

Graduates Unemployment and Criminality in Ado-Ekiti

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ABSTRACT:

This paper examines the effect of unemployment on the behavior of the university graduates in Ado-Ekiti and their immediate environment. Hanging the study on strain theory of Robert K. Merton, It is observed that Nigerian society places much emphasis on goals without making adequate provision for the means of achieving them; the tendency is to resort to deviant means. Multi-stage sampling technique was employed, using simple random sampling to select four political wards out of the twelve in the study site; accidental sampling method was employed to pick 100 respondents from each of the political wards selected. Responses were solicited through questionnaire. Data gathered were analyzed with SPSS (statistical package for social sciences). Frequency tables were generated and hypotheses tested using chi-square to discuss the relationship between unemployment and criminal behavior among graduates in Ado-Ekiti. The study emphasized the urgent need for government to encourage the establishment of local firms and industries, develop agricultural sector to absorb the mass of unemployed youths and give out revolving loans to graduates to start up their own businesses. The paper concludes that there should be introduction of entrepreneurship and vocational training in to all levels of educational curriculum in Nigeria for versatility and skills acquisition.

Keywords: *Unemployment, Graduates, Economy, Entrepreneurship, Vocation*

INTRODUCTION

Unemployment is one of the most critical problems in contemporary Nigeria. Unending years of corruption, the unimaginable effects of civil war, the years of military rule that followed, and the continuous high level of mismanagement of resources have hindered economic growth. Though Nigeria is endowed with diverse resources, both human and material but years of rabid negligence and uneventful adverse policies have led to the under-utilization of her resources. Hence maximum economic benefits that would have accrued from genuine harmonization of socio-political and economic forces have eluded the economy, leading to unpleasant dirges of unemployment and poverty.

At the wake of independence, the concern of

the political leaders was how to fix the shortages of qualified manpower; this gave them impetus to increasingly fund the existing university and to establish others. The products of the nation's university were academically sound and can compare with counterparts elsewhere around the globe. Graduates were few because university was just probably one and the labor market was not saturated hence there were nothing like unemployment for university graduates. In contemporary time, it is becoming increasingly clear that many graduates who have completed the National Youths Service Corps (NYSC) program are hanging around their neighborhood yet to secure employment. Unemployment rate in Nigeria is gradually

becoming intolerable, but this is made worse by the absence of social security and paucity of basic amenities. It is even worse that unemployment is found mostly among the youths. Conservative estimate put the number of unemployed youths at 20 million (Sanusi, 2012). These are young, energetic men and women, in the prime of their lives wasting away at the full glare of the ruling class. The youth age is the most productive age of any man. It is the age of incubation and birth of great scientific ideas which if systematically garnered and utilized can unfold great ideas that can propel scientific breakthrough and creation of wealth in a nation. Unemployment Rate in Nigeria as reported by the National Bureau of Statistics in figure 1 shows that unemployment in Nigeria increased to 23.90 percent in 2011 from 21.10 percent in 2010. Unemployment Rate in Nigeria averaged 14.60 percent from 2006 until 2011, reaching an all time high of 23.90 percent in 2011 and a record low of 5.30 percent in 2006.

In other words year in year out, the Nigeria unemployment rate keeps on soaring higher and higher as fresh graduates are poured out into the labor market only to be greeted with a long queue of the senior ones who have earlier passed out from the tertiary institutions and are yet to be

employed. There are few jobs to go round the vast unemployed population in the country because of the shrinking and inelasticity of the labor market itself (Adedoyin, 2010)

Unemployment in Nigeria has led to a waste of human resources and a great burden to the society. The knowledge they unemployed youths ought to have used for building the nation is apparently used to destroy it through criminal acts (Farington et al., 1986). The political leaders do not have the will power and the urgency needed to soothe problems which the Sultan of Sokoto calls a time bomb waiting to explode (Aregbesola, 2008). Though the issue of unemployment is not peculiar to Nigeria alone, it is a universal phenomenon but the Nigeria government has not taken the needed and necessary approach to apprehend this situation, rather, it has remained weak and ineffectual. A lot of educated youths have taken to crime because of unemployment problem (Thornberry et al., 1984) Nobody wants to be idle or unemployed, people want to have access to needed resources at all costs because of societal prescriptions, and this has led many unemployed graduates into criminality, confirming Merton's theory that when opportunities are blocked deviant means are triggered.



Figure 1: Nigeria Unemployment Rate

Labor	Last	Previous	Highest	Lower	Unit	
Unemployment Rate	23.90	21.10	23.90	5.30	Percent	+
Population	166.21	164.39	166.21	45.15	Million	+

Source: Trading Economics

Many Nigerian graduates have struggled to build up their life styles and have entered into different commitments just to be on the right path to success. Among such graduates are those who entered into bonds, got loans or scholarships and even promises were made by employers of labor to some, either explicitly or implicitly for a safe steady wage employment if they work hard and have the prerequisites. In contrast to their expectation thousands of Nigerian graduates are roaming the streets in search for job that are non-existent. Most of them have families and aged parents as dependants, their statuses and self-concepts as future leaders, potential workers and expected family bread winners are threatened and dashed by unemployment leading them to deviant or criminal options

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria is blessed with abundant material and human resources but the nation has mass of unemployed individuals. Unemployment breeds frustration, when the efforts of a job seeker prove fruitless he might directly or indirectly choose criminal alternative means of meeting his needs. Eisenberg and Lazarsfeld (1938) believed that unemployment would invariably lead to depression, lowered self - esteem, fatalistic belief, loneliness and boredom which can eventually lead to criminal tendencies. One would have expected that the privatization program under the regime of President Olusegun Obasanjo, the seven point agenda of President Yar'Adua and the fuel subsidy removal of President Goodluck Jonathan would be aimed at providing employment for the jobless youths of this country but the reverse is the case.

Successive governments had introduced various programs to fight unemployment among youths in order to curb crime and criminality in our society. But contrary to this, people seeking for employment are more than the available vacancy and this has posed a lot of distasteful problems in the society among which criminal behavior is one. The disjunction between people's aspirations and their ability to achieve these goals would invariably lead to serious strain. Since the cultural goals (basics of life: shelter, cloth and food) cannot be achieved through the legitimate means (employment), the unemployed might employ illegitimate means to

achieve the approved goals. The chronic unemployment of youths in Nigeria with little or no solution and the consequences it has on the lives of the youths is therefore the focus of this study.

The identified problems lead us to ask some salient questions thus:

1. What are the likely causes of graduate unemployment in Nigeria?
2. What are the natures of criminal behavior among the university graduate?
3. What are the relationship between unemployment and criminal behavior?
4. What can be done to reduce criminal behavior caused by unemployment?

Literature Review

Works has been described as a means for giving one's life purpose, direction, order and dignity. It also helps to support one's self but when a high percentage of the nation's youth are unemployed due to government's lack of ingenuity; the results of these are youth restiveness, crime, violence, etc. The rate of unemployment in Nigeria is on the increase with the disappearance of jobs in the public service, the churning out of estimated 120,000 graduates annually by Nigeria universities and polytechnics and lack of industrialization etc. many youths have taken to criminal activities like arm robbery, extortion of money from people and so on. (Adebayo, 1999). Though the issue of unemployment is not peculiar to Nigeria alone, it is a universal problem but the Nigeria government has not taken the necessary steps to arrest the situation. Many graduates that are churned out by Nigerian universities and polytechnic have unemployable skills (Aregbesola, 2008). The question is could the graduate be blamed for the lack of unemployable skill? Everyone knows that the standard of education in Nigeria has drastically fallen besides most educational instructions in the country have not tailored their programs to meet the demand of the workforce. Most companies have to retrain fresh university and polytechnic graduates in order to acquire the skills necessary to perform their roles.

Another terrifying issue is how thousands of graduates are roaming about the streets for so many years in search of unavailable and elusive jobs. The lucky ones who may eventually get an

offer after about five years of graduation would most likely have forgotten the little skills they were able to acquire while in school and unless they become retrained, such graduates would not function effectively in their jobs. Former Governor of Lagos State, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu in a reaction to the different calls, appeal and demand by concerned Nigerians for the scrapping of the NYSC program said that “in the face of high level graduate unemployment, the NYSC offered a stop – gap measure against joblessness”. This statement may be true to some extent but the fact still remains that these Youth Service Corps members join the league of unemployed youths after the mandatory one year National Service except for a few number of them who becomes retained by the organizations they were posted to serve.

Several years of unimaginable level of corruption, nepotism, civil war, military rule and economic mismanagement have hindered the much sort after development that would have transformed the country, hence the problem of unemployment in Nigeria tumultuously lingers. Though the country is endowed with diverse resources, both human and material but the years of waste, negligence and poor policies implementation have led to the reckless utilization of the resources. In other words the resources have not been effectively utilized in order to yield maximum economic benefits. This is one of the primary causes of unemployment and poverty in Nigeria (Economy Watch, 2010).

According to Fajana (2011) there are two major characteristics of the unemployed in Nigeria: their youthfulness and their high level of education. While the youths account for roughly one-third of the labor force, they account for between 60 and 75% of the unemployed. He argued that the high rate of youth unemployment was more importantly, the absence of a large industrial base operating at full installed capacity. Unemployment according to him has increased among tertiary graduates in Nigeria, presenting a negative social return on the massive investment of the Nigerian government on tertiary education.

Unemployment has some social consequences and one of these consequences is increase in crime rate. The university graduate

consists of the principal fraction of unemployed accounting for nearly 35% to 50%, the rate of unemployment within the age group of 20 to 24 years is 40% and between 15 to 19 years it is 31% (World Bank, 2005). In Nigeria, the unemployment rate measures the number of people actively looking for a job as a percentage of the labor force. In certain parts of the world, i.e. Sub – Saharan Africa, youth unemployment rates can be as high as 60%. More than one third of the young people in the world are unemployed, have completely given up looking for job or are working but still living below the \$2 a day poverty line. (ILO, 2008).

Unemployment in Nigeria could be broadly divided into two main headings:

1. Open unemployment and;
2. Underemployment or disguised unemployment

According to Lambo (1987), open unemployment is mainly associated with the urban areas of the country, while disguised unemployment applies to the rural agricultural zone. Todaro (1992) described open unemployment as people who are able and often agree to work but for whom no suitable jobs are available, whereas underemployment is mainly people who are normally working full time but whose productivity is so low that a reduction in hours would have a negligible impact on total output.

The *raison d'être* for upsurge in open unemployment in developing countries has been suggested by various scholars taking different perspective. For example Stewart (1974) views it from a technological standpoint. He saw unemployment problems in developing nations as stemming from the importation of unsuitable technology. According to Stewart, technology emanating from the developed countries is designed in the light of their economic needs. Poor countries obtaining technology (unmodified) from rich countries may thus receive technology whose cost is not in line with their resources, to the extent that only a fraction of their labor force is absorbed. He argued that this might lead to differential access to income earning opportunities in both traditional and modern sectors of the economy, and high level of open unemployment follows as people are trying to shift into modern sector.

Criminal Behavior

Clinnard and Quinney (1967) supported the categorization of criminal behavior on the basis of the effect of a particular criminal activity on the lives of the people, that is whether these individuals see themselves as criminal or not and the extent to which they submit themselves to a life of crime. Such distinctions are useful because they help us to understand why and how different law – breaking behaviors occur. Crime is an offence which goes beyond the personal and into the public sphere; breaking, prohibitory rules or laws to which legitimate punishment or sanctions are attached and requires the intervention of a public authority (Marshall, 1998). Another scholar Henslin (2008) defines crime as the violation of rules that have been written into law. In the light of the above definitions, crime is therefore a social problem judging from its negative consequences on the well being of the populace.

Criminology is interested in looking at why some people deviate and the society's reaction to wards deviation. However, within the body of the discipline there exist three major perspectives, each viewing the phenomenon of crime through its own prism. The legal perspective for instance operates within the legal definition of crime. It views criminal laws as sacrosanct which have to be obeyed by every member of the society whereas the criminal is seen as a morally defective member of society whose criminality is either innate or acquired through socialization. The liberal cynical perspective avers that behavior is influenced by external forces while the social order is inherently crimogenic. The radical or conflict perspective views crime through the prism of the tension arising from the contradictions inherent in a capitalist society (Attoh, 2012).

Crime is a social construct, relative to place and time, in other words what is considered a crime in one society may be normal in another society. According to Attoh (2012) there has been a growing concern over the increasing trends of violent crimes and terrorist activities in recent time, especially the use of improvised explosive devices by criminal element in Nigeria. Citing CLEEN (2007) Attoh stressed that, murder which is a clear example of violent crime was 1,629 in 1994; steadily increasing to

2,120 in 2001 and climbed to a record high of 2,136 in 2003. Armed robbery was 2,044 in 1994, in 2002; it rose to 3,889 amounting to over a 52 percent increase in less than a decade. In 2007, the Nigeria Police Force recorded 34,738 incidences as crime against persons and this figure escalated in 2008 to 35,108 incidences (NPF, 2008).

Crime in Nigeria are categorized into violent; personal crime, cyber crime, occasional property crime, fraud, public order crime, conventional crime, etc.

a. **Violent Personal Crime:** This includes assault, robbery and various forms of homicide acts in which physical injury is inflicted or implied. Legally such acts are crimes because in most cultures they violate every citizen's right to life and to conduct his or her daily affairs in personal safety.

b. **Cyber Crime:** Nigeria ranks third among the cyber crime committing countries in the world, according to a 2007 internet crime report released by the Internet Crime Complaint Centre (IC3), (Odapu, 2008). According to the report, in the US alone, "Nigeria letter fraud" (E – Mail scams emanating from Nigeria) constituted 1.1 percent of the 2007 top IC3 complaint categories. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in its banking sector supervision report revealed that the banking sector lost 7.2 billion naira to internet fraud.

c. **Occasional property crime:** Crime under this category includes vandalism, cheque forgery, shoplifting and some kinds of auto – theft. They are crime in the legal sense because they violate society's belief in the sanctity of private property. The perpetrators of vandalism, cheque forgery, shoplifting are usually naïve and unsophisticated in their operations, most of them having no knowledge of professional criminal skills. (Abati, 2009).

d. **Public Order Crime:** This constitutes the largest category of what society chooses to regard as crime. Public order offences include prostitution, homosexuality, gambling, drug addiction, drunkenness. Public order criminals rarely consider themselves as criminals nor do they think of what they do as crime, because they cause no physical harm or injury to anyone but to themselves.

Why Do People Engage in Criminal Behavior?

The widespread poverty and unemployment in Nigeria is chronic. Hence those who engage in criminal activities are mostly young, educated persons who complain about hunger and unemployment. Sigmund Freud in his early writings averred that aggressive behavior was a response to frustration. It stands to reason therefore, that frustration can lead to many forms of behavior such as waning, sublimation and aggressive fantasy, but direct aggression towards others is the most likely consequence of frustration in the real sense of it. The increasing wave of crime and violent behavior has been attributed to frustration especially by the youths (Soyombo and Attoh, 2009). The failure of the state to provide windows of opportunities especially in terms of education and gainful employment to its youths has impelled many youths into some sub-cultures such as crime, cyber crime, public order crime militancy (Attoh, 2012). Robert Merton in his postulations on the strain theory posited that in a class – oriented society, few members of the lower class even get to the top. His theory emphasized two fundamental elements: (a) Cultural goals (b) Institutionalized means to attain the desired goals. The disparity between goals and means engenders frustration which may lead to strain for instance, many young people desire a university education to enable them get white collar jobs but every year in Nigeria over one million graduates are produced in the tertiary institutions. Many of these graduates after many years of searching for employment without any turn to crime.

Unemployment and Criminal Behavior

Large – scale unemployment among graduates has encouraged the birth of street youth in Nigeria. The street youth denied of legitimate means of livelihood, grows up within a culture that encourages criminal behavior (Chigunta, 2002). In this sense, the unemployed graduate survive by engaging in various activities such as petty trading, casual work, stealing, pick pocketing, street begging, prostitution, touting and other illegal activities. Some have become drunkards or dope addicts such as marihuana, crack cocaine and morphine

(cf. Thornberry, et al., 1984). Bennel (2000) argued that urban society has become increasingly criminalized especially with the proliferation of youth gangs. Witt and Witte (2002) argued that crime is a major activity for young males, stressing further, they observed that crime is like basketball; it's a young man's game. Moffitt observed also that "actual rates of illegal behavior soar so high during adolescence that participation in delinquency appears to be a normal part of teen life" (Moffitt, 1993). By the age of eighteen Witte asserts 90 percent of young males have possibly participated in delinquent acts and approximately half have been arrested for non-traffic offenses by the time they are thirty. Only 50 to 60 percent of young females have been involved in delinquent acts by the time they are eighteen and less than 10 percent have been arrested by the age of thirty (Witte, 1997).

National Bureau of Statistics (2011) put unemployment rate in Nigeria at 23%. Contrary to popular belief, the most important problem facing Nigeria is not decreased productivity due to loss of these individuals labor, but instead the possibility that some of the unemployed will resort to criminal behavior as a means of rectifying their loss of financial income through legitimate means. Becker (1992) argued that one reason why the economic approach to crime became so influential was that the same analytic apparatus can be used to study enforcement of all laws. Since few laws are self - enforcing, they require expenditures on conviction and punishment to deter violators.

Just as the term crime denotes a wide variety of criminal activities that can respond differently to changes in unemployment, so too unemployment is a heterogeneous construct, varying in terms of age, gender, the duration of unemployment and the educational qualifications of those who find themselves unemployed. Given that engagement in criminal activity is a choice made by individual in the context of the relenting legitimate activities (such as employment). Youth unemployment is a cankerworm that devastates the social and economic fabric of a nation leading to abject poverty, fear and insecurity.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to examine the effect of unemployment on the behavior of the university graduates in Ado – Ekiti. The specific objectives are:

1. To examine the causes of unemployment among the university graduates.
2. To identify the nature of criminal behavior among university graduates
3. To examine the correlation between unemployment and criminal behavior.
4. To determine how criminal behavior caused by unemployment can be reduced in Ado – Ekiti.

Significance of the Study

This research work would help to relate the findings of this study to the immediate environment and see whether it is supported by facts of experience around Ado – Ekiti. The essence of this study is to help the policy makers at all levels of government to devise appropriate strategies and programmes aimed at eradicating criminal behavior as a result of unemployment. It is also significant since it will give opportunity to widen the boundary of sociological knowledge.

Theoretical Framework

Robert K. Merton (1968) posited that when a society emphasizes the socio – cultural goals without prescribing adequate institutional means for achieving these goals, the individual trying to achieve the socio – cultural goals becomes confused and frustrated as a result of the disjunction between aspirations and the achievement of these goals, thus the individual might take to deviant means. In the Nigeria context, the society expects us to aspire for wealth, property and dignified status and the prescribed means is largely through educational

achievement which is differentially given and attained.

Following Merton’s paradigm, it can be said that higher education is the major prescribed means of attaining success in Nigeria. In a society where an equal emphasis is placed upon both cultural goals and institutionalized means of achieving the goals, members of the society would be satisfied and there would be less deviant behavior, but in a situation where much emphasis is placed on the goals without adequate provision for the means (as unemployed universities graduates are experiencing in Nigeria) there would be the tendency to try to achieve the goals through deviant means. This is where Merton makes the distinction between legitimate versus illegitimate means. However, according to this theory, individuals would respond to a situation of anomie in different ways, based on their perception and position in the social structure.

A person whose society has provided with the means of achieving the goals (like the adequate employment opportunity for university graduates) would be less deviant and seek the goals through legitimate means but an individual who is not adequately provided for by the society (like that of unemployed graduates) may likely be more deviant and seek the goals through illegitimate means. For example, everyone wants to have access to at least the basic necessities of life (like shelter, cloth, food etc.) if these cannot be achieved by legitimate means (secure employment) they may want to achieve them (basic necessities of life) through illegitimate means (criminal behavior).

The theory outlines five possible ways of individual’s response to success goals as illustrated in table 1.

Table 1: Individual’s response to success goals

MODES OF INTEGRATION	CULTURAL GOAL	INSTITUTIONAL MEANS
Conformity	+	+
Innovation	+	-
Ritualism	-	+
Retreatism	-	-
Rebellion	±	±

The first response is conformity. These individuals are those who are adequately employed in the society. They strive to achieve the societal goals (success) through the prescribed and legitimate means (employment). The conformists have nothing to grumble about because their needs have been adequately met and in most cases they don't see anything wrong with the social structure. They conform to both goals and means. This is the most commonly used adaptation in every society.

The second response is innovation. This response rejects the means of achieving success and turns to deviant means particularly crime (This is what the theory terms acceptance versus rejection) Merton argues that they are less likely to succeed via conventional channels. Their jobs provide little opportunity for advancement (if they have job at all) and they have little access to conventional and legitimate means of becoming successful. The individual accepts the goals of wealth and power but does not accept hard work as a means. The innovator may choose illegal means and become a criminal. This choice is particularly attractive to the person who concludes that he does not have access to approved means of achieving his goals e.g. a graduate that does not have access to employment may choose criminal way of achieving his or her goal.

Ritualism is the third response. These individuals have largely abandoned the commonly held success goals. The pressure to adopt this alternative is greatest for members of the lower class. They deviate because they have largely abandoned conformity to social norms (through their university education) this prevents them from turning to crime, unable to innovate and with jobs that offer little opportunity for advancement, their only solution is to simmer down and abandon their success goals.

The fourth response is retreatism, the rejection of both the culturally defined goals and the institutionalized means. The individuals escape by becoming a drug addict, an alcoholic, a psychotic, or by some other method. They resolve the conflicts of their situation by abandoning both goals and means after fruitless effort and unable to secure a job they have lost faith and confidence in themselves. They see

themselves as failure they are unable to cope so they drop out. The rejection of both goal and means without trying to effectuate change leads to the feeling of helplessness and powerlessness. The drop-outs simply wait for something to happen leaving everything to fate.

Finally, there are the rebels. Rebels reject both the goals and the means as unfair. Rebels seek to tear down the old social order and build up a new one with goals and institutionalized means they can support and accept. In general Merton's fundamental explanation of the tendency to criminality is that the emphasis on goals rather than on the means of attainment may cause many people who cannot achieve material success goals through legitimate means to resort to any means including crime.

Emile Durkheim (1858 – 1917), one of the founding fathers of sociology, was the first to employ anomie as a means of explaining crime. Anomie is a French word and it is translated literally as deregulation or *normlessness*. It is a condition characterized by the absence of values or confusion of values in a society. Anomie is referred to as a condition in which the social system fails to provide the individual with clear cut guides to action. Durkheim saw different indications of anomie in the industrial society of the late nineteenth century. These among others were high rates of suicide, robbery, burglary, murder etc. if a person is looking for job without securing any, he or she may be frustrated to the extent of committing suicide or going into criminal activities.

The conception of anomie in this sense is that it encourages social deviation in that people tend not to allow social norms to shape their behavior, or that the norms themselves are either inadequate or are ambiguous. The result is that social control becomes weak and social deviance increases.

Relating this theory therefore means that, when one graduates and he is unable to secure employment, such individual may be frustrated to the extent of engaging in behaviors that are against the societal norms and values. Such individual might no longer allow societal norms to shape his or her behavior because of confusion, frustration and aggression against the society.

RESEARCH METHOD

Study Area

Ekiti State is a state in Southwest Nigeria, declared a state on October 1st, 1996, the state carved out of the territory of old Ondo State, covers the former twelve Local Government Area that made up the Ekiti zone of old Ondo State. On creation, it took off with sixteen (16) Local Government Areas, having had an additional four carved out of the old ones. Ekiti State is one of the thirty six states that constitute Nigeria. The state has the total population of 2,737,186(2005est), with the state capital in Ado-Ekiti. Ekiti state is situated in the Northern part of old Ondo state and covers a land area of about 7,000 sq. kilometres. Its North-south extent boundary with Kogi state at Iye/Eruku and South boundary with Ikere/Iju boundary along 5°30'E is 88 kilometres while the West-East extent borders Osun state at Itawure/Ijebu-jesa and East boundary with Omuo/Igasi along latitude 7°0'N is 100 kilometres. 'Ekiti' was derived from 'Okiti' meaning 'hilly outcrops' and that an Ekitiman would feel more at home being called Ekiti than Yoruba (Oguntuyi, 2007). The state is largely agrarian. Agriculture employs 75% of the state working population. The state is endowed with abundant mineral deposits of value like Clay, Kaolin Columbite and foundry sand. Education is highly regarded and prioritized. Tourism is another aspect which will become a veritable source of income for the state, notable among its tourist attractions are the Ikogosi tourist centre, Arinta waterfall at Ipole-Iloro, Ero dam at Ikun-Ekiti and Fajuyi memorial park at Ado-Ekiti. (www.ekitinigeria.net)

Study Site

Ado – Ekiti is the capital of Ekiti State. Ado – Ekiti could be regarded as one town local government. The town is a growing urban centre; the population has increased considerably in recent time being the state capital and the subsequent influence of people from various part of the state in search of employment opportunity. Ado – Ekiti Local Government was confirmed the most populous local government in Ekiti State going by the 2006 population

census which put the population at 308,621. As at now the local government is presumed to have a population density of 43,986 persons per kilometer. Ado – Ekiti is located on latitude 7°35' and 74°47' north of the equator and longitude 5°11' and 5°16' east of the green which meridian. It is bounded on the north and west by Ifelodun/ Irepodun local government and east and south by Gbonyin, Ikere, and Ekiti south west local government. Its longest East west stretch is about 20km. Ado-Ekiti is about 200m above the sea level in the South eastern part of Ureje stream and 500m above the sea level in the North east limit. The landscape is dotted with rounded inselbergs and steep sided hills of volcanic origin such as Ayoba hill, central to the region are gently undulating slopes which form the source of streams like Amu, Awedele, Ajilosun, Adere etc. Ado-Ekiti local government is divided into thirteen (13) wards in creation by the federal government. The central city of Ado-Ekiti carries 12 (twelve) out of this; while the other villages share the remaining ward. The wards in the central city of Ado-Ekiti are ward 1 including Ajilosun and Ureje, ward 2, Odo Ado, ward 3 Odo and Ago Igbira, ward 4 consist of Ojido and Idolofin, ward 5 Oke-iyinmi and AafinOdundun Ado, ward 6 Opopogbooro, ward 7 is Okella, ward 8 Basiri, ward 9 Housing lane ward 10 consist of Egbewa, Okesa and Onigari, ward 11 is Irona and Oke-Aso, ward 12 is Igirigiri.

Population

The population of this study consists of unemployed graduates in Ado-Ekiti, since Ado-Ekiti is the capital of Ekiti State, majority of unemployed graduates migrate from neighboring areas into Ado-Ekiti in search of job opportunities, therefore the point of view and opinion of these unemployed graduates was explored in the course of this research.

Sample and Sampling Technique

In this study, multi-stage sampling technique was employed the twelve wards in the study site were given equal chance of selection. Using simple random sampling method four political wards were randomly selected from table 2.

Table 2: The 12 political wards in Ado-Ekiti

WARDS	AREA COVERED /STREETS
1	Ajilosun and Ireje
2	Odo Ado
3	Odo and Ago Igbira
4	Ojido and Idolofin
5	Oke-Iyinmi and AafinOdundun Ado
6	Opopogbooro
7	Oke-Ila
8	Basiri
9	Housing Lane
10	Egbewa, OKesa and Onigari
11	Irona and Oke-Aso
12	Igirigiri

After drawing out four wards [1, 7, 10 and 11], accidental sampling was used to choose 100 respondents from each political ward, because there is no specific place where unemployed graduates can be found, therefore availability and willingness to respond were the overriding factors used in selecting the respondents, A sample of 400 respondents were finally chosen from the population of unemployed graduates in the selected wards comprising both male and female.

Method of Data Collection

Questionnaire method was adopted in this study. The questionnaire consists of both close ended and open ended questions. The close ended questions required the respondents to pick from the available options provided, while open ended questions allowed the respondents to freely express their personal opinions where necessary. The questionnaire was divided into four sections. Section A: asked questions about the bio-data of the respondents, section B: asked questions about the likely causes of graduate unemployment which is the number one objective of the study, section C: questions about the nature of criminal behavior among graduates, the second objectives of the study; Section D: asked questions to check the relationship between unemployment and criminal behavior and how it can be reduced.

Data Analysis

The data gathered from the respondents were analyzed by using the SPSS (Statistical Package

for Social Sciences). Analysis was carried out with the generation of frequency and percentage tables. The hypotheses were tested using Chi-square to evaluate the relationship between unemployment and criminal behavior.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

In table 1, it was revealed that 26.2% of the respondents were between ages 20-25, 57.2% were between age 26-30 and 16.6% were between ages 30 and above. This showed that most of the respondents were between the age of 26-30years i.e. they are Adults. Astonishingly 63.7% of the respondents were male and 36.3% were female. This implies that most of the respondents were males. Most of the respondents 65.6% were Christians, 25.9% were Muslim and 8.5% belong to other religions. This showed that most of the respondents were Christians. Majority of the respondents were Yoruba with 65.6%, while 25.9% were Igbo and 8.5% were Hausa. Based on the marital status, 67.7% of the respondents were married, while 23.7% were single and 8.5% were divorced. This showed that most of the respondents were married. It showed that 52.1% of the respondents were HND holder and 47.8% were B.Sc. holders. This implies that the largest percentage of the respondents were HND holders. It could be deduced that 67.9% of the respondents were casual workers, 23.4% were private school tutors and 8.5% were farmers.

Table 3: Socio-Economic characteristics of the respondents

Variables	Responses	Frequency N=355	Percentage (%)
Age	20-25	93	26.2
	26-30	203	57.2
	30 above	59	16.6
	Total	355	100.0
Sex	Male	226	63.7
	Female	129	36.3
	Total	355	100.0
Religion	Christianity	233	65.6
	Islam	92	25.9
	Others	30	8.5
	Total	355	100.0
Ethnicity	Yoruba	233	65.6
	Hausa	30	8.5
	Igbo	92	25.9
	Total	355	100.0
Marital status	Single	84	23.7
	Married	241	67.9
	Divorce	30	8.5
	Total	355	100.0
Education	B.Sc.	170	47.9
	HND	185	52.1
	Total	355	100.0
Occupation	Farming	30	8.5
	casual workers	241	67.9
	private school teacher	84	23.7
	Total	355	100.0

Table 4: Causes of unemployment in Nigeria

Variables	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Does Nigeria graduates have the requisite skill to make them employable	Strongly agreed	92	25.9
	Agreed	233	65.6
	Disagreed	30	8.5
	Total	355	100.0
Did high retirement age of workers cause graduates unemployment	Strongly agreed	269	75.8
	Agreed	56	15.8
	Disagreed	30	8.5
	Total	355	100.0
Lack of entrepreneurship and vocational skill cause unemployment	Strongly agreed	233	65.6
	Agreed	86	24.2
	Disagreed	36	10.1
	Total	355	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Causes of Unemployment in Nigeria

Table 3 reveals that 65.6% of the respondents agreed that Nigeria graduates have requisite skills that make them employable, 25.9% strongly agreed while 8.5% disagreed that Nigeria graduates have the requisite skill to be employed. It could be deduced that 75.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that high retirement age of workers caused graduate unemployment, 15.8% also agreed, while 8.5% of the respondents disagreed that high retirement age of workers caused graduate unemployment. The table also shows that 65.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that lack of entrepreneurship and vocational skills could cause unemployment, 24.2% also agreed while 10.1% of the respondents disagree.

The Nature of Criminal Behavior among Graduates

Table 5 indicates that unemployment was identified by almost half of the respondents [49.9%] as the major factor of criminal behavior among unemployed graduates while the remaining factors such as peer pressure 16.3%,

lack of moral value 9.3%, fallen education standard 8.7%, single parenting 6.2%, political failure 4.8% and lack of industrialization 4.8% follow respectively.

Table 6 shows that 43.7% of the respondents were of the opinion that organized crime is the major type of crime committed by unemployed graduates, this shows that level of education is positively correlated to the type of crime committed in society; 25.9% said petty crime is another type of crime committed by graduates, while 13% said it is kidnapping, 8.5% identified prostitution, and 8.5% said cyber crime are committed by unemployed graduates.

Table 7, reveals the effect of graduate criminality in the society as shame and disgrace with 53.0%, brain drain with 19.7%, sub-culture with 8.5%, Loss of life with 7.0%, hindered growth and development with 5.95% and destruction of properties with 5.9% respectively. In other words those youths who could have contributed positively to the development of the society through their labor are left wasting away with their strength and intellect untapped.

Table 5: The nature of criminal behavior among graduates

Factors contributing to criminal behavior	N	%
Unemployment	177	49.9
peer pressure	58	16.3
lack of moral value	33	9.3
single parenting	22	6.2
political failure	17	4.8
lack industrialization	17	4.8
fallen in education	31	8.7
Total	355	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table 6: Types of crime committed by unemployed graduates

Types of crime	N	(%)
organized crime	155	43.7
petty crime	92	25.9
Prostitution	30	8.5
internet fraud	30	8.5
Kidnapping	48	13.5
Total	355	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table 7: Effects of unemployed graduates criminality

Effect of Criminality	Frequency	Percentage (%)
shame and disgrace	188	53.0
brain drain	70	19.7
sub culture	30	8.5
loss of life	25	7.0
hindered growth and development	21	5.9
destruction of properties	21	5.9
Total	355	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Table 8: The relationship between unemployment and criminal behavior

Category	N	(%)
High	289	81.4
Low	36	10.1
Moderate	30	8.5
Total	355	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

The Relationship between Unemployment and Criminal Behavior

In table 8, majority of the respondents 81.4% believed that the rate of unemployed graduates' criminality is high, 10.1% believe its low and 8.5% believe it is moderate.

What Can Be Done To Reduce Criminal Behavior Caused By Unemployment?

From table 9, 29.3% of the respondents believed that financing small scale enterprise will reduce the level of criminality, while 17.5% believed in provision of employment opportunities, 14.7% believed that improvement of local or Agriculture sector will reduce criminal behavior, 14.6% were of the opinion that eradication of private ownership of property, 13.5% of the respondent maintained that introduction of entrepreneurship and vocational skill in Nigeria Educational System, 6.5% reduction in the retirement age of workers, and 3.9% believes that given pension to retiree as at when due will curb the level of criminal behavior caused by unemployment.

Research Hypothesis 1

Ho: = there is no relationship between retirement age of workers and graduates unemployment.

H1: = there is significant relationship between retirement age of workers and graduates unemployment.

Hypothesis 1, Chi-square (X^2) calculated value is 290.61 and (X^2) table value is 7.38. Comparing the results chi-square calculated value is greater than chi-square table value. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected (Ho) which stated that there is no significant relationship between retirement age of workers and graduates unemployment and accept the alternative hypothesis (Hi) which states that there is a significant relationship between retirement of age of workers and graduate unemployment. It is obvious from the table that reduction in retirement age of workers will reduce the high rate of unemployment in Nigeria (table 10).

Table 9: How criminal behavior caused by unemployment can be reduced

to reduce crime caused by unemployment	n	%
Improve agricultural sector	52	14.7
Introduce entrepreneurship and vocational skills into education	48	13.5
Finance small scale enterprise	104	29.3
Provide employment opportunity	62	17.5
Pay pension to retiree as at when due	14	3.9
Reduce age of working	23	6.5
Eradicate individual ownership of property	52	14.6
Total	355	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Hypothesis 1

Table 10: X² test for retirement age of workers and unemployment

Variables	N	X ² Cal	X ² table
Retirement age of workers	355	290.61	7.38
Graduate unemployment	355		

Source: Field Survey, 2013

Pr > 0.05 [result is significant]

Research Hypothesis 2

Ho: = there is no relationship between peer group influence and unemployed graduates' criminal behavior.

Hi: = there is a significant relationship between peer group influence and unemployed graduates' criminal behavior.

Hypothesis 2, Chi-square (X²) calculated value is 390.45 and (X²) table values is 14.45. Comparing the result, Chi-square calculated value is greater than chi-square table value. Hence we reject the null hypothesis (Ho) which states that there is no significant relationship between peer group influence and unemployed graduates criminal behavior and accept the alternative hypothesis (Hi) which stated that there is a significant relationship between peer group influence and unemployed graduates criminal behavior (table 11).

Research Hypothesis 3

Ho: = There is no significant relationship between graduate unemployment and criminal behavior.

Hi: = There is a significant relationship between graduate unemployment and criminal behavior.

Hypothesis 3, Chi-square (X²) calculated value is 245.14 and (X²) table values is 5.024. Since chi-square calculated value is greater than chi-square table value. Hence we reject null hypothesis (Ho) which state that there is no significant relationship between graduate unemployment and criminal behavior and accept alternative hypothesis (Hi) which states that there is significant relationship between graduates unemployment and criminal behavior (table 12).

Hypothesis 2

Table 11: X² test for peer influence and criminal behavior

Variables	N	X ² Cal	X ² table
Retirement age of workers	355	390.45	14.45
Graduate unemployment	355		

Source: Field Survey, 2013
Pr > 0.05 [result is significant]

Hypothesis 3

Table 12: X² test for unemployment and criminal behavior

Variables	N	X ² Cal	X ² table
Unemployment	355	245.14	5.024
Criminal behavior	355		

Source: Field Survey, 2013
Pr > 0.05 (result is significant)

Discussion

The study revealed that there is a relationship between unemployment and criminal behavior. This finding was supported by Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) anomic theory which stated that, when the social system fails to provide the individual with the clear cut guides to action, which is characterized by the absence of value or confusion of value in the society deviance in different proportions is witnessed. Inability of graduates to secure employment will frustrate them and trigger criminal inclinations. This is also supported by Chigunta (2002), argument that when youths are denied legitimate means of livelihood and grow up in a culture that encourages criminal behavior the tendency to criminality becomes high. The finding also shows that the level of education determines the type of crime an offender commits as the study revealed also that most crimes engaged in by unemployed graduates are organised crimes.

The study shows that Nigerian graduates have the requisite skills to be employable, this finding was supported by Aregbesola (2008) where he argued that unemployment rate in Nigeria is a waste of human resources. The knowledge they ought to have used for building up the nation is used to destroy it by engaging in criminal acts. The major causes of graduates'

unemployment are the high retirement age of workers, lack of entrepreneurship, and vocational skills and poor education system. The finding also shows that peer group influence have positive relationship with criminal behavior. The kind of group or friend a person keeps to a greater extent will determine his behavior either as conformist or as a deviant. The study also indicated that criminal behavior reduces the self-esteem and self worth of individual who engages in criminal act.

CONCLUSION

This study examines the relationship between unemployment and criminal behavior. It was observed therefore, that unemployment is one of the major factors that accounts for the criminality of the unemployed graduates, hence there is a positive relationship between graduates' unemployment and criminal behavior. The state has failed in its responsibility of providing job opportunities for the graduates. This has impelled many of the unemployed graduates to criminal activities.

The study also finds out that the major causes of unemployment are lack of entrepreneurship and vocational skill among graduates. This conclusion was made on the ground that some of the respondents who were graduates did not wait

to be employed. In fact some of them were already self-employed from their entrepreneurship and vocational skills learned before or during their undergraduate days. For this set of employed graduates, there was no need to resolve to crime for survival. Other factors responsible for the causes of unemployment are late retirement age of the old workers and decay in standard of education.

It was also discovered that the nature of criminal behavior found among unemployed graduates in Ado-Ekiti is usually the organized crime, such as armed robbery, kidnapping, internet fraud, cheque forgery, they carry out their operations with more tact arising from their intellectual ability and some of the unemployed female graduates took to prostitution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In consonance with ILO (2008) one important strategy for expanding the number of available jobs is to expand the number of job creators. Promotion of entrepreneurship is an indispensable component of regional economic development. Promotion of youth entrepreneurship in particular can directly impact potential young business-starters themselves, while spreading positive employment impacts among their peers and their communities.

Government should therefore, encourage industries that will create employment opportunities for many Nigerians such as improving local firms and industries, and empower the agricultural sector and encourage youth's especially unemployed graduate to get engaged in it. It is also recommended that government at all levels should encourage self-employment. There are many graduates that wish to be on their own but they don't have the financial muscle. Government should finance small scale enterprises by giving out loan to the graduates to start up their own business.

There should be introduction of entrepreneurship and vocational training into our educational system at all levels in Nigeria. This will help the society as well as individuals within it live safe and secure. Even if the graduates are unable to secure job on time, they can easily embark on the work they have learnt. They can even be an employer of labor instead

of wasting time to look for the elusive job. It is suggested that government should reduce the retirement age of workers and give them their pension as at when due. This will give way for the effective utilization of the skills for the economic benefit of the country.

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