

UNEMPLOYMENT: A MENACE TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN NIGERIA, 1999 - 2020

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Abstract

The paper discusses the concussion of unemployment on peace and security in Nigeria between 1999 and 2020. Unemployment as a concept became a menace because of the deteriorating Nigerian economy since 1999. Over 38.5% of the population is unemployed and the ripple effect over the years has led to hike in crime rate, such as banditry, drug abuse, internet fraud, kidnapping, etc. The paper employs secondary sources that include published books, journals, and internet sources to explain the ethical impacts of unemployment in Nigeria. The paper analyses the causes and effects of economic downturn on unemployment, including leadership problem, monoculture economy, and labour immobility, among others. The paper also suggests boosting human capital through education and training can reduce unemployment. Implementing economic policies that will enhance economic growth and reduce unemployment is crucial to curbing insecurity.

Keywords: Insecurity, Government, Unemployment, Economic Downturn.

Introduction

The term “unemployment” could be a situation whereby sturdy men and women are unable to get jobs that give living wages. It could also relate to idleness that signals economic distress or loss of human capital due to failure of the labour market within a geopolitical space. It is when a number of the economically active individuals, as well as those who have lost their jobs or have voluntarily left work are willing to work but were unable to secure one. Youth unemployment, therefore, could be portrayed as a composite of young persons who possess distinct capacity to work but could not secure any¹.

¹ Adesina, O. S. (2013). Unemployment and Security Challenges in Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. Vol.3 No. 7.

Unemployment is an all-encompassing occurrence whereby qualified manpower within a geopolitical space remains unengaged with suitable jobs. It is not just a serious economic matter of contention; it has degenerated into a social menace affecting almost all countries within the international community, directly or indirectly. Unemployment has rendered many societies to a domain for criminal acts as the aftermath of the unstable socio-economic framework². Unemployment has become a phenomenon ravaging most states within the global village and Nigeria is no exception. The alarming unemployment rate in Nigeria has created developmental and security challenges due to widespread poverty, high social vices and criminal activities that have become inherent among the youth of the country.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), over 900 million persons existed beneath the \$2 a-day poverty index level, with approximately 456 million wage earners across the globe in abject poverty. In addition to this, ILO in 2012 also explained that unemployment possesses a longitudinal effect that is likely to deteriorate in Africa and parts of Asia unless they address leadership predicament bedeviling them by forcing an alliance to fight the “planetary hazard”. Over 400 million new jobs are assumed to be required in the next ten years to circumvent a further escalation in unemployment. Therefore, the time has come for the government to devote itself to dynamics of productive job creation. The magnitude of unemployment within the global economic hemisphere can be perceived through the steady yearly increment which has over time constituted a form of jeopardy to national security, as many of these youths have resorted to criminal acts to make ends meet³.

The penurious status of Nigeria, no doubt, has developed a society filled with frustrated, expectant youths, especially those who have found it difficult to wriggle their way out of their hopeless poverty situation. Amateurish poverty extermination programmes and sneaky delinquency by the Nigerian government worsen the condition of despair. Notably, individuals and groups respond differently depending on situational factors and capacity to the menace. These responses are expressed in several anti-social behaviour including armed robbery, assassination, ethnic crisis, fraud, insurgency, kidnapping, militancy, and terrorism, among others. These anti-social activities have posed a challenge to Nigeria as most of these activities are mostly perpetrated by the youths⁴.

² International Labour Organization. (2012). Global Employment Trends for Youths. Retrieved from <http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/gropus/public/...dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms-180976.pdf>. Last assessed: 2nd February, 2022.

³ Adesina, O. S. (2013). Unemployment and Security Challenges in Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. Vol.3 No. 7.

⁴ Aminu, U., Hamza, A. P. & Ali, D. H. (2015). The Impact of Insecurity and Poverty on Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities Social Studies and Education*. Vol. 2(2). Pp. 32- 48.

Over the years, the increment in the statistics of the unemployed poses a serious threat to national security as the crime rate continues to increase. As described by Obasanjo, national security is the aggregate of security interests of all individuals, communities, ethnic groups, and the entire political entity⁵. Security is the degree of resistance to or protection from harm. This applies to any vulnerable and asset, such as a person, dwelling, community, nation, or organisation and the state of being free from danger or threats. In other words, security can be described as a situation whereby an individual can exist within a geopolitical space without any threat to lives and properties.

Conceptual Clarifications

UNEMPLOYMENT: Unemployment as a concept is described by Ibikunle (*et al.*) as an endemic catastrophe characterised by its ability to create a serious multiplier of poverty impediments to high living standards. It has represented a scenario whereby a country's manpower resources are enormously wasted by enabling a kind of welfare loss in terms of lower output of active youths, thereby leading to lower income and well-being⁶. He further reiterated that the altitudinal increment of unemployment rate has culminated in overwhelming criminal activities and social vices in Nigeria. It has become so challenging for her development, security, and peaceful co-existence. This has donned Nigeria with an emblem of poverty as most of her citizenry have become impoverished to the extent that most families are finding it difficult to feed properly due to the hike in the cost of basic staples such as *garri*, rice, yam, beans, etc. Most people can no longer afford meat like beef and poultry products or food that can supply the body with minerals and vitamins. The situation worsened so much that individuals from most households became vulnerable to sicknesses and diseases. A lot of Nigerian youths have become so retarded both physically and mentally because of the high inflation of goods and services even in their jobless state. This has therefore led to difficulty in making ends meet⁷. However, Adesina categorises unemployment as a concept into seven types. They include:

- ❖ **Structural Unemployment:** The diversity in the composition of enterprises or production activities within a geopolitical space often results in structural unemployment. According to Adesina, this occurs mostly when an individual's taste has switched, mostly because of the changes in technology or the demand for such goods and services declined. This has occurred in most developing countries of Asia and Africa that keep evolving based on the dynamics of globalisation and

⁵ Obasanjo, O. (1999). *Grand Strategy for National Security*. Abuja: Federal Ministry of Information

⁶ Ibikunle, G. A., Orefuwa, E. R. & Mafo, A.B. (2019). Analysis of the Causes and Effects of Unemployment in Nigeria towards a Solution for Graduate Idleness and Poverty Alleviation. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. Vol. 24, Issue 2, Ser. 2. Pp. 36-44.

Nigeria is no exception. However, unemployment becomes a challenge in these societies because of the insufficiency of capital resources that tally with their demand. This same challenge can also happen when there are discrepancies between manufacturers and employment opportunities within a geopolitical space. Other causative factors of structural unemployment include difficulty in relocation to a new work location, difficulty in learning a new skill and introducing new techniques and technologies that need less labour force,⁸ etc.

- ❖ **Frictional Unemployment:** Frictional unemployment involves an individual becoming unemployed by leaving a job voluntarily or involuntarily and being on the lookout for another position. This involves a period for an individual to switch between two jobs. Frictional unemployment can also occur because of industrial friction whereby employment exists, but it becomes so difficult to fill up these spaces mostly as a result of lack of essential skills to take up the jobs. There are other situations whereby active able bodies have no knowledge that these jobs exist, therefore creating a scenario whereby the employable may remain unemployed. Deficiencies in raw materials or worn equipment can also lead to frictional unemployment and many more⁹.
- ❖ **Seasonal Unemployment:** The variation in the activities of industries can lead to unemployment. Changes in the climate, fashion, or the nature of such industries mostly precipitate this occurrence. Examples of where seasonal industries are found are in tropical region ice factories where demand for goods and services are predestined by the climatic condition of the area. Examples are hospitality industries, tourism industries, fruit-picking industries, catering services, etc. These situations often create seasonal-oriented unemployment in these kinds of industries.
- ❖ **Cyclical Unemployment:** This is otherwise described as Keynesian unemployment because it is a kind of unemployment that occurs as a product of economic recession. The decline in the economic prowess of a society creates a dwindling effect on the demand for goods and services. In Nigeria, Keynesian unemployment can be attributed to adopting Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). This has also affected other third-world states and Nigeria has since not recovered with the devaluation of her currencies ever since the implementation of the policies. It has resulted in several moments of recessions, poverty, unskilled and surplus labourers becoming unemployed, etc. People have been thrown out of jobs because the economy of their society becomes unfavourable, especially when industries can no longer pay their workers. There have been cases of people being under-employed or only being

⁸ Adesina, O. S. (2013). Unemployment and Security Challenges in Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. Vol.3 No. 7.

⁹ Ibid. P. 148

partially employed due to the economic downturn of these third-world states. When the total effective demand within a society is lower than the quantity of goods produced within the available capital stock, unemployment becomes inevitable. Businesses begin to crumble because of the economic decline; hence, it creates the need for entrepreneurs to reduce their output as well as their manpower.

- ❖ **Residual Unemployment:** The causative factors of residual unemployment are personal factors. The variety of people who belong to this class includes the old, incapacitated, vulnerable, illiterate, and ill-trained, etc.
- ❖ **Voluntary Unemployment:** This occurs when an individual chooses not to be gainfully occupied with a job. This is common among women who, out of their own volition, decide to become “full housewife” or are being forced to become one by their spouses. Other cases of voluntary unemployment usually occur when individuals are bent on getting professional jobs that soothe their course of study, as well as individuals who also decided not to work for either government or private organizations and at the same time cannot afford to start up a personal business and so many more¹⁰.
- ❖ **Disguised Unemployment:** Adesina explains that disguised unemployment is a form of underemployment whereby an employee takes up a job that does not fully use his skills and abilities. This kind of employment is mostly accompanied by less pay for labour rendered. This is mostly common among Nigerian graduates. Majority are forced to be underemployed because of the scarcity of jobs that measure up to their standard. However, such jobs become frustrating because in most cases, the pay for these jobs cannot cater for the basic needs of such underemployed individuals. Another instance is when there is non-availability of work among those who are gainfully employed to the extent that jobs are often rationed among blue-collar workers. An example is the Local Government Secretariats in Nigeria¹¹.

INSECURITY: As conceptualised by Oche, security involves protection and safety from the danger or threat of people occupying a particular geographical location. This, most times, has to do with the ability of the government of a geopolitical space to be able to preserve, protect, promote, and reverence the value, legitimate interest and welfare of its people. Security could also be described as the immunity from forces that could sabotage the constitutional rights of individuals without the government losing its relevance and core values. This explains that when the substantive rights of individuals are inviolate, peace

¹⁰ Ibid. P. 148

¹¹ Ibid

and security become non-negotiable¹². There exist various types of insecurity. They include food insecurity, social insecurity, political insecurity, insecurity of basic needs, etc. All these can only cumulate into a form of insecurity and a state of instability.

ECONOMIC DOWNTURN: Deceleration in economic activities over a certain period within a specific geopolitical space can be explained as economic downturn. Several features of economic downturn include high rate of inflation, rising unemployment, food insecurity, declining investment, terrorism, foreign debt, hike in the prices of goods and services, etc. Over the years, the global economic crisis has continued to be a global menace that has over time generated questions as to how it could be managed since all the countries of the world have had their fair share of this challenge.

According to Omotor, the global economic crisis has continued to stay. It is assumed to be orchestrated by the United States of America through the instrumentality of the Bretton Wood institution. Despite the challenges posed by the Bretton Wood institutions, African states are also bedeviled by other internal crises that have posed a challenge to economic stability to these states and Nigeria is no exception¹³. Nigeria as an African state is famous for its rich human and natural resources but is bedeviled with bad governance, corruption, nepotism, weak institutions, and leadership problems. The country has been thrown into economic crisis for a period and has become a victim of the global economic situation. Nigeria's economic crisis over the years has become so deep that the country has witnessed a couple of economic recessions that have negatively affected trade and industrial activities. The adverse effect became visible on the country's economic indices, including the Gross Domestic Product (GNP), Gross National Product (GNP) and Per Capita Income. The aftermath of this is visible in the state of well-being among the citizens.

Economic Downturn and its effect on Unemployment since 1999

Unemployment as a concept is not peculiar to Nigeria. Within the global hemisphere, unemployment has become a menace to the security networks of most countries of the world. Unemployment has led to a form of social exasperation among youths that has in a way, become a propellant to crime rate, youth unrest and insecurity that have led to the diversion of funds for developmental projects into the maintenance of peace and stability. According to Cullen, unemployment in New Zealand has remained a topical component of life linked to scarcity of basic needs, dilapidated social amenities, social injustice,

¹² Oche, O. (2001). Democratization and the Management of African Security. *Nigeria Journal of International Affairs*. Vol. 13 No. 1. Pp. 21-31

¹³ Omotor, D. G. (2011). Nigeria and the Global Economic Crisis. *Ekonomiska misao i praksa*, (1), 59-80.

loss of hope for a better future and so many more¹⁴. In Sri Lanka, unemployment as a problem emerged in the 1950s, peaked at 24 percent in 1973, and fell to a single digit only in 1998. Unemployment has since reduced to 7.7 percent in 2000¹⁵. Another instance was national instability witnessed in the Middle East created by the amplified unemployment rate in the region named Arab Spring¹⁶.

However, unemployment has also posed a challenge to many of the world's developed countries. In 2011, the United Kingdom experienced a mass riot in which many shops were looted. It is believed that the looting was a ripple effect of the increasing rate of unemployed youths in the country. However, the growing number of young people entering the labour market cannot be over-emphasised. The spate at which graduates continue to go into the labour market annually is assumed to be one of the causes of unemployment all over the world. Nigerian higher institutions have continued to produce thousands of graduates every year with no hope for the future in terms of being gainfully employed. Unemployment is, however considered common in third-world states and post-conflict states¹⁷.

Nigerian economic downturn as a case study could be described as a product of its economic history especially from the colonial period that is monocultural in nature. It was agrarian at some point because the economic policies of the colonial administration were geared towards encouraging farming. Still, since the discovery of crude oil, it has become more of a menace than miracle as Nigeria solely depends on it, leaving out other sources of economic development moribund. The increasing population invariably poses a tremendous economic challenge to her citizens.

As described by some scholars, the economic demur we face in Nigeria today cumulated from the crisis of the mid-1980s and we are yet to recover from it but in the morning of May 1999, we witnessed a turning point¹⁸. This explains that the economic crisis over time rolled into the fourth republic that had President Olusegun Obasanjo as the first president. As explained by Okonjo-Iweala and Osafo-Kwaako, the volatility of the Nigerian macro economy, driven by the international market and its dependency on crude oil, has continued to aid unemployment within the geopolitical space¹⁹.

¹⁴ Cullen, A. M. (1999). *Unemployment: its meaning and impact in contemporary society: a thesis presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology at Massey University* (Doctoral dissertation, Massey University).

¹⁵ Amarasekara, C. Productivity Shocks, Marginal Cost and the New Keynesian Phillips Curve with Unemployment: An Experiment with Different Utility Specifications.

¹⁶ Ejo-Orusa, D. (2020). Unemployment and Insecurity in Rivers State. *International Journal of Innovative Legal & Political Studies*. Vol. 8(3). Pp. 74- 87.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Orukpe, W. E. & Omoruyi, B. O. (2017). Nigerian Economy and the Dilemma of Development in Historical Perspective. *International Journal of Social Science and Humanities Research*. Vol. 5 (3). Pp. 350- 363.

¹⁹ Okonjo-Iweala, N. & Osafo-Kwaako, P. (2007). *Nigeria's Economic Reforms; Progress and Challenges*. Washington DC: The Brookings Institutions. P.7.

This is further corroborated by the World Bank, who in its ranking, declared Nigeria as a state with unstable economy from the period 1960 to 2000 due to its over-reliance on oil proceeds²⁰. The ripple effect of the instability has been transferred into the economy, creating a kind of close gap between public expenditure and the revenue, as showcased by the inability to have a society where there is equitable distribution of goods and services orchestrated by weak fiscal discipline of the Nigerian government. Barnett and Rolando further explain that volatile fiscal spending also tended to cause actual exchange rate volatility. Fiscal expansions financed by oil revenues often resulted in domestic currency appreciation, creating Dutch-disease concerns and reducing competitiveness of the non-oil economy²¹.

The Obasanjo administration introduced decisive policies for democracy to blossom, with efforts to maintain international recognition towards sustainable growth and development. The efforts made by the Obasanjo administration birthed economic reform programmes like National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies (NEEDS) at the federal level and the State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies at the state level to ensure that economic instability is reduced to the barest minimum. However, these measures were frustrated and economic hardship continued to fester within Nigeria²².

Insecurity in the South-southern part of Nigeria became a challenge with the emergence of Niger Delta militants. It is of note that most of these militants are unemployed youths who resorted to carrying arms and ammunition to make ends meet. The Obasanjo administration established the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta to curb this menace. Notably, the unemployment situation could not be managed via the emancipation project put in place. Nigeria continued to battle high inflation, external debt, naira devaluation, poverty, insecurity, kidnapping and other social vices.

The challenges of the economic downturn cumulated in the administration of President Goodluck Jonathan and birthed the monstrous Boko-Haram menace. It began as a peaceful group in 2002 formed by Mohammed Yusuf but became violent around 2007 after the death of its founder. Besides the fact that it has a religious undertone, the economic downturn, and the idleness of many youths from the northern part of Nigeria contributed to crime and insurgency within the geopolitical zone²³.

²⁰ World Bank, (2003), *Nigeria Policy Options for Growth and Stability*. Report No. 26215-NGA, Washington DC: The World Bank

²¹ Barnett, Steven and Rolando Ossowski, (2002), *Operational Aspects of Fiscal Policy in Oil-Producing Countries*. Working Paper No. WP/02/177, Washington DC: International Monetary Fund

²² Mudasiru, S. & Adabonyon, O. (2001). The Nigerian Economy Under Obasanjo. *Development Policy Management Network Bulletin*. Vol.8 (3). Pp. 10- 130

²³ Okeke, R. C. (2017). The Jonathan Administration in Nigeria: A Postmortem Study and Lessons for Dictators in Africa. *World Scientific News*. Vol. 70(2). Pp. 285- 303.

The situation has continued to degenerate from administration to administration. In 2018, the World Bank recorded that 40% of Nigerians (82 million people) lived below the poverty line. Cumulatively, over 25% (53million) were vulnerable²⁴. In 2020, the situation worsened, and Nigeria went into its deepest economic meltdown due to the pandemic that also affected oil sales at the international market. As a matter of fact, during this period, there was a decline in oil prices across the world. The situation got to its peak during this period and led to a new phase of criminal activities among the idle youths. The social media and its quick money syndrome also inspired the youth to commit crimes. Examples include a shift in cybercrime from “Yahoo Yahoo” to “Yahoo plus” hike in ritual killings, kidnapping, banditry, herdsmen crisis, armed robbery, and Ponzi schemes.

The more stiffened the Nigerian economy became, the more the security challenges were assumed to be perpetrated by the increasing population of the unemployed youths. This explains the popular saying, “a hungry man is an angry man.” This is further explained by Adesina when he explained that there is a tendency for high insecurity when many non-disabled individuals are without jobs. The society is further challenged where gross abuse and under-utilisation of human resources directly impact national productivity and competitiveness, especially when a handful gets employed despite advertisement²⁵.

The reality of underemployment cannot be over-emphasised as it could be described as a byproduct of the economic downturn experienced among Nigerian youths. In fact, its effect could be described as worse compared to open unemployment as it reflects the extent to which the economic downturn has created challenges to professionals that are being underpaid on their jobs or sometimes rendered potentially idle²⁶. It is believed to be predominant among the female folks that formed the larger proportion of unpaid family workers.

Causes of Unemployment:

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), unemployment remains one of the threats to peace and social stability in many countries, especially those of African descent²⁷ and Nigeria’s situation has become critical, especially with the advent of democratic governance in 1999 and up to date, it

²⁴ World Bank Group (2021). *The World Bank in Nigeria*. Washington.

²⁵ Adesina, O. S. (2013). Unemployment and Security Challenges in Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. Vol.3 No. 7.

²⁶ Obadan, M., & Odusola, A. (2000). *Productivity and unemployment in Nigeria* (No. 2064-2020-1092).

²⁷ International Labour Organization. (2012). *Global Employment Trends for Youths*. Retrieved from <http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/gropus/public/...dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms-180976.pdf>. Last assessed: 2nd February, 2022.

keeps climbing the unfavorable ladder on account of internal economic fracas in Nigeria. The causes of employment include:

- **Leadership Problem:** This remains the foundation of every other challenge to economic development in Africa and Nigeria, as portrayed in political, social, and economic instability in Nigeria. The reverberated effects are visible and are felt across all sectors and segments of the Nigerian society. The instability across all the spheres of affairs degenerated into the hike in the number of unemployed youths in society, thus creating vacuum for insecurity to thrive²⁸.
- **Low Economic Growth Rate:** The decline in the economic prowess and investment rates has limited employment rate. The economic recession coupled with the high population growth rate continued to create job scarcity, hence the continuous struggle to be employed. This has created a situation whereby employment is based mainly on experience, capability of what you can offer to employers of labour and education. The educated have also become unemployed or underemployed and, in a way, this has increased the rate of insecurity within the country.
- **Monoculture Economy:** Over-reliance on crude oil as a source of income has challenged other sectors to thrive in Nigeria. The agricultural sector has been neglected and the attention on oil has created a little space for employment, leaving out over 70% of the active individuals potentially idle. This has led to insecurity for those employed in the oil sector as kidnapping and militancy became a means of making ends meet, especially in the oil region part of Nigeria.
- **Negative Attitude towards Entrepreneurial Education:** Little or no importance on technical and vocational education has contributed to the increasing unemployment rate in Nigeria. According to Bello, the discrimination against technical and vocational education has rendered a statistic of job seekers with limited knowledge to be self-employed. He further explained that Nigerian graduates have become dependent on the government, parents, and non-vibrant private sectors because they lack the skills to become providers of jobs for themselves and others. In a situation where the needs of these graduates cannot be met, they mostly retire into committing crimes²⁹.
- **Labour Immobility:** This is simply a case of impediment to the movement of active labour force in moving from one job to another. It occurs when there is a disparity between skilled workers and occupational vacancies in the labour market, resulting in structural unemployment. It can also happen due to resources being underused with an aftermath that

²⁸ Anekwe, R. I. (2020). Leadership Challenges and Nigeria Development. The Issues and Imperatives. *International Journal of Academic Accounting, Finance & Management Research*. Vol.4 (1). Pp. 1-5

²⁹ Bello, T. (2003). *Attacking Unemployment Hurdles in the Fragile Economies of the Sub-Saharan Africa: The Experience of Nigeria*. Paper presented at the - Economics for the Future – Conference; on the Occasion of the Celebration of 100 Years of Cambridge Economics; Cambridge, United Kingdom.

is detrimental to economic efficiency and market growth. Labour immobility also includes skill gaps, discrimination, restraints to be economically active, labour market discrimination resulting in unemployment.

- **Overpopulation:** Nigeria's population is becoming larger than the carrying capacity of its environment, economy, and space, leading to unemployment, especially among the active people. The Nigerian ecosystem must compete for energy, food, healthcare, housing, space, transportation, and resources, increasing the rate at which individuals seek employment. In a situation where the desirable becomes unavailable, a hike in crime rate leading to insecurity within the geopolitical space. The statistics of the active unemployed have exceeded the number of industries available, which has posed a serious challenge to unemployment in Nigeria.

Unemployment has continued to prove itself as a bane to peace and stability in Nigeria over several activities that many Nigerians have embarked upon which remain a threat to national security. There are several instances of graduates being involved in criminal activities and attributing such behaviour to Nigeria's economic downturn and unemployment crisis after being arrested. Thus, unemployment has therefore resulted in a hike in crime rates such as:

- ❖ Proliferation of Small and Light Weapons that have jeopardised security a number of times.
- ❖ Agitation, banditry, insurgency, terrorism, and other criminal acts that have caused loss of lives and properties.
- ❖ Armed robbery, fraud, rape, and other violent crimes.
- ❖ Drug possession and abuse and physical abuse
- ❖ Vandalism and disorderly conduct, etc.

Frustration has also driven many into drug addiction and in a way has contributed to crime rate in Nigeria. The widening gap between the bourgeoisie and the proletarians has created a form of social tension that has affected the entire country. The disintegration of basic amenities such as electricity supply, good road network, standard health facilities, etc., has continued to damage small and medium-scale businesses that could have provided employment opportunities for jobless people³⁰. Laying credence to the foregoing, the following suggestions are made to help reduce unemployment in Nigeria.

Suggestions

³⁰ Nwankwo, C. A. & Ifejiolor, A. P. (2014). Impact of Unemployment on Nigerian Economic Development: A Study of Selected Local Government Area in Anambra State, Nigeria. *European Journal of Business and Management*. Vol. 6, No. 35.

Addressing local challenges of Nigeria in terms of poor leadership, mismanagement of resources, corruption, nepotism, and stifled technological innovations will reduce unemployment. Other suggestions include:

- **Diversification of the Economy:** The continuous over-dependence on oil has been a setback in terms of Nigeria's economic buoyancy due to the inconsistency in the global oil price, hence the need for exploration of multiple sources of revenue for the nation. Nigeria is endowed with both human and mineral resources that are yet untapped. Therefore, it is encouraged that the Nigerian government and the citizens should re-strategise on how to put into use other sectors, e.g., agriculture, tourism, entertainment, fashion, etc. It is noteworthy that globalisation has created many job opportunities in the world of ICT. Other sectors can generate income, prospects and employment that will enhance economic stability in Nigeria³¹. In a way, this will end the quest for “quick money” and create jobs among the youth, thereby reducing insecurity and addressing unemployment in Nigeria.
- **Adoption of Governmental Policies that Encourage Economic Development:** The kind of economic policies initiated by the government determines the economic prowess of such a country. China as a country is fast becoming a developed state. It is at par with the United States of America because of adopting Confucius as a philosophy and an economic policy³². Brazil adopted participatory budgeting as a policy to fight economic instability³³. Therefore, it will be economically wise if the government can also implement policies that will reduce the economic downturn leading to insecurity in Nigeria.
- **Enabling Environment:** The environment in which a business is cited determines the thriving strength of such a business. As illustrated by Adesina, the business climate in Nigeria is too harsh and there is a need to create an enabling environment that will make business succeed³⁴. The debilitating state of basic infrastructures and shortage of power supply have led to the collapse of many companies to the extent that some corporations even had to relocate to other African states with adequate electricity supply. An example is how industries and firms are leaving Nigeria for Ghana and other neighbouring states due to the economic instability that has become a plague to the society. It is believed that once the electricity shortage is resolved, the tendency for the industrial sector

³¹ Adesina, O. S. (2013). Unemployment and Security Challenges in Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. Vol.3 No. 7.

³² Jun Li. (2009). Confucianism. *Encyclopedia of modern China*, 1, 347-351.

³³ Souza, C. (2001). Participatory Budgeting in Brazilian Cities: Limits and Possibilities in Building Democratic Institutions. *Environment & Urbanization* Vol.13 No 1. Pp. 159- 184.

³⁴ Adesina, O. S. (2013). Unemployment and Security Challenges in Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. Vol.3 No. 7.

to be resuscitated is high. This will enhance the growth of small and medium-scale enterprises, making job creation inevitable³⁵.

- **Emphasis on Technical, Vocational and Entrepreneurial Education to Boost Human Capital:** The need to accentuate technical and vocational education is suggested. This will enhance citizens to amass practical skills that will promote self-employment among the active citizens that could not get professional or executive jobs. Some schools have introduced entrepreneurship as a course into the academic curriculum, but more is to be done to see that the courses get to elementary schools and higher institutions. The earlier these courses are taught among Nigerian youths, the more they grow. An example of a country that this is working for is China. China has become one of the world's fastest-rising economies due to the emphasis on technical and vocational education.
- **Emphasis on Agriculture:** Before the oil boom, agriculture was the centre of the Nigerian economy, as it became important assistance to the sustenance of every society and a backbone for economic development, especially in providing adequate and nutritional food for human development and materials for industries. According to Yusuf et al., agriculture is critical to reducing national poverty and the most important productive sector that can take over from oil³⁶. The government has been able to put in place several initiatives to encourage agriculture in Nigeria, ranging from land reforms, tenancy reforms, regulation of higher rents, provision of credit facilities to farmers and so many more. However, sensitisation and orientation should be brought down to the grassroots, especially to elementary stages where young ones are encouraged to embrace agriculture from an early stage. Herdsmen and farmers' crisis can also be discouraged by creating ranches piloted in affected areas, thereby ending unemployment ravaging the country.

Conclusion

Insecurity remains a bane to peace and stability in Nigeria despite the burgeoning recurrent expenditure on the national budget to maintain peace both at state and federal levels. Individuals, organisations, etc., have also demonstrated a height of responsibility in maintaining peace and stability as well as security on both their lives and those of their family members as well as their properties but these efforts are either disappearing or not enough to curb the menace. Despite all these efforts, northern Nigeria is notable for ethnic conflicts, religious extremism of the Boko Haram, terrorism, etc. The south-southern and southwestern parts of Nigeria are also ravaged by militancy and pipeline vandalism, etc., and the dynamics of their operation change with the country's economic travails.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Yusuf, I. F. & Francis, J. T. (2019). Agricultural Programmes and Food Security in Nigeria (1960- 2016). A Historical Overview. *Humanity Jos Journal of General Studies*. Vol. 10(1).

Agitations for self-governance by IPOB (Indigenous People of Biafra) and MASSOB (Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra) in the Southeast have increased the crime rate in the region. Herdsmen's crisis in the North Central, ritual killings and so many more are the ripple effects of unemployment of active citizens, especially in these parts of Nigeria being highlighted³⁷.

It is as if the huge annual national allocation for internal security, military personnel and equipment, relocation of military personnel to troubled areas and so many more have not been impactful in fighting insecurity in Nigeria. Some states have also taken the initiative of signing into law the anti-kidnapping act, anti-terrorism act, etc., but despite these, insecurity remains a "national disease" in Nigeria. Through its annual budgets, the federal government continues to vote allocations to the recurrent internal security component, and military personnel and apparatus have been asked to relocate their bases to the troubled areas to curb crises. Also, some states have signed into law the anti-kidnapping act, anti-terrorism act, etc., in a bid to end insecurity in Nigeria.

It is also assumed that governmental efforts at reducing unemployment have been continually sabotaged. Therefore, it will be proactive to commence economic and political reforms that can nip in the bud the plague of insecurity in Nigeria. Policies and strategies that will target the agricultural sector by reducing communal conflicts, herdsmen's clashes and the destruction of farmlands and produce following these clashes should be implemented. Furthermore, the government is expected to target foreign investments that will enhance investment to thrive. This is further explained by Adesina when he emphasised that multinational corporations can only operate and create economic and job opportunities. Therefore, the government must provide the necessary infrastructure to attract new investments³⁸.

³⁷ Akpakan, M., Bariledum, K. & Barika, N. L. (2015). National Insecurity and Youth Unemployment in Nigeria: The Case of Niger-Delta Region. *British Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*. Vol. 13(1).

³⁸ Onime, B. E. (2018). Insecurity and Economic Growth in Nigeria: A Diagnostic Review. *European Scientific Journal*. Vol. 14, No.4.

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