergroup peace, and consequent psychopathology. It becomes expedient that a people (professionals) adequately skilled within the context of a milieu should become involved, so as to effect speedy resolution of conflicts, prevent maladjustive behaviours, hence improve the standard of living and general well-being of the populace.

For the avoidance of doubt, the field of social work envelops such tasks as: helping the physically and mentally challenged to make the best out of life (thereby complementing the services rendered by medical professionals and psychologists especially at the level of rehabilitation), assisting people to resolve issues in daily living such as: relationship problems, housing, unemployment, substance abuse, providing psychosocial support to people with incurably and/or special health conditions (like HIV/AIDS), and assisting communities deal with problems of low school enrolment, truancy, youth involvement in anti-social and high-risk behaviours, teenage pregnancy and family conflicts (Chechak, 2018 & Reckley, 2018). Reckly adds that in the US, 60% of mental health professionals are clinically trained social workers.

The roles of social workers are not restricted to their employment by governments. Social work demands a good knowledge of psychology for efficient performance, and as mentioned earlier, must be viewed as the helping profession it is. It is this consideration that informed our introduction of the cognitive paradigm of counseling.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The level of unemployment in Nigeria has grown large that it cannot be addressed by mere campaign or words of mouth. It required the combined efforts of both individuals and the government of the country in particular and the world at large to formulate a lasting solution to it. Unemployment in Nigeria has affected the youth and the economic development of the country from a broad spectrum of socio-economic perspective. It is obvious that unemployment especially that of graduates impedes Nigeria's progress in several ways. Apart from the economic waste it brought to the nation, it also constitutes political unrest for the country (Ipaye, 1998). According to Ezie (2012), the unemployment situation in Nigeria is disturbing and even more disheartening that the country's economic condition cannot absorb an optimal proportion of its labour force. This situation has contributed to the increase in crimes and other social vices experienced in our society in recent time, because an idle mind is always the devils workshop.

Another problem facing the employment situation in Nigeria centered on power generation. The poor power generation in Nigeria has contributed to the level of unemployed people. Despite all the efforts made by both the past and present

administration to salvage the problem of epileptic power supply, the country has experienced little or no change. Since the problem of power cannot be tackled, the industries, institutions and agencies which are expected to provide the much needed employment flow out of the country for some better opportunities, thus leaving our work force unemployed. This paper is determined to address some of these challenges.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine the social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria youths, using Oredo Local Government in Edo State as a case study.

The specific objectives of this study include to:

1. Examine social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria Youths
2. Examine the relationship between the youth unemployment rate and the gross domestic product of Nigeria.
3. Examine the relationship between youth unemployment rate and the rate of crime in Nigeria.
4. To examine the relationship between youth unemployment and labour efficiency in Nigeria.

1.4 Research Questions

The following research questions will guide the study

1. What are the social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria Youths?
2. What is the relationship between the youth unemployment rate and the gross domestic product of Nigeria?
3. What is the relationship between youth unemployment rate and the rate of crime in Nigeria?
4. What is the relationship between youth unemployment and labour efficiency in Nigeria?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This research work will be an immense contribution to the body of literature in the area of social work involvement on unemployment among the Nigeria youths thereby constituting the empirical literature for future research in the subject area

This study will inform the general public on the activities of the involvement of social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria youths.

1.6 Scope of the Study

This study examines social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria youths using Oredo Local Government as a case study. It will be limited to social work Department students in the Faculty of Social Science, University of Benin, Benin City.

1.7 Definition of Terms

Social workers: Social workers analyze policies, programs, and regulations to see what is most effective. They identify social problems, study needs and related issues, conduct research, propose legislation, and suggest alternative approaches or new programs.

Intervention: The act or fact or a means of interfering with the outcome or course especially of a condition or process (as to prevent harm or improve functioning).

Unemployment: Unemployment, according to the OECD, is people above a specified age not being in paid employment or self-employment but currently available for work during the reference period. Unemployment is measured by the unemployment rate, which is the number of people who are unemployed as a percentage of the labour force.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Preamble

There are numerous literatures written by several scholars on the subject under study, literature relevant to the topic under study, are critically reviewed for clarity and easy comprehension.

2.1 Unemployment

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 the concerned period (Olubukola,2019). In the work of Arosanyin, (2021) Unemployment and poverty are two of the challenges facing the Nigerian economy. Most urban, semi and unskilled labour have found solace in the informal sector. Ishola (2018) noted that, in 2003, Nigerian's unemployment rate declined substantially to 2.3 percent. This decline was attributed to the various government efforts aimed at addressing the problem through poverty alleviation programmes. He further noted that the decline also pointed to an increased number of people who engaged in the informal sector activities.

Ishola (2018) observed that, unemployment as one of the macroeconomic problems could be reduced through the informal sector participation provided it is well supported and managed. More so, Olubukola (2019) stated that the rapid rise in the country's unemployment rate has become a major source of concern. Several school

leavers and employable adults are either finding it difficult to secure employment or are laid off work for one reason or the other. Also, Sanda, (2016) used a sample of 360 firms in Kano and its environs to examine whether or not, large firms were better than small firms at creation of employment opportunities. Their results were positive in that small firms were found to be relatively better, and the conclusion they derived was that a policy that gives special preference to small firms is justified. Fajana (2020) also opined that unemployment can lead to the following: loss of status, loss of prestige and economic strength or power as a result of the loss of wages and benefits of job, infliction of psychological injury as a result of the breakdown in social contacts and isolation from the world of work, loss of responsibility, identity and respect which the position at work ensures, loss of purchasing power, loss of union check off dues, loss of production and stunting of gross national product, etc. Akin (2017) argued that, the challenges to sustainable youth employment are multi-dimensional.

They encompass economic, social, political and cultural issues which include; weak economic, political and social institutions, accountability and transparency in governance, high cost of governance reducing available resources to support job-creation opportunities for young people at Federal and State level, jobless economic growth, etc.

Generally speaking, the contributions of the informal sector to the development of the Nigerian economy cannot be over emphasized. Since the beginning of 1980s, the economic position of Nigeria has worsened seriously. The per-capita income fall considerably and wage employment has declined (NISER Report, 2017). One of the

major social problems facing Nigeria youth is the high level of unemployment among youths. The youth has the highest unemployment rate in Nigeria, in the range of 40-60% among this age between 15 and 25 years. Youth unemployment denied them of their legitimate livelihood which resulted to visible idleness. This is refer to the gathering of youth in the bars and restaurants to drink and smoke, and at the end nurse a culture that encourages criminal behavior (Akande and Okuwa, 2019).

2.1.1 Youth Unemployment

Unemployment occurs when people are without jobs and they have actively sought for job within the past four weeks (ILO 2017). Fajana (2018) refers to it as a situation where people who are willing and capable of working are unable to find suitable paid employment. (Patterson, 2016) defined it as a situation in which people who are willing to work at the prevailing wage rate are unable to find jobs. It is one of the macro-economic problems which every responsible government is expected to monitor and regulate. The higher the unemployment rate in an economy the higher would be the poverty level and associated welfare challenges.

Unemployment is one of the developmental problems that face every developing economy in the 21st century, and Nigeria is not exempted. Its impact is felt more by the youths, leading to youth unemployment. In terms of scope, Okafor, (2019) observed that unemployment is a global trend, but occurs mostly in developing countries of the world, with attendant social, economic, political, and psychological consequences. Thus,

Oyebade, (2018) added that massive youth unemployment in any country is an indication of far more complex problems. Nigeria's unemployment can be grouped into two categories: the older unemployed who lost their jobs through retrenchment, redundancy or bankruptcy; and the younger unemployed, most of who have never tasted what it is to be employed.

Furthering the discussion are scholars such as Echebiri, (2017) Gibb & George, (2019) and Onah, (2017) who described youth unemployment as the conglomerate of youths with diverse background, willing and able to work, but cannot find any. When the supply of labor outstrips the demand for labor, it causes joblessness and unemployment. Given the lack of sufficient employment opportunities in the formal sector, young people may be compelled to engage in casual work and other unorthodox livelihood sources, thus leading to underemployment.

According to statistics from the Manpower Board and the Federal Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria has a youth population of 80 million, representing 60% of the total population of the country. 64 million of them unemployed, while 1.6 million are underemployed. The 1990 - 2000 data on youth unemployment showed that the largest group of the unemployed is the secondary school graduates. There are also 40% unemployment rate among urban youth aged 20 - 24 and a 31% rate among those aged 15 - 19. Two-third of the urban unemployed ranges from 15 – 24 years old. Moreover, the educated unemployed tended to be young males with few dependents. There are relatively few

secondary school graduates and the lowered job expectations of primary- school graduates. There is no consistent trend of unemployment rates in Nigeria. An increase in one or two years is sometimes followed by a decline in the subsequent years (Okafor, 2019).

A published report from Punch editorial of June 10, 2003 referred to a report by the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in 2001 saying that the universities and other tertiary institutions in the country produce an average of 120,000 graduates each year while another 500,000 school leavers or college graduates are turned out each year, without the hope of any job. Although NAPEP admitted that the figures were not available on the actual number of the unemployed, the agency said that 50% of the unemployed is assumed to be youths (The Punch Newspaper, 2018).

2.1.2 Causes of Unemployment

It is disheartening these days to see the youths being unproductive as a result of unemployment. Every year, the various tertiary institutions in Nigeria keep graduating students in their numbers but without any assurance of getting their dream jobs. Most have resulted to engaging in menial jobs to keep body and soul. It is not new to see graduates and postgraduates of higher institutions being truck drivers, sachet water peddlers, bus conductors, barbers, load careers etc. According to a published editorial report from Punch of June 10, 2003 as cited in Emeh, Nwanguma & Abaroh (2018), the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) in 2001 was reported to have stated

that universities and other tertiary institutions in Nigeria produce on the average 120,000 graduates each year without having hope of any job. As a result of unemployment, many betting houses are on the increase all around Nigeria and most especially in the city of Lagos with the youths being the major patronizers of these betting houses. In the words of Fajana (2020) as cited in Nwankwo & Ifejiolor (2014) unemployment is a situation that arises where people that are willing to work are unable to find suitable paid jobs.

This menace happens as a result of the following:

- i. Corruption among public office holders.
- ii. Lack of discipline among the people of a state.
- iii. Misplaced priorities among policy makers
- iv. Political chaos and frequent changes in government
- v. Absence of innovative ideas
- vi. Low infrastructural facilities within the country
- vii. Low exploration of other areas of businesses and over dependence on oil
- viii. Tribalism and favouritism
- ix. Low standard of education and skill acquisition.
- x. Low entrepreneurial qualities or development among the leaders and the youths
- xi. Syndrome of get rich quickly by the youth etc.

i. Corruption among public office holders

One of the challenges facing Nigeria as a country whose impact is being felt by the youths is corruption which is entrenched in the system. The public resources meant for the people are being diverted to the private purses of the public office holders. The Transparency International (2018) defines corruption as the abuse of entrusted power for private gains. It can be classified as grand, petty and political, depending on the amounts of money lost and the sector where it occur. These monies diverted to private purses are supposed to be used to execute developmental projects which would have a positive impact on the lives of the youths but instead, the monies are mismanaged thereby affecting the youths negatively.

These according to Transparency International (2018) are acts committed at a high level of government in the form of policy distortion or the central function of the state, thereby enabling the leaders to benefit at the expense of the public good. Recently, the international agency in its corruption perception index of 2017 ranked Nigeria 148 out of 180 countries examined with a score of 27 out of 100. The inclusion of the funds for training and development of the youths in the budget gives room for law makers to manipulate the budget to their advantage.

Such manipulations or distortions or padding of the budget gives a very negative impression of the lawmakers and their roles in ensuring the development of the youths. We are used to seeing public officers divert funds meant for the masses to their private bank accounts and thereby hindering quick development as a result of inability to access the funds by those who require of it.

ii. Lack of Discipline among the people of a state.

When there is lack of discipline among the people; disorder is bound to exist. There must exist law and order to ensure even distribution of the nation's wealth. The lack of discipline being witnessed in Nigeria directly affects the youths of the country. Some individuals no longer see following the rule of law, guidelines as a principle, instead they see it as a waste of time since they are interested in getting rich by hook or crook thereby getting involved in crime.

If people are disciplined, public funds will not be converted for private use, the right people will fill the right positions within organizations, the right person will be in the position of leadership and there won't be a case like that of the employment scandal being witnessed at the Nigerian immigration examination where so many people were stampeded to death at the stadium venue, thousands of people will not be vying for jobs meant for just two persons etc. According to Nwankwor & Ifejiolor (2014), the problem of unemployment in Nigeria is a national issue that should be handled with care. The rate of unemployment in Nigeria since 1973 has been growing in a geometric progression. It would be difficult to meet the burgeoning demand for employment if unemployment keeps growing at a geometric progression and jobs at an arithmetic progression. Since there is lack of discipline in some sectors of the Nigerian economy as a result, unemployment is likely to continue into the foreseeable future.

iii. Misplaced priorities among policy makers

In 2015 Budget a budget watch organization in Nigeria in their analysis of the 2015 budget to the various ministries in Nigeria stated N71.85bn being amount allocated to the Ministry of Youth Development out of which 98.42% of this said sum covered recurrent expenditures while just a paltry percentage of 1.58% was channeled towards capital expenditure. It is so sad that most policy makers and the various government institutions in the country have not been living up to expectation and have also been contributing to unemployment of the youths. Channeling public funds to capital projects will help to take care of unemployment of the youths as more facilities can be erected to engage them but the reverse is the case. Most of the funds are being diverted into private accounts and monies are being spent on luxuries. During the President Goodluck Jonathan regime the sum of \$2billion meant for arms procurement by the office of the National Security Adviser in the person of Col. Sambo Dasuki was embezzled while young soldiers were killed fighting Boko Haram in faraway north of Nigeria. This money was shared for campaign purposes and loyalists to the president had a field day taking their chunk of the national cake. According to Osakwe (2018), youth unemployment is only a symptom of a long and enduring problem in respect to national security.

iv. Political chaos and frequent changes in government

Unemployment also arises when there is political chaos within the country sometimes as a result of civil war or factional differences. As a result of the unrest many young individuals may be unemployed. Also, the frequent change in government may also bring about unemployment whereby the present government may stop the

employment policy of the previous administration or possibly employ their loyal members to take up the jobs while those who are not loyal to the present administration are sent packing. This issue has become a trend most especially in the African political terrain. According to Osakwe (2018), ‘majority of violent acts threatening national security have been ascribed to youth unemployment. Some of them are the Aguleri-Umuleri war in Anambra State, the low intensity war in the Niger-Delta; Ife-Modakeke dispute; the post-election crisis and the asymmetric war with Boko Haram going on in large part of the Northern region of Nigeria.’

v. Absence of innovative ideas

It is very essential for a developing country like Nigeria to learn from the developed countries of the world. Learning should be followed by acting upon and bringing to the fore innovative ideas for the empowerment of the populace. It is the responsibility of the various institutions of learning in Nigeria to help encourage innovative ideas one which would go a long way in putting Nigeria at the center of the world map in the areas of advancement in science and technology as well as in finance. These ideas can be converted into something realistic which would be beneficial to the growing youth population as well as a means of empowering innovative individuals to kick start their ideas and help promote it financially.

vi. Low infrastructural facilities

The presence of low infrastructural facilities to meet the demands of the population remains an issue. The creation of more infrastructures will help boost youth

employment and reduce unemployment within the country. The low or lack of infrastructural facilities have been a cause for the migration of youths to the city from the rural areas with hopes of getting a good source of livelihood. According to Emeh (2012), the government is required to embark on rural development such as rural industrialization and electrification to curtail rural-urban drift. In engendering rural development, rural roads should be built, infrastructure provided to ensure that the rural areas are attractive to live in as this will enable the possibility of youths staying in the rural areas and getting productively engaged.

vii. Low exploration of other areas of businesses and over dependence on oil

Nigeria's economy is dependent on oil exploration. This has led to the abandonment of other sectors of the economy with the oil and gas sector being the main focus as a result of the huge foreign exchange being derived. In the 70s, as a result of the huge foreign reserve to the country, the federal government declared the Udoji award which is free money for civil servants and invited countries to its shores during the FESTAC 77 known as the festival of arts and culture to marvel at how Nigeria is not scared of spending. This was a time when the Naira was stronger or at par with the British Pound according to Enekwe, Ordu & Nwoha (2013) the Naira to the dollar was at N0.61 to 1dollar in 1981. Since money is not a problem but how to spend it, in Omolehinwa (2001) cited in Omolehinwa (2012) this was in the 1970s when in the financial years 1971/1972, 1973/74, and 1974/75 actual revenue of federal government as a percentage of total government expenditure was 111%, 115% and 138% respectively.

The revenue was as a result of the money being made due to the rising oil prices in the dollar market which was to the favour of the oil producing countries. Nigeria made its fair share of the increase in oil demand but was only good at squandering it. The agricultural sector was abandoned and cocoa production which used to be the major source of income to the country was no longer given any cognizance likewise other various cash crops. Also, the dot com era saw the emergence of various technology firms most especially in developed countries of the world. Nigeria needs to also focus attention in this area and not rely only on the supply and demand for oil.

viii. Tribalism and Favouritism

Tribalism and Favouritism are also factors contributing to unemployment within Nigeria. From experience, top level officers would prefer to favour their kit and kin to take up vacant job roles within the organization they have influence in. These individuals do not even need to attend any test or interviews before getting a job in which some more qualified individuals are supposed to get. Likewise, the issue of tribalism is fast becoming a pain in the neck with individuals preferring their colleagues to be members of their tribes. Such organizations are quite skeptical of other tribes as being domineering and with the tendency of taking up their jobs if allowed to be trained on the job. This and many more are reasons for unemployment among youths within the Nigerian context.

ix. Low Standard of Education and skill acquisition

According to Onno (n.d) most graduates from the Nigerian system have received education with limited skill, reason why fresh graduates are finding it hard to secure gainful employment. The Nigerian educational system should ensure that the nation's manpower are adequately trained to help improve productivity or create businesses. Low standard of education may hinder youths from getting employed in the competitive labour market as lack of exposure to the basics may cost so much over a very long period of time.

x. Low entrepreneurial qualities or development among the leaders and the youths

According to Onah (2018) as cited in Fadeyi et al (2015) pointed out that national decision makers have come to realize that productive entrepreneurship is key to national economic development through enhancement of employment creation, economic growth, adoption of latest technology as well as innovation capabilities. These entrepreneurial skills are quite low in some so called leaders since they do not possess the quality. Like the maxim goes; "nemo dat quad non habet" you can't give what you don't have. A leader who does not have an entrepreneurial skill can't enlighten his followers on ways to develop their businesses. This is one of the problems faced in schools of learning since entrepreneurial education is quite at its lowest ebb. We have seen constant business failures as start-up companies are being closed down, multi-million naira investments go down the drain without standing the test of time. This is an issue that has to be addressed as employees are being disengaged as a result of closure of business. In the words of Osakwe (2018) the pioneers of the vision 20/20 for instance, have suggested to

government to focus on certain areas to address some of these youth challenges like youth empowerment programme that would reduce the unemployment rate among Nigerians through job creation.

To reduce the spate of unemployment among the youths there should be according to Ajani, Mgbenka & Onah (2015) promotion and support of advocacy work that is aimed at creating entrepreneurial awareness among youths about various opportunities that cut across different value chains. Also, we should not forget that there are some youths whom out of laziness have made it a choice not to be gainfully employed but to oppress others in making money through mischief. The president Muhammadu Buhari in an interview questioned the lazy attitude of some youths and their will not to be educated as a result of their reliance on proceed of oil money, most of whom are below 30 years of age constituting 60% of the population. This lazy attitude has transformed into militancy, kidnapping, drug and human trafficking among the youths in Nigeria for financial gains.

Syndrome of get rich quickly by the youth

This get-rich-quick syndrome has become a social sickness that has eaten deep into the fabric of our schools. The typical Nigeria youth already longs for personal jets, limos, and homes with renowned architectural designs, among other things. Ask him what he intends to do to justify his dreams, he has no logical answer. An inordinate craze for wealth has given Nigeria ignoble names among the comity of nations. This is because of the value which the present generation of youths in Nigeria seem to attach to a “Get-

Rich-Quick,” mindset through cybercrime, gambling, selling of own body organs, kidnapping and the use of human blood or body parts for money ritual. This can be corroborated by the present poverty situation that clearly manifests with the denial of opportunities, unemployment and inequality in wealth distribution.

The average Nigerian is a poor person. Nigeria is a rich country but majority of its inhabitants are poor because of inequality in wealth distribution (World Bank, 2020). This inequality in wealth distribution, unemployment especially among youths and corruption especially among politicians and public office holders, has increased the rate of poverty (Ucha, 2020). There are several effects associated with poverty in Nigeria. Some of such effects are high crime rates like cyber fraud, kidnapping, prostitution and motivated ritual killings for moneymaking by the present generation of Nigerian youths.

2.1.3 Types of unemployment

i. Technological Unemployment

This type of unemployment arises as a result of changes in technology. It develops as a result of obsolescence of old technology as new ones replace old ones and new skills are required to operate such technologies. For example in the past during the evolution of computers from the first generation to the current generation computers moved from gigantic to micro-mini computers. Technology has taken new form and new skills are to be acquired to be able to operate them. Lack of the required skills may lead to unemployment or laying off of old staff as a result of outdated knowledge. Also, the use of computers have taken the place of pen and paper in our offices and most people

are out of office and more are being laid off as a result of the deficiency in the use of computers. Sophisticated machines are replacing old ones in the various factories, these machines need the expertise of skilled individuals' inability to operate such machines will definitely lead to technological unemployment.

ii. Voluntary Unemployment

This type of unemployment arises as a result of the individual's willingness to quit a job due to some certain reasons such as pay, convenience, promotion, appraisal, working conditions, career pursuit etc. Here, the unemployed individual refuses to work or engage in any form of work out of his or her will.

iii. Involuntary Unemployment

This type of unemployment arises out of the will of the individual. This could be as a result of management's decisions to lay-off employees, office politics etc which may cause people their jobs. The individual affected becomes unemployed as a result of decision of top managers who see such person or persons as no longer suitable for the job and feel there is a need for replacement of the affected persons. This can arise as a result of organization policy, wars or disasters which may hinder productivity.

iv. Cyclical Unemployment

This type of unemployment arises as a result of breakdown in the generality of the economy. This is quite different from voluntary unemployment as this cuts across the various sectors of the economy from agriculture, shipping, banking and insurance etc.

v. Structural Unemployment

This type of unemployment occurs as a result of structural defects within the economy. This type of unemployment was that witnessed in the textile industry whereby the sector could not function any longer as a result of systemic failure. People were thrown out of jobs involuntarily as a result of the collapse in that sector.

vi. Frictional Unemployment

In the words of Schumpeter (2019) in Boianovsky & Trautwein (2017), frictional unemployment results from the reallocation of factors of production (land, labour, capital and entrepreneurship) from contracting production unities to expanding ones in the “creative destruction” process characteristic of economic growth. It results as a result of underutilization of the factors of production and this happens for a short term period e.g underutilization of land for production leaving huge expanse of land unused likewise underutilization of labour where people are left unemployed as a result of low demand for them or fixing labour in functions not in tandem with the skills acquired as well as non-availability of capital for effective usage etc.

2.1.4 Youth Unemployment Rate and Nigeria’s Gross Domestic Product

A nation needs its youths to forge ahead at the moment and in years to come. The strength of a nation lies in its people and the innovations developed to meet various economic challenges. The industrial revolution of 1750-1850 saw the rapid rise in industrial mechanization by innovative individuals who were able to see the challenges posed by the need to survive in changing times. This need for survival remains a part of the human trait in a competitive world. The development of science and technology aided

the rapid growth of the period where various forms of machines were being developed from the counting machine, to the planting and production machines as well as the analytic machines which was used to solve complex problems. This was a time when the need to make human existence easy and revolutionize mechanized farming to meet the changing demands of the increasing population. Therefore, subsistence production wasn't the way out.

Various factories, inventions, ideas began to appear on the scene, the standard of living of the people saw a rapid improvement. Various authors have agreed that the revolution was triggered by the increasing innovativeness of the youths at the time. There was a great movement of people from the rural part of England to the cities where new factories like the wool spinning mills, automobile plants, carpentry shops, banks, construction of the rail roads and the building of the steam engine by James Watt were developed. This created more job opportunities for the youths and most of whom eventually became masters of their trade. Since the major focus of this study is on the Nigerian economy and not that of her colonial master Britain whose economy over the years have improved tremendously compared to her colony Nigeria whose abundance of resources, manpower and level of intellectualism have only contributed more to the impoverishment of her people.

As a way to escape poverty, many youths look for better opportunities by migrating (World Bank, 2019) as there is this belief that travelling abroad is the key to fortune and success. Despite the discovery of crude oil and huge wealth from its sales, the

standard of living of the majority is calamitous as a result of the mismanagement of the oil wealth by the political office holders. The Nigerian economy developed relatively in the most parts of 1970s with respect to the discovery of crude oil. It was a period when “money wasn’t a problem but how to spend it.” The period witnessed the oil boom and also the Udoji award of the 70s where civil servants were given free money and some individuals became millionaires overnight. There was lack of foresight and proper planning of Nigeria’s resources at the period. In the 70s, Nigeria went on a spending spree in order to show her neighbours as well as the world her extravagant way of life and her aversion for savings. This period saw Nigeria built the National theatre and also witnessed the invitation of foreigners into the country during the Festival of Arts and Culture known as Festac’77 where millions of dollars was spent. But ironically, today, Nigeria still remains a developing country despite her abundance of resources with high dependence on foreign loans and increasing rate of unemployment. According to Ogbeidi (2012) despite being a country endowed with natural and high quality human capital it is yet to find its rightful place among comity of nations.

Nigeria as a nation is richly blessed with natural and human resources. Nigeria remains one of the highest oil producing countries in the world with her GDP dependent on it. The country over the years have witnessed series of challenges one associated with ethnical, religious and political issues which have been a source of international debate. According to Tamuno (2016) cited in Odoemelam and Aisien (2023), “nation building refers to the process whereby people transfer their commitment and loyalty to small tribes,

villages or petty principalities to the larger central system. This transfer of commitment and loyalty to the nation as a whole would have a positive impact on the well-being of everyone.” In fact, today it has become an international acceptance that an average Nigerian live below a dollar a day despite its abundance of resources. The National Bureau of Statistics (2016) defined unemployment as covering persons between the ages of 15-64 who during the period were currently available for work, actively seeking for work but were without work. A nation cannot grow if her people are not empowered most especially the youths who are supposed to be the leaders of tomorrow.

According to Osakwe (2023) in the early 80s, the Alhaji Shehu Shagari administration introduced the National Youth Policy (NYP) which was established to meet the burgeoning needs of the youths in the country and enable them to be more productive to themselves and to the nation in general but it remained a policy without much action.

According to the FGN Budget Office (2013), the Federal Ministry of Youth & Social Development proposed spending for 2013 amounted to more than N85billion of which N79billion was spent on recurrent expenditure while N6billion was spent on capital expenditure. The breakdown of the expenditure shows that more than N77billion was to be spent on National Youth Service Corps, more than N70billion was expended as total personnel cost and about N9billion to cover overhead cost. This shows the level of un-seriousness in the ministry while most of the budget money was used to finance

expenses instead of investing in capital expenditures that will cater for the needs of the youths.

It is sad that most of the youths after the completion of their tertiary education in the various universities and at the completion of the one year National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) still have to contend for a job space in the job market. Most of the advertised jobs are few in number and it has become a norm to see thousands of graduates vying for posts meant for one or two successful individuals thereby leaving majority unemployed. According to Patterson, (2016) cited in Emeh, Nwanguma & Abaroh (2022), unemployment is one of the developmental problems that face every developing economy.

According to Adedokun & Oluwagbohunmi (2019) unemployment is a great challenge facing youths in Nigeria. Hamzat (2017) cited in Adedokun & Oluwagbohunmi (2017), posits that ‘the competent and the upright and intelligent youths who had no godfathers or no parents who could give them positions as gifts would never be involved in government.’ There is a need to ensure corrective measures are developed to eradicate and if not reduce the rate to ensure growth and development and reduce crime as an idle hand is said to be the ‘devil’s workshop’ and as Oye, Inuwa & Ahmad (2011) posit, being without a job is indeed an enforced idleness of wage earners who are able and enthusiastic to work but cannot find jobs.

Based on statistics, Nigeria’s Gross Domestic Product have continued to grow over the years despite the increasing number of unemployed in the country. The data

available from the National Bureau of Statistics shows an increase of more than 7trillion naira from 2015 figures to 2016 compared to a figure of 5trillion naira increase from 2014 to 2015 figures. Despite the increase in unemployment rate as well as youth unemployment in Nigeria, her GDP has continued to grow. This growth could be as a result of foreign exchange that accrued to the country from sales of crude oil in the international market since there is a high demand for crude oil all around the world.

According to Asoluka & Okezie (2011), “it is an established economic reality that the size of the workforce directly impacts a country’s GDP. Not only does the workforce contribute to the production of manufactured goods and services or agricultural produce in direct proportion, but also brings in its wake increasing purchasing power, which in turn fuels economic growth.”

2.1.5 Youth Unemployment Rate and Crime Rate in Nigeria

A highly productive economy in the world today has majority of the people being engaged in productive means. Such means like research, training and skill acquisition, building and repairs, technology development, teaching and educating, manufacturing and sales, farming, fishing and weaving etc. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) report of 2011 Nigeria’s unemployment rate increased to 23.9 percent in 2011 compared with 21.1 percent in 2010 and 19.7percent in 2009, as revealed by the National Bureau of Statistics (2011) Nigerian unemployment report shows that the rate is higher in the rural areas (25.6 percent) than in the urban areas (17.1 percent). In 2015, the National Bureau of Statistics figure was quite different, in its report it was stated that the

number of underemployed in the labour force i.e. those working but doing menial jobs not commensurate with their qualifications increased by 1.21million or 9.16%, resulting to an increase in underemployment rate to 18.7% (14.42million persons) in Q4 2015 from Q3 2015 of 17.4% (i.e.13.2m). During the same period the number of unemployed in the labour force increased by 518,102 persons resulting in an increase in unemployment rate to 10.4% in Q4 of 2015 from 9.9% in Q3 of 2015. This shows according to the report that there were a total number of 22.45million people in the Nigerian labour force in Q4 of 2015 that were either unemployed or underemployed compared to 20.7million in Q3 of 2015 and 19.6million in Q2 of 2015. The figures above are indications of increasing rate of unemployment within the Nigerian labour force.

Therefore, there is a need to engage the youths in the affairs of the country as they are young and innovative. Non-engagement of the youths could lead to a greater problem within the society. Relegation of the Nigerian Youths to the background in economic scheme remains a major challenge (Adedokun & Oluwagbohunmi, 2017). Hamzat (2018) cited in Adedokun & Oluwagbohunmi (2017) opines that the inclusion of youths in government is imperative as no nation can prosper without its youth taking key decisions and making significant contributions in government because they are the backbone of any nation and they must never be relegated or neglected. Nigeria is one of the most youthful countries in the world. About 45 percent of the country's population is under the age of fifteen. Thus, it is not surprising that unemployment among the youth (i.e. 15-24 years

age cohort) in Nigeria is 40 percent in rural areas and 49 percent in urban areas in 2005 (ILO, 2011).

We should understand that the devil's workshop is opened for free and various forms of economic sabotage or crime can be easily learnt or developed in such a place as a result of idleness and lack of direction. One of such sabotages is that witnessed in the Niger Delta as a result of militancy as well as that witnessed in the North perpetrated by Boko Haram. According to Fadeyi, Oke, Ajagbe, Isiavwe & Adegbuyi (2015), when there is economic crisis, young people are the ones most likely to be the first to bear the brunt of lay-offs by employers.

The end result has led many of them to go back to the rural areas where the opportunities are lower and some could result to illegal vices. The spate of crime within the society is quite alarming in the country as a result of unemployment. Such heinous crimes like rape, murder, drug dealing, burgling, cultism, ritual killings, prostitution, kidnapping, human trafficking and terrorism are entrenched within the society. The rate by which cultism is growing within the society is at an alarming rate. This illicit 'ism' seems to have jumped the walls of the various tertiary institutions into the streets and neighbourhoods where individuals who are roadside mechanics, transporters, motorcycle and keke napep riders, butchers, apprentices now boast of belonging to an occultic group within the society, thereby unleashing mayhem on neighbourhoods and destroying properties.

Recently, residents of Ikorodu which is a part of Lagos state witnessed the evil perpetrated by an occult group referred to as the ‘badoo boys’ who are responsible for series of killings within Ikorodu and its environs. Such killings were ritualistic in nature with perpetrators smashing the heads of their victims after forcefully gaining access to their victims’ homes and killing all the household and then wiping their bloods with handkerchieves.

Most of the perpetrators of this evil were investigated to be youths who are unemployed but were forced to take an oath to engage in ritual killings for financial gains. Crime has become entrenched in our society today as Adebayo (2013) noted that crime is often seen as a threat to the nation’s security fabric or as a symptom of a breakdown of social order. On April 5, 2018 a bank robbery in Kwara state left scores of people dead while the robbers carted away huge sums of naira notes from the banks after unleashing terror on the Offa community. The robbers who according to the report numbered 30 besieged banks and police posts with sophisticated weapons and hand-grenades, killed policemen and innocent individuals at the bank premises. This incident has raised questions in the country as to engaging the youths to be productive through various empowerment programmes.

2.1.6 Youth Unemployment Rate and Labour Efficiency in Nigeria

The efficiency of labour remains a combination of the totality of the labour force and the number of hours worked. In reality, the totality of the labour force consists of individuals who are willing to work but could not find work. This is a form of

involuntary unemployment as a result of some certain economic factors as would be highlighted subsequently. The efficiency of labour entails the number of hours labour puts into productivity over a period of time. In the views of Aiyedogbon & Ohwofasa (2012) cited in Agbodike, Igbokwe-Ibeto & Umeifekem (2015), the inadequate employment opportunities for the youths have a number of socio-economic, political and moral consequences. Low productivity and chronic poverty are among such consequences. The share of the total population living below the \$1 a day threshold of 46 per cent is higher today than in the 1980s and 1990s in spite significant improvements in the growth of GDP in recent years.” The number of people efficiently engaged in production has declined over the years despite the increasing number of Nigeria’s labour force.

2.1.7 History of Social Work as it Relates to Unemployment

The origin of social welfare could be said to have probably originated with the beginning of human life and their association with others. In the olden days, the spirit of neighbourliness and helping one another to solve problems collectively existed as the normal daily pattern and it is generally recognized that the well-being of one person affects the well-being of his/her neighbours and others around (Skidmore & Thackeray, 2014).

Social welfare and Social work have their roots dated to the past and are rooted in religion. The root of social welfare had its beginning in Europe especially with the

Elizabethan Poor laws of England. However, several unemployment in Europe have set the stage for the development of social welfare and social work in European countries as well as in Nigeria (Skidmore & Thackeray, 2014). The terms social welfare and social work are so closely connected and are often confused and used by people to mean the same thing. However, social welfare includes social work and other related services. The two terms are organized efforts to improve the welfare of those in need of help. Social welfare is an institution which comprises of policies and laws.

Social welfare in a nutshell is the organized societal responses that promote the social well-being of its people by taking care of their physical, emotional, mental, spiritual and economic problems (Oduaran, 2018). The most widely accepted definition of social welfare is given in the Encyclopedia of social work, which states that; Social welfare activities are programs designed specifically and made available to selected people within a nation (Oduaran, 2018). The various definitions of social welfare portray social welfare as being able to promote the well-being and also promote a better functioning of the social order, while social work is a profession that helps people to solve personal, group and community problems and also helps in attaining satisfying personal, group and community relationships through social work practice. It involves problem solving methods.

From what has been said above the two terms describe “conditions which manifest problems confronting segments of society and the actions that ought to be taken

by the social worker to ameliorate the social problems” (Oduaran, 2018). Oduaran has also pointed out that “social welfare describes more a system and social work the act by which the system could be made functional” and hence according to him “to this extent, those who use both terms interchangeably may be justified or excused”(Oduaran, 2018). Stroup (2019) has identified the difference between social welfare and social work by saying that social welfare specifies social situations and social work as “the act of bringing various resources to bear on individual, group and community needs by the application of a scientific method of helping people to help themselves”(quoted in Oduaran, 2018). Social work as an act normally proceeds along the lines of:

1. recognizing a crisis or a problem, and
2. intervening to solve the crisis (Oduaran, 2018)

An appropriate intervention method is selected by the social worker when the social worker recognizes a crisis in an individual, group or a community and this requires some form of act. Thus the social worker helps people to experience a more satisfactory life so that people can function properly in the society. In doing this the social worker meets certain needs of the people. From what has been said above the difference between social welfare and social work is a matter of degree not of a kind as Oduaran has pointed out (Oduaran, 2018).

In recent years social work has been linked to human rights principles. In her work *Understanding Human Rights*, Elisabeth Reichert defines social work as a profession which “promotes social change, problem solving in human relationships, and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance their well-being” (Reichert, 2016). She goes on to say that social work by using “theories of human behaviours and social systems intervene at the points where people interact with their environments. Principles of human rights and social justice are fundamental to social work” (Reichert, 2016). The history of social welfare and social work in Nigeria is similar to that of advanced countries. Industrialization made people to seek for greener pastures in the big cities thereby making the once closely knit family units that initially looked after its members to become disintegrated. With the mass mobilization to the big cities as aftermath of industrialization, social problems begin to crop up hence the need for social welfare programmes to take care of these social problems in the society (Reichert, 2016).

The concept of charitable service or rendering help to others is not new in Nigeria. Among the Yoruba ethnic group of South West Nigeria, the spirit of good neighbourliness had always existed among them which dated back to centuries and which is also largely true of other ethnic groups in Nigeria. Also, Oredo extraction in Edo State have good social network whereby nobody is left behind in the scheme of things (Reichert, 2016). There is the belief that the biological parents of a child are not the only parents of the child but that every grown up individual in the community is the parent

because the custom and tradition permits them to correct, reprimand and instill discipline and morals on any child that is going astray.

This custom and tradition also provides for the care of the sick, the elderly and the handicapped among them (Reichert, 2016). The culture provides for the provision of the welfare of everybody be it young or old at either the family level, within the community or on religious basis. The traditional checks and balances of the elders and other relations were ever present. In those days traditions and customs religiously guided and controlled moral and social behaviours and because of these there was a good level of domestic and social stability (Reichert, 2016).

As a result of urbanization, there is a drift and relocation of individuals to the urban cities hence the movement away from the traditional family settings and a decline in traditional control on individuals and families (Reichert, 2016). Juvenile delinquency became a problem as a result of the rapidly developing urban centers and there arose therefore the need for organized public social services. Social welfare grew out of social demands to prevalent problems. It connotes the welfare of the individual, groups of individuals and the generality of the people.

The Salvation Army was the pioneer of social welfare in Nigeria as way back as 1925. It was running “The Boys Industrial Home” in Lagos. It organized hostel accommodations and ran reformatory schools for juveniles who were beyond parental control and were a menace to the public. Social welfare in its formal conception was

started as a humanitarian work by some Nigerians in Lagos like Prince Akintoye, Messers Eric Bob Manuel, Nelson Cole and Mensah Bobe who came together and was motivated by the pathetic situation of the outbreak of the Second World War (Robinson, 2016).

The children of those men that joined the army absconded from homes and were living on the streets thereby developing delinquent habits. Some of the soldiers who returned home after the war lured a large number of young girls into impromptu marriages which eventually broke down after a while and these girls having been fascinated by city life refused to go back to the villages where they came from and stayed put in the cities especially Lagos thereby constituting social problems in the cities because some of them resorted into prostitution. These led to the formation of the colony welfare services in Lagos (Robinson, 2016).

The colony welfare service which was started in Lagos handled marital problems but it later began to handle other social problems like prostitution and juvenile delinquency (Robinson, 2016). Also a group of concerned men in Lagos came together to form “The Green Triangle Club”. They provided community service to the young children roaming the streets of Lagos who have become destitute. They built a hostel for these children and many of them were accommodated there. The programmes of this club were so impressive to the extent that members of the public who were moved by these programmes provided financial assistance to the club (Robinson, 2016).

2.2 Theoretical Discourse

2.2.1 Systems Theory

The systems approach connotes the systems theory hence Ezeani argued that systems approach is systems theory applied in public administration. For the purpose of analysis, the systems theory cum systems approach is utilized. Systems Theory is the transdisciplinary study of the abstract organization of phenomena, independent of their substance, type, or spatial or temporal scale of existence. It investigates both the principles common to all complex entities, and the (usually mathematical) models which can be used to describe them (Ezeani, 2006).

It was proposed in the 1940's by the biologist Ludwig von Bertalanffy (General Systems Theory, 1968), and furthered by Ross Ashby (Introduction to Cybernetics, 1956). Von Bertalanffy was both reacting against reductionism and attempting to revive the unity of science. He emphasized that real systems are open to, and interact with, their environments, and that they can acquire qualitatively new properties through emergence, resulting in continual evolution. Rather than reducing an entity (e.g. the human body) to the properties of its parts or elements (e.g. organs or cells), systems theory focuses on the arrangement of and relations between the parts which connect them into a whole (cf. holism). This particular organization determines a system, which is independent of the concrete substance of the elements (e.g. particles, cells, transistors, people, etc). Thus, the same concepts and principles of organization underlie the different disciplines (physics, biology, technology, sociology, etc.), providing a basis for their unification. Systems

concepts include: system-environment boundary, input, output, process, state, hierarchy, goal-directedness, and information.

The developments of systems theory are diverse and its applications include engineering, computing, ecology, management, and family psychotherapy. Systems analysis, developed independently of systems theory, applies systems principles to aid a decision-maker with problems of identifying, reconstructing, optimizing, and controlling a system (usually a sociotechnical organization), while taking into account multiple objectives, constraints and resources. It aims to specify possible courses of action, together with their risks, costs and benefits. Systems theory is closely connected to cybernetics, and also to system dynamics, which models changes in a network of coupled variables.

Almost every process can be divided into INPUT, PROCESS and OUTPUT; same is applicable in public administration as the systems approach to the study of public administration revealed. Unemployment and youth unemployment per se is under the study of public administration and the solution embedded in youth development is also of public administration concern. Therefore a study of youth unemployment and youth development in Nigeria should be studied with systems approach and to ensure that, the systems theory becomes eminent.

According to the systems theorists, “a system is essentially an assemblage of things interconnected or independent, so as to form a complex unity” (Koontz in Ezeani 2006). All systems except perhaps the university interact with and are influenced by their

environment (political, social, economic, ethical, technological etc) and in turn, influence its environment. An important element in the systems approach is the emphasis on input-output analysis (Ezeani, 2006). Worthy of note is that a system needs support from environment in order to survive. Thus, it receives inputs of support such as payment of taxes, obedience to rules and regulations etc. equally important is the fact that consequent upon the outputs, some new inputs are generated and fed back into the system through the feedback mechanism.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Research method deals with the system and procedure for gathering relevant data and information concerning a particular research project. This chapter therefore focuses on the research design, population of study, sample size and sampling method amongst others.

3.2 Research Design

This study is designed to collect quantitative data through the survey design. The essence is to collect accurate information needed to address the objective of the study. This study therefore adopts the cross-sectional survey design whereby the researcher contacted the research participants once to administer and retrieve the research questionnaire.

3.3 Population of Study

The population for the study was '480' entire population of social work students (full-time), Faculty of social science 100level to 400level University of Benin. (HOD office, dept of Social Work)

3.4 Sample size

The sample size is arrived at by the use of number estimation formula as suggested by Taro Yamane 1967 as calculated below. The sample size for this study was 218. And it been justify by Taro Yamane 1967

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

Where n – sample size

N- Population size

(e) – the percentage of level of significant

Therefore $n = \frac{480}{1 + 480(0.05)^2}$

$$n = \frac{480}{1 + 480(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{480}{1 + 1.2}$$

$$n = \frac{480}{2.2}$$

$$n = 218.181$$

$$n = 218.181$$

$$n = 218.181$$

$$n = 218.181$$

$$n = 218.181$$

$$n = 218.181$$

$$n = 218.181 \text{ approximately } 218$$

$$\text{Therefore } n = 218$$

3.5 Sampling Technique

In this study, a non-probability sampling procedure: i.e. accidental sampling technique was used in selecting students in each level in the department by the researcher.

3.6 Instrument of Data Collection

The instrument used for data collection is a structured questionnaire which is a major instrument used for gathering data in survey research. The instrument was administered to participants at their convenience on one on one basis not by proxy and left alone to complete the questions designed to sample their opinion on social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria youths, using Oredo Local Government in Edo State as a case study. The questionnaires will be divided into five (5) sections.

Section 'A' describes the demographic characteristics of the respondents such as age differences, sex, faculties, level, religion, and marital status.

Section 'B' describes and examines social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria Youths

Section 'C' also examines the relationship between the youth unemployment rate and the gross domestic product of Nigeria.

Section 'D' explores the relationship between youth unemployment rate and the rate of crime in Nigeria.

Section 'E' explores the relationship between youth unemployment and labour efficiency in Nigeria.

3.7 Validity of the Instrument

The validation of the questionnaire was undertaken by the researchers' supervisor to ascertain suitability and appropriateness for the research and one other expert in the Department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City. Their suggestions and criticism will make up the final copy.

3.8 Methods of Data Collection

The study employed both primary and secondary sources of data collection. The primary source of data is the use of the structured questionnaire. The structured questionnaire is one of the instruments that were used in collecting the data for this study. The questionnaires were self-administered by the researcher so as to minimize error in the instrument when returned. The researcher used each lecture timetables to administer the questionnaire when the student will be lecture free to enable the respondents answer the questionnaire guide conveniently.

The questionnaire comprised two sections- the first section covered social demographic and socio-economic variables of the participants while the second section comprises questions aimed at providing answers to the research questions in the study.

3.4 Method of Data Analysis

The data was organized in tables using simple percentages. The simple percentages were used to present the frequency counts and percentage represents action of respondents' responses to the issues raised.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter contains the data presentation, analysis and interpretations of the various data collected for this study. Consequently, it entails the application of both mathematics and statistical techniques to provide the basis for analyzing the research objectives listed in chapter one. Hence, it is a vital part of this study since it forms the basis for conclusion and policy recommendations.

4.2 Data Presentation and Analytical Techniques

Tables and percentages were used in this chapter in this research work, the use of table was the most appropriate means of interpreting information for easy understanding. In analyzing the data, judgment was based on the number of favourable or unfavourable responses received on each statement in the questionnaire. Generally, the favourable responses are, “strongly agree” and “agree” while the unfavourable responses are “strongly disagree” and “disagree”. The results of the data collected are analyzed below based on each research questions, and out of the two hundred and eighteen (218) questionnaire distributed, two hundred (200) questionnaire were well completed and valid for analysis of this study. The two hundred (200) questionnaire retrieved represent 95 percent of total distributed questionnaire.

Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

Table 4.1: Frequency and percentage relating to age, sex, level, religion, income of the parents/sponsors and marital status of respondents

Age distribution of respondents	Frequency	Percentages %
18 - 20 years	30	9.7
21-25 years	110	64.2
26-30 years	50	25.3
31-35 years	10	0.8
Total	200	100
Sex distribution of respondents	Frequency	Percentages %
Male	60	31.3
Female	140	68.7
Total	200	100
Level	Frequency	Percentage
1001	0	0
2001	19	4.2
3001	81	43.7
4001	100	52.1
Total	200	100
Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Christianity	192	98.4
Muslim	6	0.8
ATR	0	0
Others	2	0.8
Total	200	100
Marital Status	Frequency	Percentages %
Single	191	97.6
Married	9	2.1
Divorced	0	0
Separated	0	0
Total	200	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

From table 4.1 above, 9.7% of the total respondents are between the age brackets of 18-20 years; 64.2% of the total respondents are between the age brackets of 21-25;

25.3% percent of the total respondents are between the age brackets of 26-30 years while 0.8% of the total respondents are between the age brackets of 31-35years. Furthermore, 31.3 percent of the total respondents are male while 68.7 percent of the total respondents are female. This implies that majority of the respondents are female. The table further shows that 0 percent of the total respondent is 100L; 4.2 percent of the total respondent are in 200L; 43.6 percent of the total respondents are in 300L while 52.1 percent of the total respondents are in 400L.

Under the religion it was indicated that 98.4 percent of the respondents are practicing Christianity; 0.8 percent of the respondents are Muslim; 0 percent is ATR while 0.8 percent of the respondents are others. This implies that the majority of the respondents are Christians. Lastly, under the marital status of the respondents, it shows that 97.6 percent of the total respondents' are single; none of the total respondents are separated; none were divorced while 2.1 percent of the total respondents' were married. This implies that the majority of the respondents' single.

Research Question one: What are the social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria Youths?

Table 4.2: Frequency and percentage of the social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria Youths

Strengthening technical and vocational education and training institutions to equip youth with practical skills in industries like construction, agriculture, ICT and manufacturing.	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	74	43.7
Agree	76	48.9
Disagree	24	3.2

Strongly Disagree	26	4.2
Total	200	100
Establishing mentorship frameworks to pair young entrepreneurs with industry veterans, providing guidance and support.		
	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	98	44.2
Agree	68	42.9
Disagree	20	8.4
Strongly Disagree	14	4.5
Total	200	100
Providing government backed microcredit schemes, low-interest loans and grants to support youth-led startups.		
	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	68	27.4
Agree	94	32.6
Disagree	30	24.2
Strongly Disagree	8	15.8
Total	200	100
Educating young people on self-help and cooperative initiatives to promote community development and employment inclusiveness		
	Frequency	Percentages
Strongly Agree	20	5.3
Agree	38	13.7
Disagree	78	43.1
Strongly Disagree	64	37.8
Total	200	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Interpretation;

Table 4.2 above reveals that 43.7 percent of the total respondents were strongly agree; 48.9 percent of the respondents agreed; 3.2 percent of the respondents disagreed and 4.2 percent of the respondents strongly disagree that strengthening technical and vocational education and training institutions to equip youth with practical skills in industries like construction, agriculture, ICT and manufacturing is one of the social work

intervention. It was also reveals that 44.2 percent of the total respondents strongly agree; 42.9 percent of the total respondents agreed; 8.4 percent of the total respondents disagreed while 4.5 percent of the population strongly disagreed that establishing mentorship frameworks to pair young entrepreneurs with industry veterans, providing guidance and support.

It was also indicated that 27.4 percent of total respondents strongly agreed that providing government backed microcredit schemes, low-interest loans and grants to support youth-led startups; 32.6 percent of the total respondents agreed, 24.2 of the total respondents disagreed to the statement, while 15.8 percent of the total respondents strongly disagreed.

It was also indicated that 5.3 percent of total respondents strongly agree that educating young people on self-help and cooperative initiatives to promote community development and employment inclusiveness, 13.7 percent of the total respondents agreed to the statement, 43.1 percent of the total respondents disagree that educating young people on self-help and cooperative initiatives to promote community development and employment inclusiveness and lastly 37.8 percent of the total respondents strongly disagree that educating young people on self-help and cooperative initiatives to promote community development and employment inclusiveness.

Research Question Two: What is the relationship between the youth unemployment rate and the gross domestic product of Nigeria?

Table 4.3: Frequency and percentage of the relationship between the youth unemployment rate and the gross domestic product of Nigeria

GDP growth has a negative correlation with unemployment rates in Nigeria	Frequency	Percentages
Strongly Agree	74	43.1
Agree	86	45.3
Disagree	22	8.4
Strongly Disagree	18	3.2
Total	200	100
The lesser the unemployment rate, the greater the GDP growth		
Strongly Agree	66	35.8
Agree	89	47.1
Disagree	30	10.0
Strongly Disagree	15	7.1
Total	200	100
Economic growth may be contributing to job creation for young people		
Strongly Agree	13	12.6
Agree	39	19.7
Disagree	104	40.5
Strongly Disagree	53	27.1
Total	200	100
Policies aimed at promoting economic growth and job creation can help reduce unemployment rates particularly among youths		
Strongly Agree	114	51.1
Agree	66	42.4
Disagree	12	3.7
Strongly disagree	8	2.9
Total	200	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

It was also indicated that 43.2 percent of total respondents strongly agree that GDP growth has a negative correlation with unemployment rates in Nigeria, 45.3 percent of the total respondents agree to the same statement, 8.4 percent of the total respondents disagreed, while 3.2 percent of the total respondents strongly disagree to the same statement.

It was also showed that 35.8 percent of total respondents strongly agree that the lesser the unemployment rate, the greater the GDP growth, 47.1 percent of the total respondents agree that, 10.0 percent of the total respondents disagree, while 7.1 percent of the total respondents strongly disagree.

It was also revealed that 12.6 percent of total respondents strongly agree that economic growth may be contributing to job creation for young people, 19.7 percent of the total respondents agreed, 40.0 percent of the respondents disagreed to the statement, while 27.1 percent of the total respondents strongly disagreed

It was also revealed that 51.1 percent of total respondents strongly agreed that policies aimed at promoting economic growth and job creation can help reduce unemployment rates particularly among youths, 42.4 percent of the total respondents agreed, 3.7 percent of the total respondents disagreed to the statement, while 2.9 percent of the total respondents strongly disagreed.

Research Question Three: What is the relationship between youth unemployment rate and the rate of crime in Nigeria?

Table 4.4: Frequencies and percentages on the relationship between youth unemployment rate and the rate of crime in Nigeria

Increase in youth unemployment leads to an increase in crime rates	Frequency	Percentages
Strongly Agree	92	40.0
Agree	86	41.1
Disagree	19	11.6
Strongly Disagree	3	7.4
Total	200	100
The impact of youth unemployment on crime rates varies across regions.	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	68	38.9
Agree	104	53.6
Disagree	20	5.3
Strongly Disagree	8	2.1
Total	200	100
Existing government programs such as the national youth service corps and national social investment program aim to reduce youth unemployment and crime rates	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	118	55.5
Agree	74	43.2
Disagree	5	0.8
Strongly Disagree	3	0.5
Total	200	100
Unemployment has driven many young Nigerians to engage in cybercrime which negatively impacts and increase cyber insecurity.	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	72	37.3
Agree	102	53.2
Disagree	14	5.0
Strongly Disagree	12	4.5
Total	200	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 4.4 above shows that 40.0 percent, 41.1 percent, 11.6 percent and 7.6 percent of the total respondents strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that increase in youth unemployment leads to an increase in crime rates. It was also shows that 38.9 percent, 53.6 percent, 5.3 percent and 2.1 percent of the total respondents strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates varies across regions. It was also shown that 55.5 percent, 43.2 percent, 0.8 percent and 0.5 percent of the total respondents are strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that existing government programs such as the national youth service corps and national social investment program aim to reduce youth unemployment and crime rates. It was also indicated that 37.3 percent, 53.2 percent, 5.0 percent and 4.5 percent of the total respondents strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively that unemployment has driven many young Nigerians to engage in cybercrime which negatively impacts and increase cyber insecurity.

Research Question four: What is the relationship between youth unemployment and labour efficiency in Nigeria?

Table 4.5: Frequency and percentage of the relationship between youth unemployment and labour efficiency in Nigeria.

Many Nigerian youths graduate with qualifications that don't align with labour market demands, contributing to unemployment and underemployment	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	74	43.7
Agree	76	48.9
Disagree	24	3.2
Strongly Disagree	26	4.2

Total	200	100
Informal employment and time-related underemployment suggest labor efficiency could be improved with more productive and formal job opportunities	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	98	44.2
Agree	68	42.9
Disagree	20	8.4
Strongly Disagree	14	4.5
Total	200	100
Urban rates experience higher unemployment rates compared to rural areas, highlighting the need for targeted interventions	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	68	27.4
Agree	94	32.6
Disagree	30	24.2
Strongly Disagree	8	15.8
Total	200	100
Reforming the education system to match labour market needs could improve youth employability	Frequency	Percentages
Strongly Agree	20	5.3
Agree	38	13.7
Disagree	78	43.1
Strongly Disagree	64	37.8
Total	200	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Interpretation;

Table 4.5 above reveals that 43.7 percent of the total respondents were strongly agree; 48.9 percent of the respondents agreed; 3.2 percent of the respondents disagreed and 4.2 percent of the respondents strongly disagree that many Nigerian youths graduate with qualifications that don't align with labour market demands, contributing to unemployment and underemployment. It was also reveals that 44.2 percent of the total respondents strongly agree; 42.9 percent of the total respondents agreed; 8.4 percent of

the total respondents disagreed while 4.5 percent of the population strongly disagreed that informal employment and time-related underemployment suggest labor efficiency could be improved with more productive and formal job opportunities.

It was also indicated that 27.4 percent of total respondents strongly agreed urban rates experience higher unemployment rates compared to rural areas, highlighting the need for targeted interventions; 32.6 percent of the total respondents agreed, 24.2 of the total respondents disagreed to the statement, while 15.8 percent of the total respondents strongly disagreed.

It was also indicated that 5.3 percent of total respondents strongly agree that reforming the education system to match labour market needs could improve youth employability, 13.7 percent of the total respondents agreed to the statement, 43.1 percent of the total respondents disagree that reforming the education system to match labour market needs could improve youth employability and lastly 37.8 percent of the total respondents strongly disagreed that reforming the education system to match labour market needs could improve youth employability.

4.3 Discussion of findings

Research question one: What are the social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria Youths?

The study emphasis on the social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria youths, using Oredo Local Government in Edo State. For the purpose of this study, four

(4) research questions were raised and appropriate answers were provided by the respondents through administration of questionnaire.

The first research question stated the social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria Youths, 43.7 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that to strengthening technical and vocational education and training institutions to equip youth with practical skills in industries like construction, agriculture, ICT and manufacturing, 48.9 percent of the total respondents agree to the same statement, 3.2 percent disagreed, 4.2 percent of the total respondents strongly disagreed. If the opinion of the respondents is accepted, then we may accept the fact that strengthening technical and vocational education and training institutions to equip youth with practical skills in industries like construction, agriculture, ICT and manufacturing is one of the social work intervention on youth unemployment among the Nigerian youth.

It was also discussed that establishing mentorship frameworks to pair young entrepreneurs with industry veterans, providing guidance and support with 44.2 percent of the total respondents strongly agreeing to the statement, 42.9 percent agreed, 8.4 percent of the total respondents agreed and lastly 4.5 percent strongly disagreed. This simply implies that establishing mentorship frameworks to pair young entrepreneurs with industry veterans, providing guidance and support is one of those interventions.

It was also discussed that providing government backed microcredit schemes, low-interest loans and grants to support youth-led startups with 27.4 percent of the total respondents strongly agreeing with the statement, 32.6 percent agreed, 24.2 percent

disagreed, 15.8 percent of the total respondents strongly disagreed. If the opinion of this majority is anything to go by then we may accept that providing government backed microcredit schemes, low-interest loans and grants to support youth-led startups is also an intervention by social worker.

It revealed the fact that educating young people on self-help and cooperative initiatives to promote community development and employment inclusiveness with almost all the respondents agreeing to that. Following the analysis, it is very clear that the social workers have educated young people on self-help and cooperative initiatives to promote community development and employment inclusiveness.

Research question two: What is the relationship between the youth unemployment rate and the gross domestic product of Nigeria?

Under research question two, the relationship between youth unemployment rate and the gross domestic product of Nigeria was revealed.

It was revealed that GDP growth has a negative correlation with unemployment rates in Nigeria, 43.1 percent of the total respondents strongly agreed to it, 45.3 percent agreed, 8.4 percent disagree, while 3.2 percent of the total respondents strongly disagreed. This implies that GDP growth has a negative correlation with unemployment rates in Nigeria.

In the same vein, it was discussed that the lesser the unemployment rate, the greater the GDP growth, the percentage of positives response higher; this means the statement is true.

Furthermore, it was discussed if economic growth may be contributing to job creation for young people; it was also revealed that economic growth may be contributing to job creation for young people.

Research question three: What is the relationship between youth unemployment rate and the rate of crime in Nigeria?

Furthermore, it was revealed that increase in youth unemployment leads to an increase in crime rates. It was revealed that 40.0 percent of the respondents strongly agree, 41.1 percent agree, 11.6 percent of the total respondents disagree, while 7.4 percent of the respondents strongly disagree. If the opinion of this majority is anything to go by then we may accept that increase in youth unemployment leads to an increase in crime rates.

Findings still made us understand that the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates varies across regions, it was also revealed that existing government programs such as the national youth service corps and national social investment program aim to reduce youth unemployment and crime rates, findings made us understand that unemployment has driven many young Nigerians to engage in cybercrime which negatively impacts and increase cyber insecurity.

Research question four: What is the relationship between youth unemployment and labour efficiency in Nigeria?

43.7 percent of the respondents strongly agreed that many Nigerian youths graduate with qualifications that don't align with labour market demands, contributing to unemployment and underemployment, 48.9 percent of the total respondents agree to the

same statement, 3.2 percent disagreed, 4.2 percent of the total respondents strongly disagreed. If the opinion of the respondents is accepted, then we may accept the fact that many Nigerian youths graduate with qualifications that don't align with labour market demands, contributing to unemployment and underemployment.

It was also discussed that urban rates experience higher unemployment rates compared to rural areas, highlighting the need for targeted interventions, 44.2 percent of the total respondents strongly agreeing to the statement, 42.9 percent agreed, 8.4 percent of the total respondents agreed and lastly 4.5 percent strongly disagreed. This simply implies that urban rates experience higher unemployment rates compared to rural areas, highlighting the need for targeted interventions

It was also discussed that reforming the education system to match labour market needs could improve youth employability with 27.4 percent of the total respondents strongly agreeing with the statement, 32.6 percent agreed, 24.2 percent disagreed, 15.8 percent of the total respondents strongly disagreed. If the opinion of this majority is anything to go by then we may accept that reforming the education system to match labour market needs could improve youth employability.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Introduction

This chapter presented the summary conclusion and recommendations of the study based on the results of the findings.

5.2. Summary

This study titled “Social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria youths, using Oredo Local Government in Edo State” was structured into five chapters to effectively carry out this research. The study raised four objectives that guided the study. Based on these objectives, research questions were formulated, the assumptions and significance of the study were highlighted, scope and delimitations were also discussed. Chapter two reviewed literature related to the research topic. The review critically examined and analyzed the views of some psychologists and other concerned scholars on the concepts. The theoretical frame work used is the systems theory. In chapter three the design and methodology of the study were discussed. The research design was a cross-sectional survey design, the population of the study comprised of all sociology and anthropology 100level to 400level (full time) students of the University of Benin. A total of 218 students were sampled using simple random sampling procedure. Two instruments were used for data collection, the questionnaire. The returned questionnaires were analyzed using simple percentage table. Chapter four presented the analysis of the data

collected which were analyzed through the use of descriptive and inferential statistics.

The findings in this study after the analysis gave the following results:

1. It was discovered that, there are social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria Youths.
2. Finding also revealed that there is a relationship between the youth unemployment rate and the gross domestic product of Nigeria.
3. Finding also revealed that there is a relationship between youth unemployment rate and the rate of crime in Nigeria.
4. It was also revealed that there is a relationship between youth unemployment and labour efficiency in Nigeria

5.3. Conclusion

The study established that social workers in Nigeria recognise the existence of social policies aimed at reducing youth unemployment, a persistent social issue in the country. Although successive governments have formulated policies and implemented strategies to mitigate this challenge, social workers have remained relatively uninvolved in youth development programmes within the agencies and organisations where they could collaborate with other key stakeholders in the social sector. Furthermore, the research highlights a disconnect between government policy formulation and the implementation of strategies to combat youth unemployment. Current governmental policies and programmes have not effectively increased youth employability, inclusiveness, or entrepreneurial opportunities, resulting in the continuation of high youth unemployment

rates. The government has also failed to create an enabling environment conducive to sustainable public-private partnerships that could engage actors from both the private and social sectors in addressing youth unemployment. The roles of social workers are not effectively integrated into the relationship between social policy and social action, contributing to the ongoing youth unemployment crisis in Nigeria. Case management, intervention work, assessment and evaluation, and programme facilitation by social workers have not been incorporated into the development and execution of social policies. Additionally, social workers have not fully utilised technology and artificial intelligence for data collection, research, and advocacy aimed at reducing youth unemployment.

5.4 Recommendations

The following recommendations are suggested as a result of the findings of the study:

1. **Professional Development:** Professional associations, such as the National Association of Social Workers (NASoW), should implement membership education and continuing education programmes for recertification, ensuring members stay informed about social welfare policies and programmes. This initiative will empower them to engage relevant stakeholders effectively in efforts to reduce youth unemployment.
2. **Curriculum Enhancement:** Higher education institutions offering Social Work programmes should enrich their curricula and students' fieldwork experiences to include active participation in policy consultation and advocacy for youth employment, entrepreneurship, and inclusion through community development initiatives.

3. Collaboration with Government Agencies: The leadership of social work professional associations should collaborate with international agencies and relevant government bodies to consistently engage in policy reviews and programme implementations that ensure the active participation of social workers in bridging the gaps between social policy and social action.

4. Creating an Enabling Environment: Government agencies should strive to create an environment conducive to constructive social actions from the human services sector. This environment should encourage engagement with unemployed youth and other stakeholders, harmonising various government programmes through collaborative monitoring and evaluation processes to enhance the effectiveness of pro-social initiatives for Nigerian youth.

5. Innovative Interventions: Social workers should collaborate with other human services practitioners to deploy innovative interventions that utilize technology and artificial intelligence. These interventions should focus on providing institutional psychosocial support, including community development, transitional life skills, and entrepreneurial training to promote self-reliance and economic independence among youth navigating unemployment challenges.

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**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY
QUESTIONNAIRE ON**

**Social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria youths, using Oredo
Local Government in Edo State**

Dear Respondents,

Request to fill Questionnaire

I am an undergraduate student of the Department of Social work, Faculty of Social Science, University of Benin, Benin City in Edo State. I am presently carrying out a research study titled ‘**Social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria youths, using Oredo Local Government in Edo State**’ Kindly help to complete the questionnaire as your frank response will help this research. It is purely for academic purpose and the information you provide will be treated as confidential and will be used only for the purpose of the research.

Thanks you for your cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

Divine Raphael

Please kindly tick (√) on your choice of answer

Section A: Demographic response

SECTION A: Socio demographic characteristics

1. Gender: Male [] Female []
2. Age: 16-20 [], 21-25 [], 26-30 [], 30 and above [].
3. Level: 100level [], 200level [], 300level [], 400level []
4. Marital Status: Single [], Married [], Divorced [], Separated [], Widowed [].
5. Religion: Christianity [], Islam [], Traditionalist [], Others []

Sections B: SA-Strongly agree, A-Agree, D-Disagree, SD-Strong Disagree

S/N	RESEARCH QUESTION	SA	A	D	SD
RQ1	What are the social work intervention on unemployment among the Nigeria Youths?				
1	Strengthening technical and vocational education and training institutions to equip youth with practical skills in industries like construction, agriculture, ICT and manufacturing.				
2	Establishing mentorship frameworks to pair young entrepreneurs with industry veterans, providing guidance and support.				
3	Providing government backed microcredit schemes, low-interest loans and grants to support youth-led startups.				
4	Educating young people on self-help and cooperative initiatives to promote community development and employment inclusiveness				
RQ2	What is the relationship between the youth unemployment rate and the gross domestic product of Nigeria?				

5	GDP growth has a negative correlation with unemployment rates in Nigeria				
6	The lesser the unemployment rate, the greater the GDP growth				
7	Economic growth may be contributing to job creation for young people				
8	Policies aimed at promoting economic growth and job creation can help reduce unemployment rates particularly among youths.				
RQ3	What is the relationship between youth unemployment rate and the rate of crime in Nigeria?				
9	Increase in youth unemployment leads to an increase in crime rates.				
10	The impact of youth unemployment on crime rates varies across regions.				
11	Existing government programs such as the national youth service corps and national social investment program aim to reduce youth unemployment and crime rates.				
12	Unemployment has driven many young Nigerians to engage in cybercrime which negatively impacts and increase cyber insecurity.				
RQ4	What is the relationship between youth unemployment and labour efficiency in Nigeria?				
13	Many Nigerian youths graduate with qualifications that don't align with labour market demands, contributing to unemployment and underemployment.				
14	Informal employment and time-related underemployment suggest labor efficiency could be improved with more productive and formal job opportunities.				
15	Urban rates experience higher unemployment rates compared to rural areas, highlighting the need for targeted interventions				
16	Reforming the education system to match labour market needs could improve youth employability				