

**THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP STYLE IN THE REDUCTION OF  
YOUTH RESTIVENESS IN OVIA SOUTH WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF EDO  
STATE**

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BENIN CITY**

**MARCH, 2024**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADULT AND NON-  
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(B.Ed.) IN ADULT AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION**

**MARCH, 2024**

**CERTIFICATION**

We the undersigned hereby certify that this research project was conducted by Rebecca Chinenye Onwucheka with MAT NO. EDU1902828 in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) in Adult Education, Faculty of Education University of Benin, Benin City

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## **DEDICATION**

This study is dedicated to the Almighty God for his divine mercy, love, wisdom, understanding, strength and provision

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## ABSTRACT

The study investigates the role of local government leadership style in the reduction of youth restiveness in Ovia South West Local Government Area of Edo State. . Four (4) research questions were raised to guide the study:

A sample size of Four Hundred and Fifty (450) respondents, selected through simple random sampling technique was used for the study. In this wise, thirty youths were selected from each of the Twelve (12) wards to constitute a reasonable sample size for the study. The respondents within the age bracket of 15-30 years were used for the study. Questionnaire was the major instrument used for data collection and data was analyzed through the use of frequency count and simple percentages

Findings revealed that the provision of job opportunities to a very large extent and large extent can reduce youth restiveness, that the strategies employed by the local government leadership to reduce youth restiveness are; equitable distribution of income and basic political freedom, full-time employment of the youths, provision of free and functional quality education for the youth and involvement of the youths in politics, It was further revealed that that provision of job opportunities to a very large extent and large extent can reduce youth restiveness and that the effects of youth restiveness in the area; proliferation of political thuggery, crime, kidnapping discontent and disrespect for elders. It was therefore recommended that government should provide functional and free education to the citizens as this will advance the level of country literacy and awareness. Our elites should also be re-educated and re-oriented as they have been accused of causing or employing youth in achieving their political objectives. It was further recommended that creation of jobs and employment opportunities to our youth would also hinder them from all restive activities as joblessness makes them willing tools in any conflict.

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### **Background to the Study**

Restiveness among youths has become a major global topical issue. Youth restiveness portrays man's negative side of social development. This negative development has become one of the many security challenges facing man in contemporary society. On many occasions, lives and properties worth millions of naira are destroyed or vandalised, while some have been razed down by restive youths. Young people are filled with energy and when this energy is positively channelled or guarded, they are highly productive, and hence they are likely to contribute to the overall development of the society. On the other hand, when the energy is negatively channelled, restiveness and its resultant effects are likely to be felt. Chika and Onyene (2010) observed that to be restive is to be unable to stay still, or unwilling to be controlled, especially because one is bored or not satisfied with certain decisions, change or existing laws considered to be unfavourable.

Youth restiveness is a despicable act being perpetrated by a significant proportion of the youth in various communities that can no longer be ignored. As the name implies, it is a combination of any action or conduct that constitutes unwholesome socially unacceptable and un-worthwhile activities engaged in by the youths in any community. It is a phenomenon which in practice has led to a near breakdown of law and order, low productivity due to disruption of production activities, increasing crime rate, intra-ethnic hostilities, and harassment of prospective developers and other criminal tendencies. Though Youth restiveness in Nigeria is not a recent phenomenon, it has been a prominent issue in recent times. There has been an increase in the occurrence of acts of violence and lawlessness, including things like hostage-taking of prominent citizens and expatriate oil workers, as well as oil bunkering, arms insurgence, cultism, etc. Various forms of youth restiveness that are economically, politically, or religiously motivated have existed for a long time (Elegbeleye, 2005). Igbo and Ikpa (2013) noted that poverty, unemployment and lack of educational opportunities were responsible for the high level of insecurity orchestrated by youth restiveness.

One of the main statutory functions of local government is to take development to the grassroots. Thus it becomes necessary that few individuals be delegated through elections to represent the larger populace since everyone cannot be at leadership positions at the same time. Leadership is the pre-eminence of one or a few individuals in a group responsible for the process of organizing, controlling, administering and management of the day to day affairs of organizations or societal phenomena (Ahmad, 2009).

Torrington, Hall and Taylor (2005), reveals three basic leadership styles as: autocratic; democratic and laissez-faire leadership style. When leaders are autocratic, chance are that they would take decisions without anyone's approval and this may generate conflicts (Ojo, 2007). In contrast, democratic or participative leadership takes into consideration the wishes and suggestions of members to serve the public. It is a human relations approach where all members of the groups are seen as important contributors to the final decisions through shared information and idea among group members (Odimegwu, 2002). This type of leadership style may slow down decisions making but displays leadership accountability. Unfortunately, most local government leadership only claim to be democratic but autocratic in

the real sense of it. This usually results in friction and conflicts of interest especially with the youths who appears to be forgotten after elections (Almad, 2009). However, this study sets out to ascertain whether local government leadership styles are instrumental to youth restiveness in Ovia South West local government area of Edo State

### **Statement of the Problem**

The rate at which young people in Ovia South West local government engage in drug abuse, cultism, and other violent related activities is quite alarming. One therefore, questions whether the local government administrative authority is responsible to the needs, yearnings and aspirations of the youths which is part of their primary responsibilities. If the needs of the youth are met, chances are that societies would experience peace and harmony to facilitate growth and development (Igwe, 2013). This study was carried out to establish whether local government leadership triggers restiveness among the youths by denying them access to personal and community development. The major problem of this study therefore, is to investigate the role of local government leadership style in the reduction of youth restiveness in Ovia South West Local Government area of Edo state.

## **Research Questions**

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. What are the causes of youth restiveness in the area?
2. What are the strategies employed by the local government leadership to reduce youth restiveness in the Local Government?
3. To what extent will job opportunities reduce youth restiveness in the area?
4. What are the effects of youth restiveness in the Local Government?

## **Purpose of the Study**

The main aim of this study is to investigate the Role of local government leadership style in curbing Youth Restiveness in Ovia South West local government area of Edo State. To this end, the study seeks to achieve the following specific objectives:

- i. To find out the causes of youth restiveness in the area
- ii. To determine the strategies employed by the local government leadership to reduce youth restiveness in the Local Government
- iii. To examine the extent job opportunities can reduce youth restiveness in the area
- iv. To find out the effects of youth restiveness in the Local Government

## **Significance of the Study**

The findings of the study will be significant to the following persons: individuals, policy makers, Government and researchers.

The finding of this study will be of great importance to policy makers and decision makers at every level of governance including the Federal, State and Local government as well as the traditional institution. It will generate data on the influence of the programme on the people. This will help to inform policy adjustments where necessary.

To the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) it will enable them develop interest on youth affairs will also find the results of this study useful. It will enable them evolve new strategies that can be adopted in the quest to help youths redirect their energies into profitable endeavours. It will also enable them see the need to strengthen efforts aimed at empowering the youth through in the area.

The youths Ovia South West local government and all over the State will no doubt benefit from the outcome of this study. It will help identify the issues surrounding the causes of youth restiveness in the area and the possible ways to resolve them.

The findings of this study will also be significant to students, researchers and readers, not only as an addition to knowledge or existing literature but as a ready reference material that could form a basis for further research.

Finally, the findings of the study will also help expand the frontiers of knowledge by contributing to existing stock of knowledge in the area.

### **Scope/Delimitation of the Study**

The research study is centered on the Role of local government leadership style in the Reduction of Youth Restiveness in Ovia South West local government area of Edo State. The study will intends find out the causes of youth restiveness in the area, determine the strategies employed by the local government leadership to reduce youth restiveness in the Local Government, examine the extent job opportunities can reduce youth restiveness in the area and find out the effects of youth restiveness in the Local Government

## **Definition of Terms**

For the purpose of clear understanding, the following terms are operationally defined according to their usage in this study;

**Restiveness Youth:** This refers to all unlawful and anti-social activities in which youths are involved in Ovia South West local government area of Edo State

**Local Government:** Third tier level of government usually at the grassroots area

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

This chapter deals with the review of relevant and related literature on this study. It shall be discussed under the following sub-headings:

- Concept of Leadership
- Meaning of Youth Restiveness
- Causes of Youth Restiveness
- Effects of Youth Restiveness
- Strategies for Reduction of Youth Restiveness
- The Role of Job Creation in the Reduction of Youth Restiveness
- Summary of Reviewed Literature

#### **Concept of Leadership**

Leadership is currently one issue that has become a regular topic of discussion. According to Bolden (2004), it is hard to turn on the television, open a newspaper or attend a conference without coming across numerous references to leaders, leadership and leading. The concept of leadership has been a topic of interest for a plethora of individuals from the early Greek philosophers to modern day leadership gurus. It has been argued to occupy a strategic position in the search for development in the socio-political,

economic and religious sphere and life of any nation, developed or underdeveloped (Oruonye, 2013; Ugochukwu, 2002). It is therefore a catalyst.

Leadership has been identified as an important function towards achieving the aims and objectives of a group (organization or society). Omolayo cited in Lawal and Owolabi (2012:5) describes leadership as an “essential oil that keeps the wheel of government working without any difficulty.” It involves giving direction to citizens who are critical assets of the nation. Northouse (2004) defines leadership as a process whereby an individual influences a group of individuals to achieve a common goal. These definitions embody six elementary attributes of leadership as:

- ✓ A process
- ✓ An act
- ✓ An involvement of influence
- ✓ A group context
- ✓ An involvement of goal attainment; and
- ✓ A quintessential pathfinder in directing

Bolden (2004) opines that leadership is a complex phenomenon that touches on many other important organizational, social and personal processes. It

depends on a process of influence, whereby people are inspired towards group goals, not through coercion but through personal motivation.

In our own context and interest, there are some other characteristics of leadership that need to be added to include wisdom, knowledge ability, charisma, comportment, competence, tolerance, focus and accommodating. If an individual entrusted with leadership does not have the above characteristics, it will be difficult for him to lead, to give direction, and for him and his followers to achieve set goals.

In theorizing about leadership, McGregor (1960) opined that certain assumptions determine how a leader performs his functions. He identified two theoretical types of people-leaders, theory X and theory Y. A theory X leader believes that an individual has an inherent dislike for work and will avoid it if possible. Here, the leader believes that coercion is necessary to enforce obedience. On the other hand, a theory Y manager/leader believes that people see work as natural as play and thus, will not avoid work but seek for more responsibilities and perform their tasks under minimal control.

Thus, this type of people-leader combines the qualities of leadership and management. Leaders holding these views about their followers will

hold different assumptions and adopt different approaches to leadership.

Among these approaches are:

- a. Situational leadership,
- b. Transformational leadership,
- c. Charismatic leadership, and
- d. Servant leadership.

Leadership is both an act and a process involving a structural situation in which an individual influences a group of individuals through requisite skills for the purpose of achieving set goals. The leadership question has emerged as a result of the dearth of credible leadership to steer growth, development and productivity. The underdevelopment level of Nigeria's economy, the stark poverty syndrome in the country especially in the rural communities/areas, the spate of ethnic, religious and tribal violence, insecurity in the land, level of criminality, educational and infrastructural decays, level of unemployment especially among youths and graduates, political instability and electoral violence, etc indicate the obvious reality that there is a serious leadership problem in the country. The underdevelopment situation in the rural communities especially necessitated this exploration on leadership question.

Leadership is a sterling ability to move men and material resources for the attendance of enacted policies or the carriage of the resolution of the people. Leadership has either been defined or explained in various ways according to relevant experts. It is important to understand what leadership is in terms of definition, nature and characteristics.

Leadership can be defined as an influenced process. Areas of influence, include official position, financial controls, organizational influence, knowledge, interpersonal contacts; personal characteristics. It involves one person trying to get others do something that he wants them to do. This is influencing the activities of an organized group towards goal setting and achievement. It further implies that a leader must be able to influence the followers towards setting appropriate goals and towards effective achievement. Leadership is a sterling ability to move men and material for the attendance of the enacted policies or the people in such a manner to bring to bear the resources of such resolution. A leader is a coordinator and a participating type so as to bring about functional result in the organizational set up in the community.

Leadership is the ability to influence authority and power to direct and re-direct priorities for effectuating the stipulated goals of an organization.

Rural leadership therefore is the ability of a person designated as a leader to influence and control the community efforts towards the realization of the objective of an area.

### **Meaning of Youth Restiveness**

The advanced learners' dictionary defines a youth as "when a person is young, especially the time before the child becomes an adult" this connotes looking at the bracket of between eighteen- twenty five years and young adults from twenty five years and young adults from twenty five to thirty five years. On the other hand "restive" is defined as unable to be still or quiet, difficult to control especially when one is not satisfied with something. Abdultabil Umar (1998) conceives youth restiveness as a symbolic parricide in which the young generation tiers to humilities and overthrows the instaurations of the parents regardless of issue or consequences. He maintained that most developing countries and Africa in particular, government represents the older generation and in many cases, provides an obstacle to ambitious youths seeking advancement. This inadvertently leads to a tendency towards activism. He further maintained that youths constitutes a force in any political system and that, this has shown that the youths views and interests must be heard and protected.

In Nigeria Youth restiveness has been a prominent issue in recent times. There has been an increase in the occurrence of acts of violence and lawlessness, including things like hostage taking of prominent citizens and expatriate oil workers, as well as oil bunkering, arms insurgency, cultism, etc., especially in the Niger Delta region. Nevertheless, youth restiveness is not a recent phenomenon. Various forms of youth restiveness that are economically, politically, or religiously motivated have existed for a long time (Anasi, 2010). Youth in this context can be seen as young men and women who are no longer children, but not yet adults. Others have gone ahead to give a definitive age bracket to youths as those within the age range of 15- 30 years. In fact, in some cultures in Nigeria it may not be out of place to see people (especially men) of even 40-45 years of age claiming youth membership. Hence, the concept of youth is a relative one: a person is a youth if he or she believes so. On the other hand, youth restiveness refers to a plethora of activities expressed in the form of hostage taking of foreign nationals, local oil workers and citizens for ransom; oil pipe-line blow ups; illegal bunkering; peaceful or violent demonstration; bombing of public places, etc, in the Niger Delta of Nigeria (Epelle, 2010).

In the words of Brown Ogbeifun (2007), youth restiveness comes under different headings as the motivation and orientation of actors differ. He identified forms of restiveness based on actors, motivation and interests as youths engaged in genuine agitation for their rights and restoration of the dignity of their group or race; youths engaged in self seeking and criminal activities such as kidnapping or hostage taking in exchange for levied ransom; youths seeking revenge for the oppressive attitudes toward members of the elite class or a manner of responding to a repressive state. In all there is a unifying factor in the rationalizations of their as expressed in their definitions, which is not being satisfied with their present's state. Of all these categories, youth engaged in genuine agitation are seen as organising legitimate revolt or restiveness that attracts same coverage. The youths in this category see the prevalent socio-economic balance as skewing negatively against the interest of their people. This group of youths get started by using the dialog option before violence and confrontation will be considered as an attractive option. Theory of grievance according to Ogbeifun (2007) often centre around such issues as total disconnection between people and the state in terms of infrastructural development, inspire of spinning resources at the disposal of

the state; poverty; unemployment; economic banditry and sabotage on the part of the government; unfaithful implementation of life affecting programmes; ethnic marginalization and insensitivity to the plights of the people suffering multiple negative effects of environments destruction of the ecosystem through gas flaring, oil spillage, which often render farmlands and rivers barren to the extent that the people may have no option or sources of veritable livelihood; decaying educational, health, water, electricity and road infrastructures. For Chukeuzi (2009) youth restiveness is a despicable act of being perpetrated by a significant portion of the youth in various communities that can no longer be ignored. As the name implies, it is a combination of any action or conduct that constitutes unwholesome socially acceptable and unworthy, while activities engaged in by youths in any community. It is a phenomenon which in practice has led to a near breakdown of law and order, low productivity due to disruption of production activities, increasing crime rate, intra ethnic hostilities, and harassment of prospective developers and other criminal tendencies. Youth restiveness becomes a national crisis going by its disruptive destructible tendencies

## **Causes of Youth Restiveness**

Youth restiveness in Nigeria is manifested through various ways. There has been an increase in the occurrence of acts of violence and lawlessness, including things like hostage-taking of prominent citizens and expatriate oil workers, as well as oil bunkering, arms insurgency, cultism, etc., especially in the Niger Delta region.

Nevertheless, youth restiveness is not a recent phenomenon. The National Youth Development Policy (2001) defines youth as people aged 18-35. They constitute about 40 percent of the more than 140 million people of Nigeria. The total population of youth between 10 and 24 in Nigeria was 45.4 million in 2006, which is 34 percent of the total population. Elegbeleye (2005) defined youth restiveness as “a sustained protestation embarked upon to enforce desired outcome from a constituted authority by an organized body of youths. It is marked by violence and disruption of lawful activities”.

Accordingly, as pointed out by Ogbe (2008), that there is no individual that was born or destined to be a rebel and certainly not even an incompetent government will want to see her youths in a restive state. The question therefore then is what is responsible for youth restiveness in Nigeria?

The first point to this problem as observed by Ogbe (2008) is the level of unemployment in the country. This is undoubtedly true because of the level of mismanagement of political power, lack of respect for the principles of fundamental human rights and ignorance of socio-economic mandates for upliftment of the state. It is unimaginable but a reality in society of today to find out that a student who has struggled so hard to become a graduate or even a professional is still not define in his field of utility and potentials. It is evidently as equivalent to putting a halt to education and addressing first the guarantee of a viable economic and social opportunity.

Accordingly, Anifowose quoted in Linda (2003), stated that the major reason behind youth restiveness is relative deprivation, rising expectations of the youth on what they want the government to do for them and the frustration aggression resulting from the inability or refusal on the part of government to grant the needs of the youth. The argument here is that aggression and violence becomes the order of the day as a result of the gap in the felt needs that are not filled overtime (Tenuche, 2009). Furthermore, since these young people lack education and means of livelihood, they become frustrated and hence the elite use this as an opportunity by

manipulating and mobilising these frustrated youths to perpetuate violence in the pursuit of their selfish interests or a particular group goal.

On the other hand, a study conducted by Ofem & Ajayi (2008) identified lack of humanitarian and social welfare, lack of good governance, corrupt practices of government officials, inadequate training programmes, unemployment, inadequate recreational facilities, lack of quality education, and so on, as the reasons for incessant youth restiveness. Another point evidence advance to explain youth restiveness is the enormous economic decline, which became more obvious in the mid-eighties. For example the policies of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) introduced to Nigerian by the Babangida regime and other policies of adjustment pursued by subsequent Nigerian Governments. These hash inhumane policies only had a short break during the Abacha regime acerbated economic decline. Egwu (2001), argued that adjustment programmes entailed rolling back the State and cutting down on public expenditure. This has drastically reduced support for essential social services for the vast majority of the people. The women and the youth have been the most vulnerable group under these developments. Under such conditions, the youth are prone to violence as a means of expressing their disaffection. Numerous cases of violence in the

country in the last two decades are strongly associated with the Adjustment project (Tenuche, 2009).

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Numerous cases of violence in the country in the last two decades are strongly associated with the Adjustment project (Tenuche, 2009).

In a related vein, the failure of the State over the years to pursue genuine development of the society is said to be a reason for youth restiveness. The researcher argue that efforts to achieve development must transcend the limit of economic growth to embrace such features of social justice as equality of opportunity, full employment, generally available social services, equitable distribution of income and basic political freedom. The massive corruption of State officials, the misery associated with Adjustment and the anaemic state of social services with its attendant consequences has robbed the State of its God-like character thus provoking varied reactions (Egwu, 2001). Specifically, the ability to create full employment opportunities for her citizens has eluded the Nigerian state

Lack of access to Education: Is another factor that is responsible for youth restiveness is lack of access to education, and even those that were opportune to be admitted in various educational institutions there was a problem of lack of learning facilities. Education is one of the fundamental human rights and it was the key index of development since it improves productivity and health. Anasi (2010) strongly believed that quality of

education has a direct bearing on national integration and progress. In Nigeria, most especially northern part has low literacy level. Nigeria Universities are closed for more than 5 month (July-December, 2013) partly because of the industrial action. Worse still, they government interpreted it as politics; these may cause more social atrocities to the society in near future.

Furthermore, the present and the previous policies of education have compounded the problem of unemployment in Nigeria, because the knowledge received is not functional, it does not go a long way in developing skills among students. The 1977 National policy on education which was revised 1981 and even the new senior secondary school curriculum structure which was implemented September, 2011 and have the first set June 2014. Government has to introduce functional and free education to its citizens, if it really needs to solve the problem of youth restiveness.

### **Effects of Youth Restiveness**

The ease in the elite manipulation and mobilisation viewpoint is further consolidated by the frustration and aggression viewpoint. Violent crimes among unemployed and idle youth is the mean through which young

people express their discontent with the way and manner the elite and leaders have failed in providing the infrastructure needed for them to thrive and therefore the need to access power and social relevance through all means necessary. For example a key informant from INTER-GENDE stated: the phenomenon of unemployment has been worsened by the negative impact of the adjustment programmes. There is also a polarization between the elders and the youth in Nigeria, with the latter blaming the woes of the land on the former and insisting on having a greater say in leadership arrangement of the society. Furthermore, there is a growing discontent among the youths on the role of elders in the society, who the youths blame for the lack of basic infrastructural facilities and employment opportunities.

The elite in Nigeria can be described as very selfish and self centred. This can be linked with the way and manner in which the country Nigeria was amalgamated consideration of the different ethnic groups with different cultures and histories. Hence selfishness among the elite is two-fold – self-centredness and the claim for the protection of ethnic interest. The elite problem has further consolidated on the youth unemployment problem thereby making it a threat to democratic stability and its sustenance in Nigeria. The elite are fully aware that the large army of unemployed youths

are idle and frustrated and hence willing to do anything in order to survive. The elite therefore mobilise these unemployed young people in destabilising the polity. For example, many of the key informants agreed that the presence of large army of unemployed youths in Nigeria is a clear case of failure of leadership to utilise the abundant human and natural resources in the country to create jobs that will engage the youths in productive and meaningful economic activities. Because of the failure on the part of the leaders to judiciously make use of the young people, corrupt elite in most cases mobilise them to unleash havoc, as elucidated by this informant:

The unemployed youths have become political thugs and blood-thirsty hoodlums at the disposal of the elite. The point here is that when large numbers of youths are unemployed, their quest to survive may make them to become willing tools in the hands of maverick and disgruntled elite who use them for anti-social and clandestine political activities. The utilisation of the unemployed youths to perpetuate ethno-religious clashes in the present democratic dispensation is well known. However, the utilization and manipulation of mostly unemployed and idle youths to perpetuate violence in most parts of Nigeria is a clear indication of an attempt to use this category of youths to bring democracy to a brink and destabilize the nation.

It also shows that some elites are not ready to utilize legal provisions to seek redress of perceived injustice in the electoral system. The implication here is that no democracy can thrive and stabilize in the atmosphere of lawlessness, political thuggery, intimidations, killings, maiming and unabated destruction of lives and property. Furthermore, many have likened the recent Boko Haram insurgency to elite manipulation and mobilisation for selfish reasons and unemployment is a basic reason for this.

### **Strategies for Reduction of Youth Restiveness**

From the analysis youth restiveness in Nigeria revolves around unemployment, lack of access to education, poverty, environmental degradation, marginalization, inter alia, government should employ strategies to bring about stability and sustainability development in Nigeria through empowerment of youth to address the social problems of insecurity, poverty and unemployment.

Government should provide functional and free education to the citizens as this will advance the level of country literacy and awareness. Our elites should also be re-educated and re-oriented as they have been accused of causing or employing youth in achieving their political objectives.

Creation of jobs and employment opportunities to our youth would also hinder them from all restive activities as joblessness makes them willing tools in any conflict. Poverty eradication programmes like the once that were introduced by Jonathan administration and similar programmes should be continuing at local, state and federal levels. Multinational oil companies should re-channel some of their profits to improve the lives of the communities and rebuilds the environment of those who suffers from the direct consequence of their operation. This will reduce restiveness demonstrated in form of seizing of oil workers as hostage and vandalization oil pipe lines and destruction of properties.

There should also be a policy of youth education and development through provision of scholarship and empowering them technically by providing them employment facilities. The Niger Delta Development commission established with the responsibility of developing the region should be empowered and checked regularly to reduce the corruption in the commission. The system of parties and election in Nigeria need to be revisited as well as the institutional problem of INEC.

## **The Role of Job Creation in the Reduction of Youth Restiveness**

Dieprieve Solomon Peter Alamiyeseigha former governor of Bayelsa State while delivering a lecture on 8th April, 2005, at the Ikeja Country Club hinged the solution to the recurring youth restiveness in the Niger Delta on the creation of a level playing field where the communities and state would have real stake in oil matters beyond being mere recipients of derivation proceeds. Alamiyeseigha said “a situation where laws governing the oil industry give no room for the affected communities to partake in the primary activity of protecting the environment guarantees disquiet in the region. To solve the problem, he called for the abrogation of the onshore/offshore oil dichotomy and the use of derivation principle as the major basis for revenue allocation as was practiced before oil was discovered.

One sure way of addressing this social vice is by giving the youth a sense of belonging. This can be achieved through creation of more jobs for the teeming population of youths, provision of basic infrastructures needed to encourage small scale businesses. There is the need for the youth to be liberated psychologically and economically from the control of self seeking

business and political elite who often use them to cause social disorderliness in the society.

Above all, more awareness needs to be created for the youths to change their orientation towards positive contribution to the development of the society.

### **Summary of Reviewed Literature**

The review has been quite revealing and instructive. The review can be summarized as follows;

Leadership can be defined as an influenced process. Areas of influence, include official position, financial controls, organizational influence, knowledge, interpersonal contacts; personal characteristics. It involves one person trying to get others do something that he wants them to do. This is influencing the activities of an organized group towards goal setting and achievement. It further implies that a leader must be able to influence the followers towards setting appropriate goals and towards effective achievement. Leadership is a sterling ability to move men and material for the attendance of the enacted policies or the people in such a manner to bring to bear the resources of such resolution.

The review also showed that unemployment, lack of access to education, poverty, environmental degradation, marginalization, inter alia, government should employ strategies to bring about stability and sustainability development in Nigeria through empowerment of youth to address the social problems of insecurity, poverty and unemployment.

Government should provide functional and free education to the citizens as this will advance the level of country literacy and awareness. Our elites should also be re-educated and re-oriented as they have been accused of causing or employing youth in achieving their political objectives.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

This chapter is designed to examine the procedures and methods that will be employed in collecting data for this study. They are treated under the following sub-headings.

- Design of the Study
- Population of the Study
- Sample and Sampling Technique
- Research Instrument
- Validity of the Instrument
- Reliability of the Instrument
- Method of Data Collection
- Method of Data analysis

#### **Research Design**

A descriptive survey research design will be adopted for the study. The choice of this design stems from its strength as a useful means for fact finding and an acknowledged means of obtaining social facts and opinions for the purpose of describing and interpreting existing conditions (Nworgu,

2006). This chosen research design method is appropriate, especially for seeking individuals' opinions, attitudes and perceptions in their natural setting and it enables the researcher to make generalization concerning his population of study

### **Population of the Study**

The study population consists of the inhabitants of Ovia South West Local Government Area of Edo State. The population for the study were drawn from Twelve (12) wards. The population of the area is given to be One Hundred Fifty Thirty Five Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty Six (135,356) (National Population Commission, 2016)

### **Sample and Sampling Technique**

The total sample size for the study sixty (60) respondents, Selected through purposive sampling technique was used for the study. In this wise, Five (5) respondents was selected from each of the twelve (12) wards to constitute a reasonable sample size for the study.

### **Research Instrument**

The main instrument that was adopted for the collection of the needed data for the study is the questionnaire. The questionnaire titled: The Role of

Local Government Leadership Style in Curbing Youth Restiveness in Ovia South West Questionnaire (RLGLSCYRQ). The questionnaire comprises of Section “A” and “B”. the section ‘A’ of the instrument focuses on gathering personal information of the respondents such as age, sex, occupation, educational qualification among others and section B designed or geared towards seeking information on the issues raised in the research questions.

### **Validity of the Instrument**

The research instrument was validated using the expert judgment approach. In this view, copies of the draft instrument were given to my project supervisor and two other experts in the Department of Adult Education, Faculty of Education, and University of Benin for items selection and wording. After which their suggestions was taken into consideration before the final copy of the instrument was designed and made use of.

### **Reliability of the Instrument**

To determine the reliability of the instrument, the test-re-test procedure was adopted. In this vein, 20 copies of the instrument were administered on the respondents who were not part of the target population. After a time lag of two weeks the instrument was re-administered on the

same group of respondents. Thereafter, their responses on the two occasions were collated and correlated using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient Statistical notation to determine its reliability index which was given to be 0.75.

### **Method of Data Collection**

The researcher and two other research assistants from Ovia South West local government area of Edo State personally administered the questionnaire to respondents through face to face and also collect from them same day

### **Method of Data Analysis**

Frequency tables and percentages were adopted in the presentation and analysis of the data generated for the study.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This chapter deals with the presentation of results and discussion of findings. The responses or data obtained from the respondents are carefully analyzed and presented in tables and subsequently interpreted.

#### Research Question One:

What are the causes of youth restiveness in the area?

**Table 4.1: Data on the causes of youth restiveness**

S/N	Variables	YES(%)	NO(%)
1	Unemployment	300 (56%)	150 (34)
2	Refusal on the part of government to grant the needs of the youth	400 (88)	50 (12%)
3	Lack of Youth involvement in politics	450 (100)	Nil (0)
4	Lack recreation facilities	250 (55)	200 (45)
5	Corruption on the part o the government	450 (100)	Nil (0)

*Source: Field Survey, 2024*

From the data on Table 4.1 above, it was revealed that 300 (56%) affirm that unemployment is among the cause of youth restiveness in the area. While,150(34%) responded otherwise.

In ascertaining whether that refusal on the part of government to grant the needs of the youth causes youth restiveness in the area, it was observed that 400 (88%) of the respondents affirm to issue while, 50(12%) none had a different opinion.

Similarly, it was also found that 450 (100%) of the respondents affirmed to it that lack of youths involvement in politics causes youth restiveness in the area. There however, no respondent responded negatively to this issue under consideration.

Again, the researcher was interested in finding out if lack recreation facilities and from the responses gathered, 250 (55%) of the respondent affirmed to this variable under consideration. While 200 (45%) of the respondents had negative response to this variable under consideration.

The last variable in the Research Question 1 was meant to find out if Corruption on the part o the government. The results from the analysis revealed that 450 (100%) of the respondents affirmed to it. There however, no respondent responded negatively to this issue under consideration.

On the basis of the analysis, it can therefore be deduced that causes of youth restiveness in the area are; Unemployment, lack of involvement of the

youth in politics, corruption on the part of the government and lack of recreational facilities in the area

### Research Question Two

What are the strategies employed by the local government leadership to reduce youth restiveness in the Local Government?

In proffering answers to the above questions, the researcher gathered and analyzed the relevant data in the instrument precisely those of items 6-10 using percentage statistics and the result is as presented in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2 Data on the strategies employed by the local government leadership to reduce youth restiveness**

S/N	Variables	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
6	Full time employment of the youths	350 (78%)	100 (22%)	Nil (0)	Nil (0)
7	Equitable distribution of income and basic political freedom	100 (22)	350 (78)	Nil (0)	Nil (0)
8	Provision of recreational facilities for the youth	400 (88)	50 (12)	Nil (0)	Nil (0)
9	Provision of free and functional quality education for the youth	300 (56%)	150 (44)	Nil (0)	Nil (0)
10	Involvement of the youths in politics	250 (55)	200 (45)	Nil (0)	Nil (0)

*Source: Field Survey, 2024*

From the data on Table 4.2 above, it was revealed that 350 (78%) and 100 (22%) of the respondents Strongly Agreed and Agreed respectively strategies employed by the local government leadership to reduce youth restiveness is through full time employment of the youths. Accordingly, none of the respondents Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed on this variable.

In ascertaining whether equitable distribution of income and basic political freedom, it was observed that 350 (78%) and 100 (22%) of the respondents Strongly Agreed and Agreed respectively on the variable while none of them had a different position.

Similarly, it was also found that 400 (88%) and 50 (12%) of the respondents Strongly Agreed and Agreed respectively that provision of recreational facilities for the youth could also serve as a strategy for reducing youth restiveness in the. There was however no respondent that Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed on this variable.

Again, the researcher was interested in finding out if the provision of free and functional quality education for the youth and from the responses gathered, 300 (56%) and 150 (44%) Strongly Agreed and Agreed respectively while none responded otherwise.

The last variable in the Research Question 2 was meant to find out if the involvement of the youths in politics. The results from the analysis revealed that 250 (55%) and 200 (45%) Strongly Agreed and Agreed respectively and there was however no respondent who Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed on the variable.

On the basis of the analysis, it can therefore be deduced that strategies employed by the local government leadership to reduce youth restiveness are; equitable distribution of income and basic political freedom, full-time employment of the youths, provision of free and functional quality education for the youth and involvement of the youths in politics.

### **Research Question Three.**

To what extent will job opportunities reduce youth restiveness in the area?

In proffering answers to the above questions, the researcher gathered and analyzed the relevant data in the instrument precisely those of items 11-15 using percentage statistics and the result is as presented in Table 4.3.

**Table 4.3: Data on the extent to which job opportunities can reduce youth restiveness**

S/N	Item	Level of Responses			
		Yes	%	No	%
11	Very High Extent	250	(56)	200	(44)
12	High Extent	450	(100)	Nil	(0)
13	Average	Nil	(0)	450	(100)
14	Low Extent	Nil	(0)	450	(100)
15	Very Low Extent	Nil	(0)	450	(100)

*Source: Field Survey, 2024*

A close look at the Table 4.3 above revealed that the respondents opined in the affirmative to the extent to which job opportunities can reduce youth restiveness. Specifically, 250 (56%) of the respondents affirmed to a very high extent while 200 (44%) opined in the negative. Also, 450(100%) affirm to a high exten had a different opinion over the issue. Similarly, 450(100%) response negatively response that is it average while, had a positive opinion. Also some of the respondents 450 (100%) also responded negatively that it is to a low extent. While 450(100%) respond negatively as well that it is Very low extent.

From the analyses of the responses made on this question by all the participants, it is therefore concluded that provision of job opportunities to a very large extent and large extent can reduce youth restiveness.

#### **Research Question Four**

What are the effects of youth restiveness in the Local Government?

In proffering answers to the above questions, the researcher gathered and analyzed the relevant data in the instrument precisely those of items 16-20 using percentage statistics and the result is as presented in Table 4.4.

**Table 4.4 Data on the effects of youth restiveness**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Variables</b>	<b>SA (%)</b>	<b>A (%)</b>	<b>D (%)</b>	<b>SD (%)</b>
16	Proliferation of political thuggery	350 (78%)	100 (22%)	Nil (0)	Nil (0)
17	Violent crimes among unemployed and idle youth	100 (22)	350 (78)	Nil (0)	Nil (0)
18	Kidnapping	400 (88)	50 (12)	Nil (0)	Nil (0)
19	Discontent among the youth	300 (56%)	150 (44)	Nil (0)	Nil (0)
20	Disrespect for elders	250 (55)	200 (45)	Nil (0)	Nil (0)

**Source: Field Survey, 2024**

From the data on Table 4.4 above, it was revealed that 350 (78%) and 100 (22%) of the respondents Strongly Agreed and Agreed respectively that

among the effects of youth restiveness is proliferation of political thuggery. Accordingly, none of the respondents Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed on this variable.

In ascertaining whether crimes among unemployed and idle youth is as a result of youth restiveness, it was observed that 350 (78%) and 100 (22%) of the respondents Strongly Agreed and Agreed respectively on the variable while none of them had a different position.

Similarly, it was also found that 400 (88%) and 50 (12%) of the respondents Strongly Agreed and Agreed respectively that discontent among the youth is as a result of restiveness. There was however no respondent that Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed on this variable.

Again, the researcher was interested in finding out if Kidnapping could also be as a result of youth restiveness and from the responses gathered, 300 (56%) and 150 (44%) Strongly Agreed and Agreed respectively while none responded otherwise.

The last variable in the Research Question 4 was meant to find out if the youth restiveness can make youth have disrespect for their elders . The results from the analysis revealed that 250 (55%) and 200 (45%) Strongly

Agreed and Agreed respectively and there was however no respondent who Disagreed or Strongly Disagreed on the variable.

On the basis of the analysis, it can therefore be deduced that the effects of youth restiveness in the area; proliferation of political thuggery, crime, kidnapping discontent and disrespect for elders.

### **Discussion of Results**

The result of this study has been quite instructive, informative and revealing. The findings of the study were discussed in line with the research questions raised to guide the study. They were structured under the main and sub-themes of each of the variables culled from the research instrument as presented hereunder.

In the study, four (4) research questions were raised and examined. The findings of research question one revealed that causes of youth restiveness in the area are; Unemployment, lack of involvement of the youth in politics, corruption on the part of the government and lack of recreational facilities in the area. This finding is in consonance with the findings of Ogburn (2008) where he observed that the level of unemployment in the country. This is undoubtedly true because of the level of mismanagement of political

power, lack of respect for the principles of fundamental human rights and ignorance of socio-economic mandates for upliftment of the state. It is unimaginable but a reality in society of today to find out that a student who has struggled so hard to become a graduate or even a professional is still not define in his field of utility and potentials. It is evidently as equivalent to putting a halt to education and addressing first the guarantee of a viable economic and social opportunity.

Findings from research question two revealed that strategies employed by the local government leadership to reduce youth restiveness are; equitable distribution of income and basic political freedom, full-time employment of the youths, provision of free and functional quality education for the youth and involvement of the youths in politics. This finding corroborate the study of Egwu, 2001) where he opined that, he provision of good educational school system were Nigerian students can acquire skills will help to reduce the high incidence of unemployment currently ravaging the country.

Findings from research question three revealed that job opportunities to a very large extent and large extent can reduce youth restiveness. This finding is in agreement with that of Anasi (2010) who observed that

Nigerian government stand the likelihood to lose the bulk of it youths to other countries if they don't provide the teaming population of the with employment opportunities

Findings from research question four revealed that the effects of youth restiveness in the area; proliferation of political thuggery, crime, kidnapping discontent and disrespect for elders. This finding corroborates the study by of Egwu (2001) who observed that the unemployed youths have become political thugs and blood-thirsty hoodlums at the disposal of the elite. The point here is that when large numbers of youths are unemployed, their quest to survive may make them to become willing tools in the hands of maverick and disgruntled elite who use them for anti-social and clandestine political activities

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This chapter deals with the summary of the study, the conclusion drawn from analysis of data obtained and interpretation of findings and recommendations offered based on findings made

#### Summary

This study was carried out to determine the Role of Local Government Leadership Style in the Reduction of Youth Restiveness in Ovia South West Local Government Area of Edo State

. They are:

- What are the causes of youth restiveness in the area?
- What are the strategies employed by the local government leadership to reduce youth restiveness in the Local Government?
- To what extent will job opportunities reduce youth restiveness in the area?
- What are the effects of youth restiveness in the Local Government?

A sample size of Four Hundred and Fifty (450) respondents, selected through simple random sampling technique was used for the study. In this

wise, thirty youths were selected from each of the Twelve (12) ward to constitute a reasonable sample size for the study. The respondents within the age bracket of 15-30 years were used for the study

. Questionnaire was the major instrument used for data collection. The questionnaire and was made up of Section 'A' and 'B'. While Section 'A' contained the bio-data of the respondents, Section 'B' was meant to elicit data on the various research questions raised and other matters considered important to the success of this study. The validity of the instrument was determined by the project supervisor and two other lecturers from the Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Benin City. The reliability of the instrument was subjected to test re-test procedure and a reliability index of 0.75 was obtained. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency count and simple percentages.

## **Conclusion**

In the light of the findings of the study, it can be concluded that the provision of job opportunities to a very large extent and large extent can reduce youth restiveness, that the strategies employed by the local government leadership to reduce youth restiveness are; equitable distribution

of income and basic political freedom, full-time employment of the youths, provision of free and functional quality education for the youth and involvement of the youths in politics, that provision of job opportunities to a very large extent and large extent can reduce youth restiveness and that the effects of youth restiveness in the area; proliferation of political thuggery, crime, kidnapping discontent and disrespect for elders.

### **Recommendations**

Based on conclusion drawn from the findings, the following recommendations were hereby proffered:

- Government should provide functional and free education to the citizens as this will advance the level of country literacy and awareness. Our elites should also be re-educated and re-oriented as they have been accused of causing or employing youth in achieving their political objectives.
- Creation of jobs and employment opportunities to our youth would also hinder them from all restive activities as joblessness makes them willing tools in any conflict. Poverty eradication programmes like youwin introduced by Jonathan administration and similar programmes should be continuing at local, state and federal levels.

- Multinational oil companies should re-channel some of their profits to improve the lives of the communities and rebuilds the environment of those who suffers from the direct consequence of their operation. This will reduce restiveness demonstrated in form of seizing of oil workers as hostage and vandalization oil pipe lines and destruction of properties.
- There should also be a policy of youth education and development through provision of scholarship and empowering them technically by providing them employment facilities. The Niger Delta Development commission established with the responsibility of developing the region should be empowered and checked regularly to reduce the corruption in the commission.

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**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ADULT AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION**  
**FACULTY OF EDUCATION**

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
LEADERSHIP STYLE IN THE REDUCTION OF YOUTH  
RESTIVENESS IN OVIA SOUTH WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
AREA OF EDO STATE**

Dear Respondent,

This questionnaire is solely for the purpose of a research. The researcher is carrying out a study on: The Role of Local Government Leadership Style in the Reduction of Youth Restiveness in Ovia South West Local Government Area of Edo State

You are therefore requested to kindly help as much as possible to supply the needed information. Your response shall be treated with utmost confidence.

Please read the questions carefully and tick (✓) in the box provided that corresponds to the answer of your choice.

## SECTION A

### PERSONAL DATA

1. Sex: Male [ ] Female [ ]
2. Age: 10-20 years [ ] 21-30 years [ ] 31-40 years [ ] 41-50 years [ ]  
51- 60 years [ ] 61 years and above [ ]
3. Marital Status: Married [ ] Single [ ] Divorced [ ] Widowed [ ]
4. Educational Qualification: Primary School Certificate [ ] Secondary  
School Certificate [ ] OND/NCE [ ] HND/University Degree [ ]

### SECTION B

- 4 = Strongly Agree (SA)  
3 = Agree (A)  
2 = Disagree (D)  
1 = Strongly Disagree (S)

### SECTION B

Please read the following questions and give anyone of the options mentioned below:

S/N	What are the causes of youth restiveness in the area?	Please tick (√)			
1	Unemployment				
2	Refusal on the part of government to grant the needs of the youth				
3	Lack of Youth involvement in politics				
4	Lack recreation facilities				
5	Corruption on the part o the government				
•	What are the strategies employed by the local government leadership to reduce youth restiveness in the Local Government?	SA	A	D	SD

6	Full time employment of the youths				
7	Equitable distribution of income and basic political freedom				
8	Provision of recreational facilities for the youth				
9	Provision of free and functional quality education for the youth				
10	Involvement of the youths in politics				
	<b>• To what extent will job opportunities reduce youth restiveness in the area?</b>				
11	To a very high extent				
12	To a high extent				
13	Average				
14	To a low Extent				
15	To a very Low Extent				
	<b>• What are the effects of youth restiveness in the Local Government?</b>				
16	Proliferation of political thuggery				
17	Violent crimes among unemployed and idle youth				
18	Kidnapping				
19	Discontent among the youth				
20	Dis-respect for elders				