



Youth Unemployment and National Security in Nigeria: An Exploratory Study

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ABSTRACT

The successful handing over of power from the military oligarchy to a neophyte political class and the consequent returned of the nation to civil rule on May 29, 1999 has shifted attention to how to nurture the fledging democracy to maturity such that it can no longer be truncated either by internal or external forces. The stability of the nation has become the concern of all both the government and the governed. Pro democracy groups, human rights groups, civil societies and others have been greatly involved in the democratic consolidation in Nigeria. In spite of the above not much seems to have been achieved in the area of national security. The issue of national security has become a subject of debate and a serious concern to all and sundry. This is due to the various security challenges facing the country. This paper, therefore looked at unemployment as one of the major challenges to national security. The use of content analysis of secondary sources from published books, journals, official documents, newspapers and magazines was employed in this work. Maslow Human Hierarchy of Needs theory was also used to illuminate the study. It was gathered that, of numerous factors responsible for the uncontrollable rate of insecurity in the nation, unemployment is noted to be at forefront since many youths who are capable and willing to work are affected by this menace. The paper finally recommended that for the problem of insecurity to be abated, the economy of the nation should be diversified as the total dependence on crude oil receipt has done havoc to the productive sectors of Nigerian economy. The government should set up a contingency fund for agricultural and industrial development, as urgent preliminary initiative. Furthermore, the paper recommended the need for collaborative arrangement between the public and private sectors and that the educational sector should be developed through adequate funding to a stage where job seekers and graduates can stand on their own without looking for white collar jobs that are not available.

Keywords: Security, Unemployment, Social Vices, Insecurity, Nigeria, Economy, Democracy

Journal Reference Format:

Ibitoye, M.O., Owolabi, D. & Akinlade, M.T. (2023): Youth Unemployment and National Security in Nigeria: An Exploratory Study. *Humanities, Management, Arts, Education & the Social Sciences Journal*. Vol. 11, No. 2, Pp 45-58.
www.isteams.net/humanitiesjournal. [dx.doi.org/10.22624/AIMS/HUMANITIES/V11N2P5](https://doi.org/10.22624/AIMS/HUMANITIES/V11N2P5)

1. INTRODUCTION

The issue of national security appears to be of utmost importance to both the political and economic development of a nation. It represents the foundation upon which every other system rests since



where peace is an illusion, nothing works well and everything turns upside. Over the years, insecurity has become a permanent feature of the polity called Nigeria. The nation had recorded spates of insecurity based on ethnic, religious, political crises, etc. Few examples are, Fulani- Berom conflict in Plateau State, Boko Haram in the Northern States and the Niger-Delta insurgency. One major factor that is noticeable is the involvement of Nigerian youth, mostly the unemployed which constitute the largest percentage of the populace.(NPC,2006 & Oladimeji, 2007).

Perhaps more importantly, despite the fact that Nigeria is endowed with a rich and diverse natural resources, over the years it has reaped her riches with insufficient care for the livelihoods and well-being of the nation at large especially the youth. Government as a promoter of happiness, facilitator of development, an institution that creates and maintains an environment that could enable Nigerians, youth inclusive to implement livelihood strategies and achieve personal goal has failed in this important aspect. The apparent inability of successive governments to comprehensively address the lingering problem of unemployment so far, poses serious threat to the fragile unity and corporate existence of the country.

The above statement is in tandem with the words of Okey, Stanley and Emmanuel (2017) when they posited that the Nigerian state as it is today has exhibited weakness in most, if not all indices of state performance as regards the provision of political goods to the majority. They further argued that as long as Nigerian state continues in its weak performance profile, so long will its legitimacy crisis fester with annoying consequence of unemployment and attendant threat to human security. Furthermore, Igbori (2018) supporting Okey et al (2017) concluded that the present government as constituted has failed to meet the socio-economic needs of more that 80% of its citizenry in all ramifications. Therefore, judging from the contemporary experiences, one may be right to argue that the inability of the Nigerian government to provide job opportunities and enabling environment is majorly responsible for the security challenges facing the nation. In view of this, this paper intends to look at the menace of youth unemployment as it affects national security. It makes conceptual clarification of the concepts of youth, unemployment and security. The paper also provides ways out of the problem of youth unemployment in Nigeria so as to achieve national security.

2. CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

Youth

A youth according to Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary, is a state of being young, early life, the period immediately succeeding childhood and an early period of existence. A youth can be described as a middle- aged person who is between the ages of childhood and early adulthood but inexperienced and without exposure (Freeman, 2006). To Gwary, Kwaghe, Ja'afar- Furo and Dennis (2011) youth refers to young people in a society who are characterized by ample ideas, energy and new ways to seek life and face problems. To them, the educated youth in particular, is more likely to adapt to new innovations if they are involved in an activity. Similarly, Isah (2015) sees youth as a cross section of the country's population with abundant energy that needs proper channeling and harnessing for increase productivity.



Unemployment

The concept of unemployment has attracted many meanings as put in place by many scholars. Unemployment happens when a person who is capable and active to work is unable to find work. Investorwords (2013) sees unemployment as an economic condition marked by the fact that individuals actively seeking jobs remain unhired whereas to the Bureau of Labour Statistics (2013) unemployment represents people who do not have a job, having actively looked for work... and are currently available for work. To Pettinger (2010) unemployment is defined as “a situation where someone of working age is not able to get a job but would like to be in a full time employment”. The Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (2010) also sees unemployment as “the state of not having a job”. The above definitions all pointed to the fact that unemployment sets in when a person could not get a job even when he is willing and capable to work.

National Security

Just like every other social sciences concepts, national security has attracted many definitions based on the perspectives of various scholars. To Imobighe (1990) security relates with “freedom from danger or with threat to a nation’s ability to protect and develop itself, promote its cherished values and legitimate interests and enhance the well-being of its people”. He sees security from the angle of giving adequate protection to the people, their interest so as to enhance growth in the society. National security according to Wolfers (1960) means the absence of threat to acquire values and subjectively, the absence of fear that such values will be attacked. The definition of Brown (1983) was more encompassing when he posits that national security is “the ability to preserve the nation’s physical integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms; to preserve its nature, institutions, and governance from disruption from outside; and to control its border”. This definition is more encompassing since it looks at it from the area of economic, environment and a nation’s relations with the international system. Maier (1990) stated that national security is best described as a capacity to control those domestic and foreign conditions that the public opinion of a given community believes necessary to enjoy its own self determination or autonomy, prosperity and well-being”. National security, therefore implies that the government of a nation has a sole responsibility to guarantee the safety of lives and the general well-being of her citizens. An American Political Scientist, Harold Lasswell (1936) looks at the concept of national security from almost the same aspect of external coercion. The National Defence College of India (1956) acknowledged the elements of national security as thus:

“National security is an appropriate and aggressive blend of political resilience and maturity, human resources, economic structure and capacity, technological competence, industrial base and availability of natural resources and finally the military might”.

In the same vein, Prabhakaran (2008) in his work titled, “National Security- Imperative and challenges”, opined that:

“The measurable state of the capacity of a nation to overcome the multi-dimensional threat to the apparent well-being of its people and its survival as a nation-state at any given time, by balancing all instruments of state policy through governance that can be indexed by computation, empirically or otherwise, and is extended to global security by variables external to it”.



3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: HUMAN NEEDS THEORY.

This discourse is based on Abraham Maslow's Theory of Human Needs as it determines the quality of life of all citizens (Maslow, 1954). This theory is based on FIVE (5) human needs which begins with the basic needs of physiological well-being and goes up to the realization of one's full potential (see the diagram below). Human existence is determined by the needs which we called basic human needs; and daily activities of man are targeted at how to meet his various needs. Postulants of Human Needs Theory assumed that individuals, groups, and societies often engaged in conflicts and crimes as a result of unmet needs. Meaning that denial of one's needs by others or the competition among individuals/groups who aims at the same goal(s) with few or scarce resources to achieve those needs usually lead to conflicts and crimes in the society.

Section 14(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) states that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of the government (FGN, 1999). However, Nigerian government has not been doing well in this area. By application, the failure of the government at all levels to meet the basic needs of the teeming youth by providing employment opportunities and enabling environment for them has been the major factor responsible for all kinds youth restiveness, crimes and other 'unholy' activities in the society. It is a well known fact that human security/safety is fundamental to human survival and thriving. What it means therefore is that the importance of human security/safety cannot be underplayed in any given society as it will be impossible for human beings to function effectively, not to talk of moving up in order to fulfill the subsequent needs. Thus, this study examines the extent to which this is being largely fulfilled, especially in terms of unemployment and security situation in Nigeria.

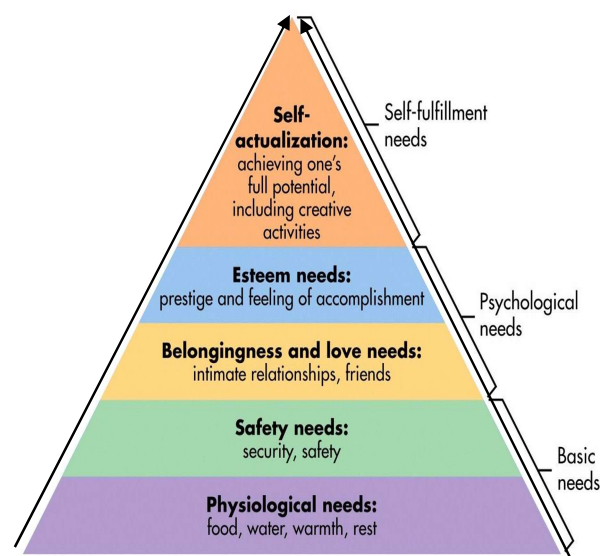


Figure 1: Maslow's Hierarchy of Human Needs



The above diagram shows that movement has to begin from the bottom and if the bottom items on the pyramid are not fulfilled, the individual cannot move up the pyramid as a matter of principle and the constant aspiration of individual is to reach the highest level of self-actualization.

4. CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Bello (2003), Ogbimi (2007), Alabi (2007), Okafor (2011) Akinlade, Aderibigbe and Odewusi (2013) and Lyke (2013) gave the following as part of the following factors responsible for unemployment in Nigeria. Poor governance is one of the factors responsible for unemployment. It can be argued that poor governance has a strong relationship or correlation with unemployment and national security as it leads to corruption, poor control of public funds, mismanagement of resources, lack of accountability and transparency, e.t.c. Where this exists, it is always difficult, if not impossible to meet the yearnings and aspirations of the youth seeking for job opportunities. Therefore, where the majority of the youth is jobless, it is dangerous for such a country. Unfortunately, enough, unemployment has forced many young Nigerians into various nefarious activities which constitute a threat to the nation's security and well-being of the individuals.

The oldest occupation in Nigeria is agriculture as more than 70% of the population are involved in this vocation. However, the negligence of the Agricultural Sector has left a vacuum. Unarguably, unemployment crept into Nigeria's economic structure as the discovery of oil and its fantastic prospects have taken the nation out of agriculture which has hitherto been the mainstay of the Nigerian economy in the 60's. To worsen the situation, every effort made by the government either in the past or present to encourage the youth and boost their subsistent investment in food crops by providing minimal technology, funds and supervision without imposing cumbersome collateral has not been fruitful. In most cases, only the elites and their connected bureaucrats could access the fund as they understood the process and could provide the required collateral security while the youth suffering continue unabated.

The country is faced with gross abuse and underutilization of both human and non-human material resources to the disadvantage (s) of the citizenry which is as a result of poor management of the economy. Those at the helms of affairs has always failed to manage the country's scarce resources and affairs in a manner that is accountable, equitable and responsive to the needs of the people. This situation has further increased the unemployment rate in Nigeria and thereby exposing the nation to insecurity and other social vices. The argument here is that if the country's resources had been prudently managed and wisely used, the pervasive economic crisis staring it in the face would have been reduced to the barest minimum. In other words, poor management is not only a bane to economic development but to all forms of development be it political, social, cultural and even spiritual.

The Nigerian economy has continued to depend largely on oil with its attendant instability in the world market as a result of mono-cultural economy. The attendant revenue shortfall witnessed in the past has posed serious impediments to national development. The point being made here is that the inability to diversify the country's revenue base has definitely hindered its economic development and promote unemployment,



Expectedly, a diversified economy has a great potential of achieving a stable development apparently because apart from revenue increase that is likely to come from all the sectors, a depression in one sector is not likely to have a devastating effect on the entire economy due to the fact that other productive sectors are likely to compensate for the loss in the depressed sector (Alabi,2009). The implication of this is that when other sectors are neglected, the country is denied a vibrant and dynamic economy that could provide job opportunities for the population.

Furthermore, corruption is also a factor to unemployment. Corruption as it is defined by the World Bank, is a form of dishonesty or a criminal offence which is undertaken by a person or an organisation which is entrusted with a position of authority in order to acquire illicit benefits or abuse of power for one's private gain. Honestly speaking, one cannot deny the fact that government at one time or the other has not done anything at one time or the other, in order to reduce unemployment in Nigeria. For instance, the introduction of National Directorate of Employment (FGN, 1997), PAP (FGN, 2001) National Poverty Eradication Programme (FGN, 2001), NEEDS (FGN, 2003), SEEDS (FGN, 2003), LEEDS (FGN, 2003), Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) (FGN,2014), Youth Enterprise With Innovation, N-Power, among others, All these programmes have all failed to produce the desired results partially due to corruption which has undermined the government's role in implementing the state's public policies and development plan as expected. Corruption has also prevented the steady growth of small and medium scale businesses which could have helped to accommodate the unemployed youth in the country.

The weak educational system in Nigeria has no doubt increase the level of unemployment. The United Nations recognizes the unique importance of education to national development by making a demand on all nations to set aside 26 per cent of their annual budget to education. Contrary to this demand, the Nigerian educational sector whether at the federal or state level has not been adequately funded from time to time. This important aspect has been constantly neglected by successive governments and this has been the major factor responsible for the constant poor industrial relations between the government and the various trade unions in the Nigeria tertiary institutions. The resultant effects of this has been the production of half-baked and unproductive graduates. It also appears that the educational sector has considerable porches in providing courses that build vocational and entrepreneurial skills at all levels. In other words, the skill base of our educational system is not receiving much attention as it is done in other climes and climates, hence, the end result has always been unemployment saga.

The poor state of infrastructures such as electricity, industrial, good roads, air and rail and lack of aggressive promotion of small and medium businesses which are supposed to provide employment opportunities for the teeming youth is a contributive factor to unemployment in the country. Without any iota of doubt, the deplorable state of infrastructures in Nigeria is a serious deficit in the manufacturing, industrialization and socio-economic life of the country. Without stable electricity, uninterrupted water supply, good roads, air and rail transport, the search for any nation's economic development that will produce jobs for this jobless youth will consistently remain largely elusive.



4.1 Effects/Implications of Unemployment on Security

Youth unemployment and National security constitute major concern to under-developed, developing and even developed nations of the world because their effects are not only enormous on the government but also on the individual, organizations and the society at large.

Consequently, the effects are as stated below:

- a. Poverty.
- b. Depression.
- c. Armed robbery.
- d. Banditry.
- e. Kidnapping.
- f. Conflict.
- g. Political thuggery.
- h. Peaceful/Violent Protest.
- i. Prostitution.
- j. Ethnic and religious crises.
- k. Frustration/anger.
- l. Human trafficking and other forms of social vices

5. SECURITY SITUATION IN NIGERIA

The Nigeria experience over the years has not been a good story. For instance, the security situation in the Niger-Delta has deteriorated. Heavily armed and well organized gangs on daily basis, steal large volumes of crude oil worth millions of dollars every year, they also invade oil and gas facilities in that region, shutting down operations, kidnapping staff of foreign companies, among others. Some of the factors that have been adduced for these incessant insecurity and breach of law in the Niger-Delta include; unfulfilled aspirations for political recognition and influence, poverty, total neglect, hence, criminality still persist till today.

In the Northern part of Nigeria, the congregation of the people of tradition for proselytism and Jihad better known by its Hausa nomenclature 'Boko Haram', meaning western education is sinful or forbidden, has partially taken over the region since 2001. The group is alleged to be fighting to overthrow Nigeria's government in order to create an Islamic state and in the view of this has launched a number of attacks on innocent citizens, government owned institutions and private property/ies. Violence linked to Boko Haram insurgency has resulted in an estimated 350,000 deaths between 2009 and 2021 (www.premiumtimesng.com). This group exerts influence in the northern Nigeria States of Borno, Adamawa, Kaduna, Bauchi, Yobe and Kano. This is apart from other groups within the polity that have constituted themselves to security risk.

The recent EndSARS protest championed by the aggrieved Nigerian Youth to demonstrate against the constant police harassment, brutality and extra-judicial killings perpetrated across the country by the Special Anti-robbery Squad (SARS) cannot be forgotten easily. Before this protest, there have been various complaints against this body by the public as many of its officers were caught collecting money from their victims in the full glare of the public. Failure to pay often lead to illegal arrest, beating, torture and detention of innocent citizens based on suspicions (Aluko, 2021).



A critical assessment of the EndSARS protest revealed that its activities in Lagos, Federal Capital Territory, Rivers, Oyo and Ogun were outstanding. Among these states, Lagos witnessed a surge in the number of participants which eventually led to wanton destruction of lives and properties (private and public) on the 20th October, 2020 being the epicentre of all protests (Ochi & Mark, 2021). The unprecedented loss of lives and properties recorded during the incident prompted the setting up of a Judicial Panel of Enquiry to look into the various allegation of misconduct leveled against this body. As usual, the recommendations could not be carried out to the letters. What a wasteful efforts!

5.1 Youth Unemployment as a Threat to National Security

The subject of security is an important aspect in any nation. Once this is tampered with, every other sector of the polity and even the whole political system is automatically affected. The case of Nigeria is pathetic and precarious. Over the years, and up till now, insecurity has spread to nearly every part of the country. The emergence of certain and numerous groups within the polity has become a source of concern to the entire citizenry and even the government at all levels.

Mention should be made of activities of the militants in the Niger-Delta area, the menace of Boko Haram in the northern part of the country, the movement for the Actualization of Biafran (MASSOB), kidnapers, robbery, thuggery and the likes. In all these, the alarming rate of unemployment among Nigerian youths account for the increasing rate and multiplication of these groups. The Nigerian political system has clearly demonstrated the aphorism that “an idle hands is the devil’s workshop”. The unfortunate part of this is that, Nigerian youths are becoming more idle on daily basis since graduates are being turned out every year with majority of them jobless after the one year compulsory service to the nation thereby increasing the unemployment rate at a geometrical proportion.

As argued by Ubochi, (2013) the crisis of high rate of unemployment has a profound damaging impact on the lives of those bearing the brunt and for those unfortunate to experience it, unemployment is a tragedy”. Hence, he concluded that if unemployment is a tragedy, it is also a weapon of mass destruction. In his submission, Kucinich (1946) lamented that, “we have weapons of mass destruction we have to address here at home.

Poverty is a weapon of mass destruction. Homelessness is a weapon of mass destruction: unemployment is a weapon of mass destruction”. A critical look at the Nigerian situation at present reveals that the submissions of both Ubochi and Kucinich are nothing but real truths. Unemployment is fast becoming a tragedy and weapon of mass destruction on the political system. This was also emphasized by Fasan (2011) when he submitted that,

“We are bedeviled constantly today with fear of one attack or the other by one extremist group of another, hostage taking, bombs throwing and violent crimes are now parts of our daily lives that we only shake our heads to acknowledge the events and move on as if nothing has happened”.



The fear of attack, hostility, kidnapping, robbery and the likes that have characterized the political space is a product of the uncontrollable crowd of unemployed youths who resort to these menaces on account of idleness and joblessness. Sometimes, the unemployed Nigerian youths take solace in full and active participation during election. For instance, politicians do hire them to perform criminal acts relating to thuggery, ballot snatching and molestation of opponent candidates with a promise of 'meager settlement' in form of cash.

This they agree to since an ideal source of income is lacking. We make bold to say emphatically and categorically that it is doubtful if we can locate civil servants, teachers, bankers, etc., among the numerous thugs in our society. Only the idle hands can be made used of. A larger percentage of the people that constitute security risk to the nation are the unemployed. The jobless are always found among armed robbers, kidnapers, militants, etc.

They are the aggrieved, the hopeless and the embittered. To worsen the situation, armed robbery, kidnapping and hostage taking, assassination, militancy have all been promoted to the state of professions. This unpleasant situation according to Adat (2012) "is being attributed mainly to the dwindling economic potteries of majority and the widening gap between the affluent and the poor in our society".

The effects of unemployment on the national security can never be over emphasized. The nation's economy represents the foundation upon which other sectors rest. Despite this understanding, the nation has not got it right in her bid to redress the trend of unemployment which represents a negative force against the nation's economy. Arguably, the challenges posed by unemployment in Nigeria is chronic and progressing. This is not only a serious economic issue but has social and security implications that affect the country directly and indirectly. It causes social disquiet and serves as anchor to criminal activities.

The National Bureau of Statistics (2020) put the unemployment rate in Nigeria as follows: 3.77% in 2010, 3.77% in 2011, 3.74% in 2012, 3.70% in 2013, 4.56% in 2014, 4.31% in 2015, 7.06% in 2016%, 8.39% in 2017, 8.45% in 2018, 8.53% in 2019 and 9.10% in 2020 while the youth unemployment rate increased to 53.40% in the fourth quarters of 2020 from 40.80% in the second quarter of 2020 (www.macrotrends.net). One is particularly worried as the figure keeps on increasing yearly without any serious efforts by the political actors to abate the rampaging problem.

The statistics above further express the pathetic situation of the nation's economy in relations to unemployment. The high percentage of youth unemployment stands a bad signal to the security of the nation. One can therefore say that the insecurity within the nation is unemployment inspired. This stems from the English proverb that says, "spread the table and the contention will cease". In Nigeria, the table is not spread, only few are occupying it and the rest are made to sit on the floor having little or no access even to the crumb.



Osundare (in Ubochi, 2013) once lamented on the spate of insecurity in Nigeria. According to Osundare;

“Armed robbery, kidnapping and terrorism are siblings of the same parents. Most of these crimes are committed by young people whose hands are idle. Nigeria doesn’t take care of its educational system and Nigeria has not provided jobs for those who have passed through that system. This is another instance of our tragic contradiction. This is happening when the number of universities in Nigeria is increasing at an alarming rate”.

The above observation aptly sees unemployment as the parent which has given birth to many siblings which include militancy, thuggery, arm robbery, kidnapping, book haram menace, terrorism, assassinations. etc, hence, the whole society is characterized by fear of insecurity while people only sleep with one eye closed and the other opened.

As graduates are turned out from the tertiary institutions every year, the government makes little or no effort to make industrialization a priority. Instead, the nation’s revenue and income are channeled into individual’s pockets as a result of corrupt practices ravaging all sectors of the economy. All sectors are affected when it comes to corruption in Nigeria. On daily basis, we usually read this on the pages of our national dailies. The situation is putting the nation in a dangerous position which may jeopardize the corporate existence of the nation.

Danjuma (2012) likened the spate of insecurity in Nigeria with the Somalian state when he lamented that;

“Nigeria is becoming a Somalia. Somaliation of Nigeria is taking place right now... our house is on fire... let’s look at ourselves, face ourselves and tell ourselves the truth and find solutions to our problems. Right now, Borno is a failed state, Jigawa is almost a failing state, Kano is threatening to be a failed state”.

Before the ‘Somaliation’ of Nigeria, the current security situation places onus on the government at all levels to put measures in place to address the alarming rate of unemployment ravaging the nation.

6. CONCLUSION

This study carried out an in-depth analysis of unemployment and the security situation in Nigeria. From the above discussion, it is obvious that unemployment has driven many Nigerians into various nefarious activities that constitute a threat to the nation’s security which has subsequently hindered development in all sectors of the economy. To this end, the study has been able to reveal that poor governance, negligence of agricultural sector, poor management of the economy, mono-cultural economy, corruption, weak educational system, infrastructural deficiency, among others, are the major causes of unemployment in the nation while frustration, depression, banditry, kidnapping, poverty, armed robbery, e.t.c, were identified as the effects of unemployment on security. Consequent upon this, the study recommends; creation of job opportunities, diversification of economy, infrastructural development, good governance and so on as panacea to the malady.



7. SUGGESTIONS

The issue of creating jobs for Nigerians according to Alabi (2009) by both the government and business class has been a very serious one beginning from 1981 when the country's economic crisis became more pronounced. Ever since, the problem of unemployment has been more compounded, mainly because of the yearly increase in the number of unemployed graduates in the country. However, the problem of unemployment can be minimized through the following ways:

- Through the diversification of the economy to other sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, information technology, etc. This is more likely to reduce unemployment rate among the teeming youth who constitute the majority and who constantly roam about the streets searching for jobs that are not available.
- Another way of going about this problem of unemployment which is closely related to the above point is for the government to set up a contingency fund for agricultural and industrial developments. From this fund, credible local investors and farmers could have access to required credit so that the productive base of the economy could be enhanced and unemployment problem can be reduced.
- Through the efficiency of both the public and the private sectors, more employment opportunities can also be generated. In term of efficiency, the past experience shows that there is need to foster a collaborative arrangement between the public and private sectors, thus, creating jobs for the youths.
- The educational sector is so crucial to the development of any nation and its economy, and at the same time capable of solving the problem of unemployment. Apart from producing the needed man power, it extends the frontiers of knowledge which is so indispensable to national development. Therefore, with sound educational system, the job-seekers can stand on their own by being employer of labor rather than depending on government alone.
- Infrastructural development on the part of government can also help to reduce the problem of unemployment as this single factor will encourage the private sector to expand their business base in order to employ more capable hands.
- Agencies and institutions such as Corruption Investigation Bureau (CIB), Code and Conduct Bureau (CCB), Due Process Office and Anti-Corruption Commission (DPOAC), Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) should all be strengthened financially and logistically in order to curb corruption so as to enable the government to meet the needs of the people.
- Finally, it must be noted that the above recommendations cannot be realized outside a viable political framework based on popular participation and good governance. No matter how good a development strategy is, if there are no adequate popular consultations and the people's involvement, the essence and goals of development will always remain largely elusive. Consequently this study further recommends that:
- The continuous democratization of Nigerian state and all institutions of governance. Without a democratically elected government, mobilizing the people to support public policy and development cannot but be extremely difficult.
- A conscious effort should be made at all levels of government to provide the required framework and implement a coordinated programme to enlighten and educate the people on a continuous basis, inculcate desired values and educate the citizens on their rights, responsibilities, duties and desired behavior.



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