



Predictors of Unemployed Youths' Behaviour in Ekiti State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined location, gender and religion as predictors of unemployed youths' behaviour in Ekiti State. Descriptive research design of the survey type was adopted for the study. The population consisted of all the youths in Ekiti State. The sample consisted of 442 youths selected using multistage sampling procedure. The instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire titled 'Selected Variables as Predictors of Unemployed Youths' Behaviour in Ekiti State' (SVPUYB). Face and content validity of the instrument were ensured by experts and a reliability co-efficient of 0.65 was obtained after subjecting the instrument to test re-test reliability method. The responses obtained were collated and analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency count, percentages, means and inferential statistics of multiple regression analysis. All hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. The results of the study revealed that large number of the youths exhibited negative behaviour due to unemployment. Findings also revealed that all the selected variables jointly predicted unemployed youths' behaviour. All the selected variables; location, gender and religion relatively predicted unemployed youths' behaviour. Based on the findings of this study it was recommended among others that religious leaders should lay more emphasis on morality that can enhance the youths good behaviour in spite of being unemployed in the society

Keywords: Youths, Unemployed Youths, Location, Gender, Religion.

Introduction

The issue of unemployment is a worldwide phenomenon, touching many countries in varying degrees. It is a severe social problem prevailing in both the developing and developed countries; which seem to have serious effects not only on the standard of living of the youths; but on the socio-economic status of concerned citizens. Unemployment indicates a condition of joblessness or lack of employment.

In other words, anyone who is fit and available to work but fails to get one may be considered as being unemployed for that period (Olubukola,2013). Unemployment can simply be said to be the condition of people who are without jobs, people that country's unemployment rate has become a major source of concern. Several school leavers and employable adults are either finding it difficult to secure employment or are laid off work



for one reason or the other.

Youth unemployment is one of the social problems facing Nigeria at this time. A problem becomes a social problem when it really affects a considerable number of people in the society or a nation as a whole. Meaningfully, Social Studies instruction is geared towards solving social problems which can emerge from man's action and inaction within his environment. Social Studies is an area of study that sees to positively influence, modify and change people's behavioural patterns in the direction of acceptable norms, values, attitudes, beliefs and practices of the society. She is also of the view that Social Studies prepare young learners to be humane, think rationally and be a participating citizen in an interdependent world. Osalusi (2011) opined that Social Studies education equip the learners with basic knowledge, problem-solving and thinking skills that could lead to self-development. It has been recognised that Social Studies has a main objective of inculcating the right values into the younger generations. It also exposes them to basic skills that could enable them to function as a positive member of the society irrespective of their employment status. It could also encourage them to adapt to the ever-changing environment.

Youths in this context can be seen as young men and women who are no longer children, but not yet adults. Youth also represents a specific stage in the development of human beings. There are legal, physiological and

chronological dimensions to the definition of the youth. Due to this, there is no standard definition for the term youth. Adedokun & Oluwagbohunmi (2014) were of the view that the age range that constitutes youth varies from one society to another because an individual's actual maturity may not correspond to his/her chronological age. National Youth Development Policy (NYPD) in Adedokun & Oluwagbohunmi (2014) defined youth in Nigeria as comprising all young people between the ages of 18 and 35 years and who are the citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The World Health Organization (WHO) stated that a youth is anybody between the ages of 15 and 24. Youths represent the hopes and aspirations of any society seeking to enjoy a brighter future. They are the bedrock for any effective and sustainable development. Observation has shown that the rate at which youths engage in social vices has reached an alarming rate. This was observed by Oluwagbohunmi (2017) to be caused by high rate of moral decadence among the youths which has led them to get involved in negative activities such as political thuggery, crisis, violence, get rich syndrome, armed robbery, rape, prostitution etc. Observation also revealed that many youths tend to engage in series of social vices due to unemployment/underemployment. In line with this observation, Egunjobi (2007) noted that, social problems such as prostitution, robbery, alcoholism, domestic violence, social, religious and civil unrest and suicide to



mention but few, become more severe in times of high unemployment. Eze in Onwuka (2015) also affirmed that unemployment accounts for most of the social crimes perpetrated by youths in the Nigerian society today; that the accelerating level of prostitution, armed robbery, rape and all facets of violence can largely be attributed to the incidence of unemployment. It is strongly perceived that youth unemployment has given rise to different forms of criminality because nobody wants to be idle or unemployed.

Youths due to their exuberance have a tendency to pursue and achieve their desires at all cost not minding the consequences, they tend to involve in vices which had badly affected the economy of the state or the nation as a whole. Adejumola and Tayo-Olajubulu (2009) contended that unemployment has been identified as the major cause of social vices like armed robbery, destitution, prostitution, political thuggery, kidnapping and many more. What holds true for Nigeria and most other nations of equivalent human development indicators is the fact that crime is often a means of survival. Olukayode (2016) opined that most of the apprehended criminals in the country are the youths that are not gainfully employed. He is also of the view that when the means are limited people are forced to achieve the goals through illegal means to fulfill societal expectations. He added that, as the period of joblessness increases and feelings of frustration intensify there is

a greater probability that the individual or people will resort to illegitimate activities in order to actualize their expectations in the society.

Youths' behaviour can be defined as positive or negative actions or reactions of youths in specified situations. Under normal condition, some youths would not have engaged in such dastardly acts if they are gainfully employed. Although, some people would still be engaged in nefarious activities even when employed, this could probably be due to negative influence or wrong orientation to life. However, it could have been minimized if they were gainfully employed. The germane thing in this regard is that devil finds work for an idle hand. This seems to be the condition of the unemployed youth in Ekiti State.

Opportunity for employment might be contingent to the applicant's gender because there are jobs that require female to handle while there are also some that require skills of males. Male and female might not have the same behaviour due to their appearances or nature. Nwanneka, Ikediashi and Joseph (2015) observed that male in their very nature exhibit physical, verbal aggression and thuggery while female behaviour is subtle, indirect and relational involving harmful manipulation of others. Besides, there is more involvement of male than female in such antisocial behaviours as stealing, kidnapping, rape, fighting and violence. Unemployed female youths are mostly involved in prostitution as a result of their



attraction to the opposite sex and the readiness of the men to get the attention of the women at all cost. Thus, a jobless lady who is not morally upright would likely involve in prostitution to keep soul and body together. This is what Alabi, (2014) referred to in his work that many jobless girls who take to sex work in Nigeria complain of having no other job as a reason for engaging in prostitution. Oluwagbohunmi and Abiodun (2015) added that due to poverty and unemployment, many young ladies/women are lured into unacceptable behaviours for little financial gains. Female youths also engaged in anti-social activities prevalent in the society today like the men such as: violent protest, cultism, and ritual, drug abuse, armed robbery and insurgence among others. Males also, who are caught in one offence or the other most times blame it on joblessness.

Location means places or areas where youths were brought up or reside; this could be urban or rural. Youths are in both the rural and urban areas but there are more industries in the urban areas. Commercial activities, industries, banks and other parastatals are very low in rural areas because industrialists prefer to site their industries in urban areas in order to make profit. Therefore, youths that are in rural location might be engaged in farming activities and menial jobs. Observation showed that there is increase in rural –urban migration which makes the urban areas congested for the few vacancies available. Some

unemployed sleep in the slums and ghettos thereby creating social problem to the cities. It has been observed that some of the youths that migrated into the cities sometimes have no place to stay. This category of youths mingles with hardened criminals that live in slums and ghettos, who introduce the innocent applicants to illegal deals such as armed robbery, kidnapping, drug trafficking among others. This might eventually harden the heart of such youth. To make the matters worse, these set of youths that left their home based on unemployment might be victims of agents of human trafficking which could be safely described as modern slavery.

All world religions generally promote truth, justice, honesty and probity, but this tends not to be the case with Nigerians. It has been observed that Christianity and Islamic Religion form the two major dominant religions in Nigeria after colonization; and that the essence of traditional religion was systematically diminished after the colonial civilization agenda. Regardless of this, there is an embarrassing contradiction between the high ethical demands of the two major religions which most Nigerians profess.

Observations have shown that most of the youths that profess to be Christian or Muslim routinely swear to false affidavits in order to obtain citizenship certificates, and make false age declarations when seeking employment or admission into



institutions of learning. In the same vein, some religious leaders who ought to be preaching propagating moral value to the congregation have been found wanting in one case or the other. Religion can be used as a tool of manipulation by some politicians in Nigeria. For example, many youths that could have been gainfully employed had been recruited as thugs by politicians; some of the youths may not even be employed due to the religious inclination that is probably different from that of the person(s) in charge of recruitment. This is what Ushe, (2015) means when he cited Achi (2007) who lamented that the religious conflicts in Nigeria left a lot of people dead and homeless. One may conclude that not all the youths that follow the politicians dogmatically returned. The reason(s) could be that, they might have lost their lives in any of their political propagation, violent outings etc.

Purpose of the Study

This study examined predictors of unemployed youths' behavior in Ekiti State. The study also examined:

1. the level of unemployed youths' behavior;
2. the predictive strength of some selected variables such as location, gender, and religion on unemployed youths' behaviour in Ekiti State.
3. the joint and relative prediction of the above variables on unemployed youths' behaviour.

Research Question

One research question was raised for the study:

1. What type of behaviour do unemployed youths exhibit in Ekiti State?

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were generated to guide the study:

1. Location will not significantly predict unemployed youths' behaviour
2. Gender will not significantly predict unemployed youths' behaviour.
3. Religion will not significantly predict unemployed youths' behaviour.
4. None of the variables will best predict unemployed youths' behavior.

Method

The study adopted descriptive research design of the survey type. The population consisted of all unemployed youths both male and female living in both rural and urban centers of Ekiti-State.

The sample consisted of 442 youths selected using multi-stage sampling procedure. In the first stage, simple random sampling was used to select five local government areas from the existing 16 Local Governments Areas. The second stage involved the use of stratified random sampling to select two towns from each local government which included one urban and one rural. The third stage also involved purposive sampling to select fifty (50)



youths in each of the selected towns. Both sexes were considered in the selection.

A questionnaire developed by the researchers titled 'Selected Variables as Predictors of Unemployed Youths' Behaviour in Ekiti State (SVPUYB)' was used to elicit information from respondents. The instrument consisted of three sections. Section A elicited personal data of the respondents such as sex, town, local government, level of education and parental occupation while Sections B and C contained items which measured the independent variables and the criterion variables. Face and content validity of the instrument were ensured by experts in Social Studies as well as Tests and Measurement. The instrument was subjected to spilt half procedure to ensure its reliability. Copies of the questionnaire were administered on 20

unemployed youths in a town outside the sampled area. Scores on odd and even items were correlated using Pearson Product Moment Correlation and a reliability coefficient of 0.65 was obtained. This was considered high for the study.

Copies of the questionnaire were personally administered by the researchers and two research assistants who were trained on how to establish rapport with the respondents. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics with the aid of Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS). The research question raised was answered using frequency count, percentages and mean while the hypotheses were tested using regression analysis. All hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

Question 1: What type of behaviour do unemployed youths exhibit in Ekiti State?

Table 1: Unemployed Youths' Behaviour in Ekiti State

Youth Behaviour	Frequency	Mean	Percentage (%)
Negative (10.00-21.53)	234		52.94
Positive (21.54-40)	208	21.53	47.06
TOTAL	442		100

Table 1 revealed that out of the 442 respondents, 234 representing 52.94% exhibited negative behaviour while 208 representing 47.06% exhibited positive behaviour. This implies that majority of the respondents exhibited negative behaviour as a result of unemployment.



Testing of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: Location will not significantly predict unemployed youths' behaviour.

Table 2: Multiple Regression Analysis showing the Predictive Strength of Location on Unemployed Youths' Behaviour

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	T	Sig.
	B	Std Error			
(constant)					
Location	12.685	2.120		5.983	0.000
	0.598	0.141	0.199*	4.254	0.000

Dependent Variable: Unemployed Youths' Behaviour * $p < 0.05$

$R = 0.199$; $R^2 = 0.040$; Adjusted $R^2 = 0.037$; $F = 18.098$; $P = 0.00 < 0.05$

Table 2 revealed that there is positive correlation between location and unemployed youths' behaviour ($R = 0.199$). The value of coefficient of determinant ($R^2 = 0.040$) indicated that location accounted for 4% of the total variance in the behaviour of unemployed youths while the remaining 96% unexplained variation could largely be due to other variable examined in this study. The F-ratio (18.098) was significant at 0.05 level of significance. This implies that the

predictor variable will provide a significant explanation for the variation in the behaviour of unemployed youths. Thus, the hypothesis that location will not significantly predict unemployed youths' behaviour in Ekiti State was not accepted.

Hypothesis 2: Gender will not significantly predict unemployed youths' behaviour.

Table 3: Multiple Regression Analysis showing the Predictive Strength of Gender on Unemployed Youths' Behaviour

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	T	Sig.
	B	Std Error			
(constant)					
Location	8.684	1.722		5.044	0.000
	0.845	0.110	0.343*	7.667	0.000

Dependent Variable: Unemployed Youths' Behaviour * $p < 0.05$

$R = 0.343$; $R^2 = 0.118$; Adjusted $R^2 = 0.116$; $F = 58.783$; $P = 0.000 < 0.05$



Table 3 showed that there is positive correlation between the predictor variable and unemployed youths' behaviour ($R = 0.343$). The value of the coefficient of determinant ($R^2 = 0.118$) indicated that gender accounted for 11.8% of the total variance in the behaviour of unemployed youths while the remaining 88.2% unexplained variation could be due to other variables examined in this study. The

F-ratio (58.783) was significant at 0.05 level of significance. This implies that the predictor variable will provide a significant explanation for the variation in the behaviour of unemployed youths. Thus, the hypothesis that gender will not significantly predict unemployed youths' behaviour in Ekiti State was not accepted.

Hypothesis 3: Religion will not significantly predict unemployed youths' behaviour.

Table 4: Multiple Regression Analysis showing the Predictive Strength of Religion on Unemployed Youths' Behaviour

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	T	Sig.
	B	Std Error			
(constant)					
Location	9.538	1.532	0.360*	6.22	0.000
	0.891	0.110		8.103	0.000

*Dependent Variable: Unemployed Youths' Behaviour * $p < 0.05$*

$R = 0.360$; $R^2 = 0.130$; $Adjusted R^2 = 0.128$; $F = 65.660$; $P = 0.000 < 0.005$

Table 4 showed that religion will significantly predict unemployed youths' behaviour ($R = 0.360$). The value of the coefficient of determinant ($R^2 = 0.130$) indicated that religion accounted for 13% of the total variance in the behaviour of unemployed youths' behaviour while the remaining 87% unexplained variation could be due to other variables examined and

not examined in this study. The F-ratio (65.660) was significant at 0.05 level of significance. This implies that the predictor variable will significantly provide explanation for the variation in the behaviour of unemployed youths. Therefore, the hypothesis that religion will not significantly predict unemployed youths' behaviour in Ekiti State was not accepted.

Hypothesis 4: None of the variables will best predict unemployed youths' behaviour.



Table 5: Multiple Regression Analysis showing the Best Predictor of the Independent Variables on Unemployed Youths' Behaviour

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	T	Sig.
	B	Std Error			
(constant)	3.744	2.815		1.330	0.184
Location	0.058	0.152	0.019	0.382	0.703
Gender	0.473	0.150	0.192*	0.144	0.002
Religion	0.585	0.134	0.237*	4.376	0.000

*Dependent Variable: Unemployed Youths' Behaviour *p < 0.05*

R=0.410; R²=0.168; AdjustedR²=0.158; F=17.577; Sig=0.000<0.05

The table 5 revealed there is positive multiple correlation between the Predictor variables and unemployed youths' behaviour (R=0.410). This implied that all the predictor variables are factors that can predict unemployed youths' behaviour. The value of the coefficient of determinant (R²=0.168) indicated that all the predictor variables jointly accounted for 16.8% of the total variance in the behaviour of unemployed youths while the remaining 83.2% unexplained variation could largely due to other variables not examined in this study. This implies that there are other variables that account for the behaviour of unemployed youths.

The regression result in the table revealed that the variable that has the highest contribution to the total variance in the behaviour of unemployed youths is religion ($\beta=0.237$), this was closely followed by gender ($\beta =0.192$), Parent Socio-economic status ($\beta =0.041$), Location ($\beta =0.019$), Educational background which has the least predictive strength is ($\beta =0.007$). The F-ratio (17.577) was significant at 0.05 level of significance. This implies that the

predictor variables jointly provide a significant explanation for the variation in the behaviour of unemployed youths. Thus, the hypothesis that none of the variables will best predict unemployed youths' behaviour was not accepted.

Discussion

The findings revealed that large number of the respondents exhibited negative behaviour due to unemployment. This could largely be attributed to the popular saying that the idle mind/hand is a devil's workshop. This finding is in line with Eze cited in Onwuka (2015), who submitted that unemployment accounts for most of the social crimes perpetrated by youths in Nigeria society. The accelerating level of prostitution, armed robbery, rape and all facets of violence can largely be attributed to the incidence of unemployment. It is strongly perceived that youth unemployment has given rise to different forms of criminality in which the country is experiencing in recent times.

Findings also revealed that gender will significantly predict unemployed



youths' behaviour. This implies that many unemployed youths irrespective of gender can engage in any negative behaviour to survive. This perhaps could be attributed to the reason why some female youths get involved in any illegal means of survival such as prostitution, armed robbery etc and the males take up political thuggery, cybercrime, armed robbery etc to keep body and soul together. This finding is in line with the submission of Alabi (2014) who was of the opinion that many jobless girls who take to sex work in Nigeria complain of no other job as reason of engaging in prostitution. It also agrees with Oluwagbohunmi and Abiodun (2015) who submitted that due to poverty and unemployment, many young ladies/women are lured into unacceptable behaviours for little financial gains. Although, more involvement of male than female was observed in antisocial behaviours such as stealing, kidnapping, rape, fighting and violence, the female youths are not left out.

Result also revealed in the study that location will significantly predict unemployed youth behaviour. This is perhaps own to the fact that some youths who migrated into the cities sometimes have no place to stay, thus, such youth mingle with the hardened criminals that live in slums and ghettos, such criminal most times introduce the innocent migrant to illegal deals. This finding is in line with Berger (2003) cited in Nwanneka, Ikediashi and Joseph (2015) who opined that some Nigerian urban

centers breed adolescents who engage in various forms of criminal behaviour. The result of this study revealed that religion is the contextual variable that has the highest predictive strength on unemployed youth's behaviour. This could be due to what the youths do hear from their different denominations during sermons despite the fact that they are unemployed. Religious activities could serve as checkmate to the youths' behaviour. Finding also revealed that all the selected variables jointly contribute to the variation in unemployed youth behaviour.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, one significant conclusion is that youths, whether male or female from any location and background exhibit negative behaviour due to the fact that they are unemployed. It was also concluded that religion has the highest predictive strength on unemployed youth behaviour.

Recommendations

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

1. The government should make provision for ways by which youth can be gainfully engaged after graduation without seeking the white collar jobs. This can be done through integration of entrepreneurship education into the studies curriculum.
2. The government should enforce the integration of entrepreneurship into education curriculum right from primary school as this will inculcate in them, the sense of creating rather than



seeking job.

3. Equal opportunity in term of employment should be given to male and female youths regardless of their gender.

4. Government should provide infrastructural facilities and conducive environment for investors that will provide employment opportunities for thousands of youths in rural and urban areas.

5. More emphasis should be laid on religion education where the youths are taught moral instructions and orientation that will help them to be empowered. They should also encourage the youths on the act of diligence and hard work

6. Religious leaders should lay more emphasis on morality that can enhance the youth good behaviour in spite of been unemployed in the society.

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