

Original Research Article

Unemployment Crisis and Human Security Threat in Port Harcourt City, Nigeria, 2010-2019

Ogele, Eziho Promise

Department of Political Science, Rivers State University, Nkpolu Orowurukwo, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Corresponding Author: Ogele, Eziho Promise, E-mail: promiseogele2017@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

Article History

Received: June 02, 2020

Accepted: July 16, 2020

Volume: 2

Issue: 4

KEYWORDS

Cultism, human security, mortality rate, rural migration, unemployment, violence

ABSTRACT

The soaring rate of unemployment constitutes a major threat to human security in Port Harcourt City, Rivers State, Nigeria. As unemployment increases, the degree of insecurity is becoming unimaginable in Port Harcourt City. This insecurity is associated with jobless young people; hence, engage in unethical activities like cybercrime, youth restiveness, cultism, armed robbery, electoral violence, kidnap for ransom, artisanal refining, and oil theft, among others. This anti-social behaviour is opposed to the tenets of human security in the 21st century. The study is aimed at examining the cause of unemployment in Port Harcourt City and its effects on human security. The paper adopted the youth bulge theory and frustration and aggression theory as its theoretical construct. To achieve this aim, the study adopted by the triangulation method of data gathering techniques. The study unravelled that impact leads to insecurity, hence, a major threat to human security. The study recommends amongst others that the Rivers State government revamp agricultural farms, increase vocational training centres that will enable youths to acquire more skills, and create more jobs to reduce the growing rate of unemployment.

Introduction

At present, unemployment has grown in prominence on the local, national, and global development agendas. The challenge posed by unemployment is in different dimensions and confronts countries worldwide irrespective of the attainment of the countries of socio-economic development. The phenomenon is so crucial to the extent that it has become a contending issue that dominates democratic electioneering debates ranging from the gubernatorial to presidential elections in some countries including more advanced societies. For instance, during the 2016 presidential debate in the United States, reducing unemployment through job creation was a burning issue.

In recent times, countries both developing and developed are confronted with the menace of unemployment, which has become a major threat to national security. Unemployment causes social disaffection among the youths and propels crimes; youth unrest and increased security spending that would be used for the development of the nation. For instance, the state of unrest witnessed in the Middle East that led to the Arab Spring was a result of a large growth of the unemployment rate in the region. However, the menace associated with unemployment is not limited to developing countries; the mass riot in the United Kingdom in 2011 that led looting of shops was attributed to the soaring rate of unemployment in the country.

The underlying challenge has always been the large number of young people entering the labour markets yearly. The lack of employment opportunities is very common in relatively underdeveloped economies and post-conflict countries. The low quality of education and training without a proper link to the labour markets has also contributed to the increase in unemployment. The International Labour Organization (ILO) projected that the global unemployment level is expected to relatively fall to 5.5 per cent in 2018, (from 5.6 per cent in 2017), which is considered as a turnaround after three years of increase in unemployment proportion. Sadly, the projection of ILO failed because of the growing number of people entering the labour market to seek employment, as the total number of unemployed expected to remain stable in 2018, above 192

million. In 2019, the global unemployment rate remains essentially unchanged, whereas the number of unemployed is projected to grow by 1.3 million (International Labour Organization, 2018, p.1).

In Nigeria, every successive administration is concerned about ways to impede unemployment. Besides, in the past, various government agencies were established to handle unemployment challenges such as the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and Rural Employment Promotion Programme (REPP). Under the NDE, various schemes are developed such as Vocational Skill Development Programme; National Open Apprenticeship Scheme; School on Wheels; Resettlements Loans Scheme; while under the REPP, there are Rural Agricultural Training Scheme; and Rural Handicraft Scheme. The establishments of these schemes were to enable the federal government to tackle the growing rate of unemployment in the country through various required skills needed to obtain good jobs. Yet, unemployment is soaring in the country as several young men enter the labour market as there are limited employment opportunities. Hence, solving the unemployment problem has become a major campaign stratagem. This intention manifests itself during electioneering campaigns. For instance, President Goodluck Jonathan while addressing the People's Democratic Party (PDP) at the 60th National Executive Committee meeting disclosed that they were unable to fulfill their campaign promises which were anchored on job creation, power, among others. However, insecurity became Nigeria's major challenge (TheDailyPost, 2012). In the same vein, during the 2015 electioneering campaign, President Muhammadu Buhari made campaign promises partly anchored on employment. In his speech, President Buhari revealed that in 1999, the level of unemployment in Nigeria stood at about 8%, however, the number has increased drastically with estimated official statistics of about 30%. Hence, President Buhari promised to embark on vocational training, entrepreneurial training, skills acquisition scheme for graduates, creation of the Small Business Loan Guarantee Scheme to create a minimum of five million new jobs by 2019. President Buhari assured Nigerians that a Small and Medium Enterprises Development Commission shall be established for the purpose (Nwafor, 2019).

The Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) study in the third quarter of 2018 published in 2019 indicated that unemployment has reached 23.1 percent, and underemployment of 16.6 percent (NBS, 2019). According to Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), (2019, p.1), "in Q3 2018, Akwa Ibom state reported the highest unemployment rate (37.7%), followed by Rivers State with (36.4%), Bayelsa state (32.6%), Abia (31.6%) and Borno state (31.4%)." "The top 5 states with the highest unemployed population are Rivers (1,673,991), Akwa Ibom (1,357,754), Kano (1,257,130), Lagos (1,088,352) and Kaduna with (940,480)" (The Cable, 2019). However, the statistics cited above was expressed in terms of the labour force search and ready to work, but could not get a job. The statistics have shown why there is an increase in violent crime in the country, which has become a threat to human security. Human security is people-centred as opposed to state centrism of national security. Human security deals with the protection of individual freedoms and human fulfillment. The individual wellbeing, freedom, and protection were not seriously considered as an aspect of national security during the Cold War era where sovereign states pursued national security anchored on external aggression, arms race, among others. Human security facilitates fundamental freedom such as freedom from widespread threats and fears, which enhances the survival, livelihood, and dignity of man (CHS, 2003,p. 4).

However, the growing trends of unemployment harm human security in Port Harcourt City occasioned by an increase in mortality rate and rural-urban migration. Port Harcourt City is the capital of Rivers State that headquarters almost all the multinational oil companies in Nigeria. Before the discovery of crude oil, Rivers State indigenes were predominantly farmers and fishermen. After crude oil was discovered, the agricultural sector that employs 75 percent of labour force was abandoned by the government and individuals. There was rural-urban mobility of labour to Port Harcourt City increasing unemployment and population explosion. However, the Rivers State government has several efforts to reduce the rate of soaring unemployment, but one of the challenges remains the population explosion occasioned by the increase in uncontrolled birth rate and rural-urban migration. For instance, in 2019 when Rivers State University advertised for limited space for employment, over forty thousand applicants applied for the job opportunities. To reduce the number of unemployed youths, the Rotimi Amaechi's administration in Rivers State employed 13,200 teachers in the state, over 400 doctors and nurses (Ofiebor, 2015), in 2012, yet many youths remained unemployed. Sadly, the increasing rate of unemployment has a threat to Port Harcourt City residents and suburbs. It provided a platform for the vulnerable youths to be recruited for various criminal activities in Rivers State.

In Port Harcourt City, violent crimes have continued unabated. Emeh (2012,p.4) submitted that "lack of employment makes crime a more attractive option for some Nigerian university graduates. This is because in Nigeria it is common to find some graduates still roaming the streets, five years after graduating in search of jobs that are not thereby lending force to crimes such as armed robbery, car snatching, pipeline vandalization, oil bunkering, and prostitution among the youths."

The complex nature of the sociopolitical impact of unemployment on human security in Port Harcourt City, Rivers State has become a major concern to all citizens, including international communities, multinational firms, non-governmental organizations, among others. The challenge is not limited to unskilled labour alone, but even the university graduates are not exempted, as thousands of graduates from tertiary institutions leave the school each year without the hope of getting jobs. Against this background, the study interrogates the cause of unemployment in Port Harcourt City, Rivers State, and its effects on human security.

Review of Related Literature

There is no globally accepted standard of definition of unemployment. The concept of unemployment is defined by various countries and organizations to suit their local priorities. However, most countries employ the standard of the International Labor Organization (ILO) to define unemployment. The International Labour Organization's definition of unemployment covers persons between the ages 15–64 who were during the period when the survey was administered of this survey available for work, seriously seeking work, but unable to get work (NBS, 2019, p.5). The National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria like other countries of the world identified with the ILO definition of the unemployment rate as the proportion of those in the labour market who were seriously seeking for work but could not get work for at least 20 hours during the survey period (NBS, 2019, p.5). In Nigeria, the labour force participation level is measured in terms of the country's working-age population such as above 15 years that engages actively in the labour market, either by working or looking for work. It indicates the size of the supply of labour available to engage in the production of goods and services, relative to the population of working age (NBS, 2020, p.1).

Since the early eighties, urban unemployment has been regarded as one of the most challenging issues that confront Nigerian policymakers (Bakare, 2012). Several scholars have attributed the soaring rate of unemployment in Nigeria to the loan obtained at International Monetary Funds (IMF) by General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida administration in the 1980s. The IMF loan was obtained with the conditions such as the liberalization of the economy, removal of subsidy, devaluation of the currency, privatization of some sectors that were initially managed and controlled by the federal government to the private organizations. Despite all the protests against this economic policy referred to as Structure Adjustment Programme (SAP), the government went ahead to implement this policy. The consequences of SAP were a hardship, loss of jobs, retrenchment, among others to Nigeria's working population and the citizens. Unemployment has set in, children are dropped out of schools because their benefactors are no longer gainfully employed. The aftermath was poverty, crime, and all manner of vices which has affected national security. Oruwari and Owei (2006,p.5) noted that:

Following the introduction of Structural Adjustment Programs (SAP) from about 1984, the country started experiencing a serious contraction in the labour market. This resulted in a large proportion of urban youths, both in-situ and migrants, searching for jobs under the prevailing harsh economic conditions. The presence of this enormous pool of idle youths, who are both skilled and unskilled and sometimes homeless, created a fertile ground for deviant activities. This culminated in an increase in urban crime of different types, including drug trafficking and drug abuse by youths.

Anyadike, Emeh, and Ukah (2012) argued that a higher degree of unemployment rate adversely impacts the potentials of the nation, particularly considering the official figure from the National Bureau of Statistics. The implication is that greater numbers of Nigerian youths are without jobs, and these youths are educated and uneducated, skilled and unskilled. Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) argued the problems of unemployment as experienced by both educated youths and uneducated, skilled, and unskilled youths have become more pathetic in most developing economies, irrespective of the neo-liberal strategies, which ought to enhance human capital. The disenchantment and frustration among unemployed young people have resulted in the emergence of 'area boys' and Almajiris who have turned against the very society that alienated them.

Adesina (2013) argued increasing rate of unemployment in Nigeria is attributed to the level of insecurity in Nigeria. Most young people who leave school become unemployed adults in their country as a result of a lack of political will by the government at the local government, state, and the centre, thereby creating a considerable degree of threat to human security. The unemployment rate in the Niger Delta region and the North East as a reference point. Kalagbor and Harry (2018) argued that unemployment is a major threat to national security. The phenomenon cut across the different facets of the nation's life, region, or states of the federation. The security challenges are internal and not the external source. The use of

military powers cannot solve the challenge emanating from the menace of unemployment. The federal government employing the state powers such as “Operation Lafiya Dole”, “Operation Pulo Shield,” “Operation Python Dance”, “Operation Crocodile Smile”, “Operation Kunama”, and other security task force to tackle security challenges emanating from unemployment. The use of force could not suppress the menace of the Boko Haram in North-Eastern Nigeria, Niger Delta militancy, piracy, and oil bunkering. The writers also included the Biafra secessionist agitation in the South East and other parts of the country. The crime waves of kidnap for ransom across the country, armed robbery, ethno-religious crises, violent crimes, election-induced violence in different parts of the country. There is no part of the Nigerian region or state that is devoid of insecurity because of the soaring rate of unemployment in the country.

Uwa, Chuke, and Elton (2016) argued that unemployment in Nigeria has led to an increase in militancy, kidnap for ransom, violent crimes, youth restiveness, and socially delinquent behaviours, among others. About 60 % of the Nigerian youth population is without jobs or underemployed, a situation that poses a threat to human security, especially in terms of crimes and other vices. The present generation of youths is confronted with a dual dilemma, such as unemployment and insecurity. The unemployment is worrisome on the premise that it has contributed criminality and terrorism in Nigeria, thereby having adverse effects on economic growth and development.

Ajaegbu(2012) argued that violent crimes such as murder, armed robbery, kidnapping, terrorism, among others are the most inhumane crimes that continue to plague Niger Delta and Nigeria at large. The current kidnappings for ransom and terrorism in Nigeria have taken the centre stage leading to bloodshed and economic setbacks. The causes are not farfetched as studies have linked the rising rate among the youths unemployment to the increase in violent crimes in the country. If the feelings of deprivation and frustration created by unemployment are addressed, Nigerian youths will not engage in violent crimes. No nation can achieve sociopolitical and economic growth in an atmosphere of violent crimes.

Theoretical Framework

The paper adopted the Youth Bulge Theory and Frustration and Aggression theory as its theoretical construct. The youth bulge theory was coined by Gunnar Heinsohn, a social scientist in the mid-1990s. The theory gained prominence in the works of America political scientists Jack A. Goldstone and Gary Fuller. Hendrixson (2003) argued that “youth bulge theory is a concept that identifies young men or women as a historically volatile and ever-increasing population.” The theory posits that “developing countries are undergoing demographical transition or those moving to low fertility and mortality rate – are especially vulnerable to civil conflict” (Beehner, 2007). The youth bulge theory states that “a large proportion of young adults and a rapid rate of growth in the working-age population tend to exacerbate unemployment, prolong dependency on parents, diminish self-esteem and fuel frustrations” (Cincotta, 2003 cited in Beehner, 2007). This frustration occasioned unemployment trigger anti-social behaviour. For instance, in the dawn of the 21st Century, the dictatorial governments in Libya and Egypt were brought to waterloo through Arab Spring (Tlou, 2014). Young people over the years have been marginalized and exploited, particularly in North Africa that led to Arab Spring uprisings, East Africa, and the Middle East (Tlou, 2014). The revolution was championed by young people, which many considered as unbeknown in the African style of politics. This is because, over years, African youths viewed as silent followers who succumb to whatever their leaders desire. Another example was in 2011 post-election violence in Nigeria, where unemployed youths were used in the destruction of lives and properties worth millions of dollars was a relevant test of the Youth Bulge Theory. Population explosion leads to frustration and competition for limited jobs, which not only fuel violence but has the likelihood of unemployed young people to pursue social and economic wellbeing through engaging in extralegal means (Beehner,2007).

Frustration and Aggression theory

The frustration and aggression theory were proposed by John Dollard, Neal Miller (1939), and further developed by Miller, Roger Barker et al. (1941, pp.337-366) and Leonard Berkowitz (1969). These theorists asserted that “aggression is the result of blocking, or frustrating, a person's efforts to attain a goal” (Friedman and Schustack, 1999, pp. 204-207). The frustration and aggression theory explains why people are scapegoat (Whitley and Kite, 2010). It attempts to give reasons for the cause of violence in society. The proponents argued that frustration causes aggression, but when the basis of frustration cannot have contested, then, the aggression is carried out on the vulnerable. Breuer and Elson (2017, p.2) defined frustration “as an event instead of an affective state. The arguable benefit of characterizing frustration through observable qualities of events or environmental characteristics is that it allows description and testing of its causal effects, such as those on aggression, objectively instead of relying on subjective self-reported introspection.” Miller, Sears, Mowrer, Doob, and Dollard (1941) noted that “aggression is one of several possible consequences of frustration.” From the Marx and Engels perspective,

frustration and aggression theory play major roles in economic crises and the gradual immiseration of the proletariat as contributory causes of revolution and civil conflict. Marx and Engels went beyond the evidence when they claimed that differences in their ideologies, beliefs, and expectations of the various social classes are invariably a reflection of their relationship to the means of production. The Marxist theory does take into account the phenomenon of the awakened exploited class that has not yet recognized either the injustice of its situation or its revolutionary potential. The Marxist theory, therefore, lays great emphasis on the revolutionary movements responsible for equipping the proletariat with revolutionary consciousness, leadership, and the correct revolutionary theory. Some of the proponents argued that frustration is a sufficient condition but not a necessary one, aggression always follows frustration but may also occur otherwise. If frustration is necessary but not a sufficient condition, then aggression cannot occur unless first frustration occurs, but need not occur even after frustration. If frustration is a necessary and sufficient condition, then aggression occurs if and only if frustration occurs.

Linking the above theories to this study is anchored on the soaring rate mortality rate and rural-urban migration leading to unemployment. The inability to get a job leads to frustration and aggression, which hurt human security. While the availability of jobs is declining or limited/constant, the number of youths ready and willing to work is at an increase. For instance, young people troop into Port Harcourt City from rural areas in Rivers State and Nigeria at large in search of greener pasture, but are frustrated when they cannot find one. This frustration has resulted in young people getting involved in anti-societal behaviours such as cybercrime, drug trafficking, youth restiveness, rape, armed robbery, electoral violence, kidnap for ransom, artisanal refining, and theft, among others to sustain their living.

Area of Study

Port Harcourt city is the capital of Rivers State and one of the largest cities in Nigeria. The port was built by Sir Frederick Lugard 1912 and named it after the Secretary of State for the Colonies Sir Lewis Vernon Harcourt in August 1913 (Okafor, 1973). As of 2016, Port Harcourt city estimated population was 1,865,000, which was considered to have grown from the 2006 official census population figure of 1,382,592 inhabitants (NPC, 2006). It was created as a port to export coal from Enugu through a railway called the Eastern Line built by Britain. The turning point was crude oil was discovered in a commercial at Oloibiri in 1956. Port Harcourt became the first shipping point for Nigerian crude oil export to the international community in 1958. Port Harcourt is a commercial hub for multinational oil companies such as Shell Petroleum Development Company, Agip, Mobile Oil Company, among others, particularly oil servicing companies. The map below indicates the location of Port Harcourt City.

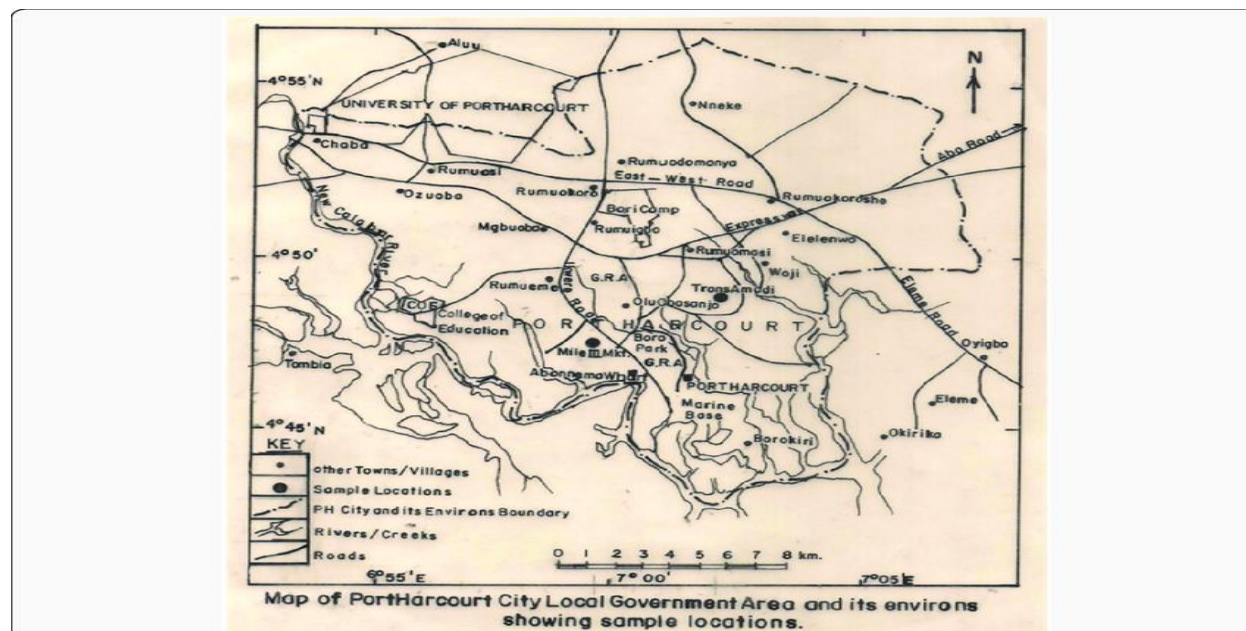


Fig.1. Showing the map of Port Harcourt City, Nigeria.

Source: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Map-of-Port-harcourt-city-local-government-area-and-its-environs-showing-sample-locations_fig1_

Methodology

The descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The study population covers the Port Harcourt City local government area. For this study, the Port Harcourt City is divided into two - north and south. In the Port Harcourt north - Diobu, Elekahia, Ogbum nu Abali, while the Port Harcourt south - Aggrey Road (Okirika and Ndoki water side), Creek Road (Abuja, Bellie, Bonny, and Nembe water side). The study population was selected randomly. A total of 250 structured questionnaires were randomly administered among the respondents, out of which 230 were retrieved and used for analysis. Ninety-four percent of the total questionnaires retrieved still represent the reliability of the study. The questionnaire and interview are focused on obtaining the perceptions and opinions of different people on the effects of unemployment on human security in Port Harcourt City local government area, Rivers State. Fifteen respondents were interviewed through an unstructured interview. For security reasons, all the names and particulars of the interviewee are anonymous. The questionnaire’s graphic method of data presentation as shown below:

Table1: Questionnaire Distribution

Selected areas in Port Harcourt City, Nigeria	Issued Questionnaire	Returned Questionnaire	Percentage
Port Harcourt North			
Elekahia	50	50	22
Diobu	50	48	20
Ogbum nu Abali	50	46	19
Port Harcourt South			
Aggrey Road (Okirika, and Ndoki waterside)	50	43	18
Creek Road (Abuja, Bellie, Bonny, and Nembe waterside)	50	49	21
Total	250	236	100

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Profile of the respondents

Based on this, the demographic data were presented and analyzed. The details of the academic qualifications of the respondents were shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Questionnaire Distribution

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
Primary Six	34	14
WAEC/SSCE/ Equiv.	89	35
NCE/OND/Equiv	49	20
BSc/BA/HND	40	16
MSc/MA/Equiv	17	7
PhD	-	-
Others	21	8
Total	250	100

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Similarly, twenty persons comprised of elders, youths, and women were interviewed. They include four elderly men and twelve youths, and four elderly women who are residents of Port Harcourt City, Rivers State. Though, some of the interviewed pleaded to be anonymous. All the interviewees were selected through random sampling.

Causes of unemployment in the Port Harcourt City, Nigeria

The table and bar chart below indicate the response generated from the sixth question on the questionnaire that sought the perception of the respondents on why unemployment is soaring in Port Harcourt City. The responses indicated as follows: 14% lacked the required skill, 4% non-indigene factor, 11% technological advancement, 8% years of experience, 13% corruption, 7% harsh investment climate, 15% rural-urban migration, 17% increase in mortality rate, while 11% out-dated school curricula. Based on the responses, the causes of unemployment in Port Harcourt City have mainly associated with an increase in mortality rate, rural-urban migration, lacked the required skill, and out-dated school curricula, among others as indicated in the table and bar chart below.

Table 3: The causes of unemployment in Port Harcourt City, Nigeria

S/N	Causes of unemployment in Port Harcourt City, Rivers State	frequency	Percentage
1	Lacked the required skill	50	14
2	Non-indigene factor	15	4
3	Technological advancement	40	11
4	Years of experience	30	8
5	Corruption	48	13
6	Harsh investment climate	24	7
7	Rural-Urban migration	53	15
8	Increase in mortality rate	60	17
9	Outdated school curricula	40	11
	Total	360	100

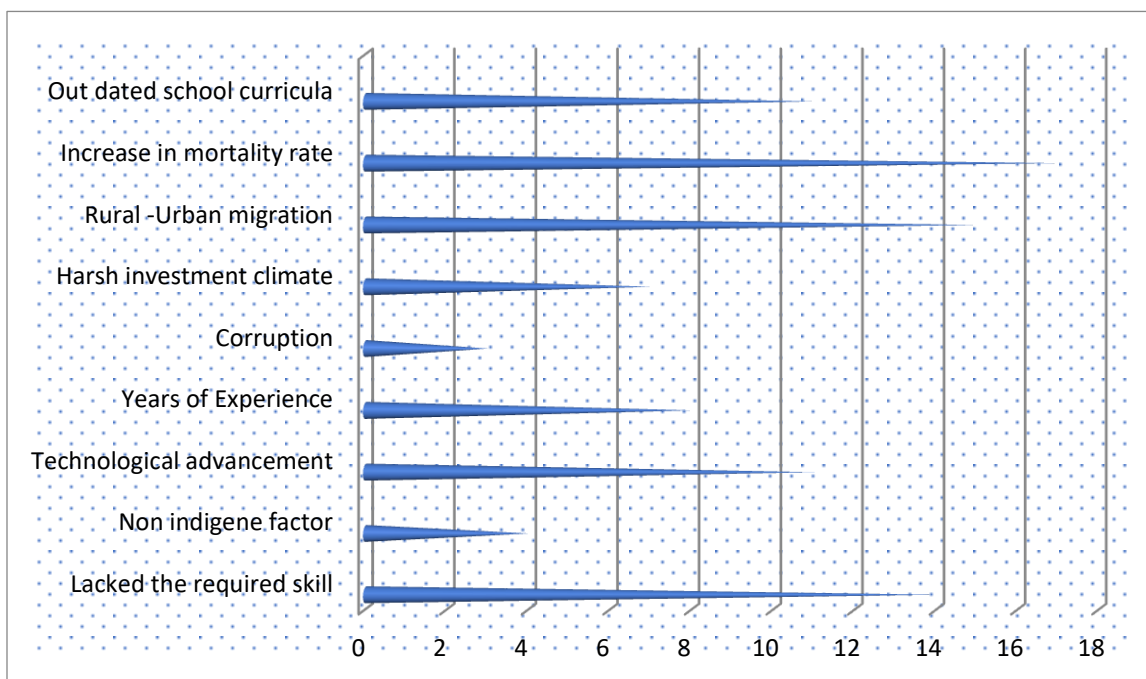


Fig. 2: Indicating the causes of unemployment in Port Harcourt City.
Source: Field Survey 2020

One of the respondents who was the former administrative secretary of the Palace Employment Bureau at the Palace of the King of Port Harcourt, His Royal Majesty late Eze Sunday Nnanta Woluchem, Eze Apará Rebisi XI, during the interview when

asked why there is a high rate of unemployment in Port-Harcourt? He revealed that:

Unemployment in Port Harcourt City was soaring in Port Harcourt City until the Majesty deemed necessary to constitute the Employment Bureau. The primary responsibility is to collaborate with companies operating in the Kingdom on how to make job opportunities available to the indigene. The Bureau was provided employment opportunities for applicants. But one of the major challenges was that most of the applicants do not have the required skill for the jobs available or years of experience. You also understand that lots of people come into Port Harcourt in search of jobs and other more people turn 15 every year, which the working age. These make it challenging getting jobs for them. Besides most companies, especially the banking sectors and other oil companies have started using computers; these also reduced the chances of getting jobs for our children.

Another respondent revealed that some of the young men are lazy and cannot work, that is why there are many of them in political space where they cannot get easy money. The worst is that most of the companies are packing because of the disturbance of various youth bodies in their area of operation. Even some of the youths are not skilled; however, when companies provide jobs, they sell these slots to anybody who can pay for it. It is disheartening. And the government is not hiring or establishing agencies because of the downturn in the revenue. Hence, you see lots of youths stranded without jobs.

Unemployment as a threat to human security in Port Harcourt City

The line chart below indicates the response generated from the seventh question on the questionnaire that sought the perception of the respondents if unemployment as a threat to human security in Port Harcourt City, Rivers State. The responses indicated as follows: 85% was affirmative, 10% said no, while 5% no response. Based on the responses, there is a strong perception that unemployment is the major cause of the increase in crime that impacts negatively on human security in Port Harcourt City as indicated in the line chart below.

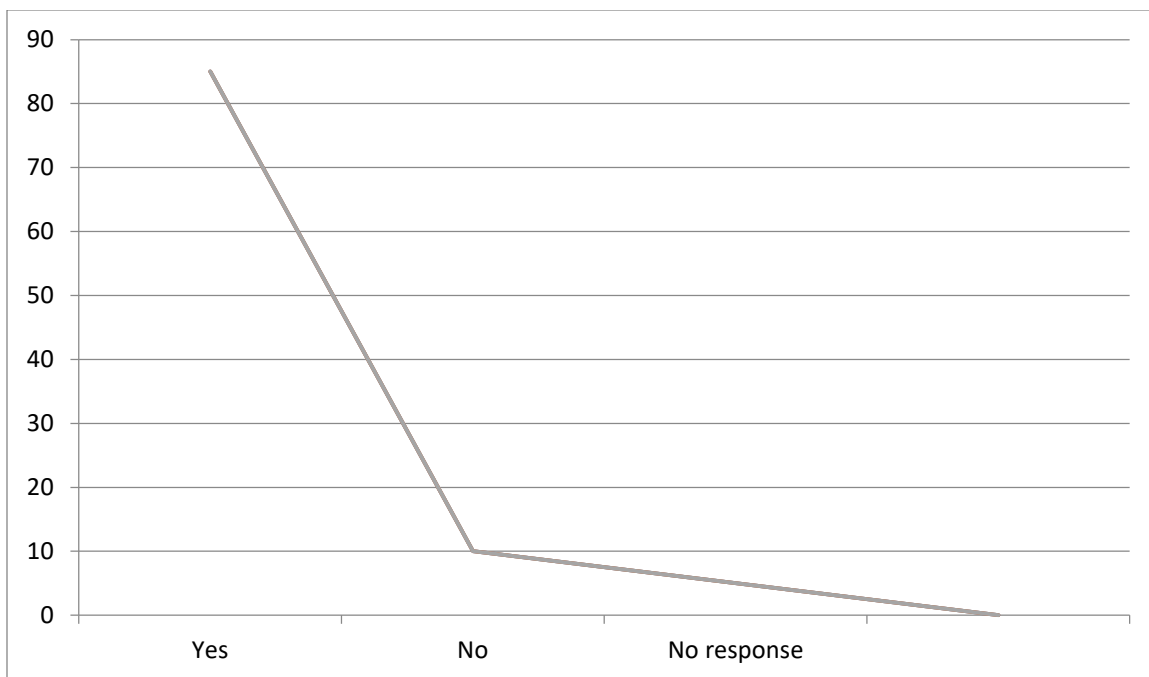


Fig.2: Indicating if the unemployment is attributed to the increasing wave of crime in Port Harcourt City.

Source: Field Survey 2020

The adverse impact of unemployment on human security in Port Harcourt City, Rivers State

The table and pie chart below indicate the response generated from the eighth question on the questionnaire that sought the perception of the respondents on the effects of unemployment on human security in Port Harcourt City, Rivers State. The responses indicated as follows: 6% Cybercrime (Yahoo boys), 21% youth restiveness, 16% theft, 10% armed robbery, 5% rape, 27 % electoral thug, 8% kidnap for ransom, and 7% artisanal refining. Based on the responses, the adverse effects of unemployment on human security in Port Harcourt City are common in electoral violence, theft, and armed robbery as indicated in the table and pie chart below.

Table4: The adverse impact of unemployment on human security in Port Harcourt City.

S/N	The adverse impact of unemployment on human security in Port Harcourt City, Rivers State	frequency	Percentage
1	Cybercrime (Yahoo business)	23	6
2	Youth restiveness	74	21
3	Theft	58	16
4	Armed robbery	35	10
5	Rape	18	5
6	Electoral thug	97	27
7	Kidnap for ransom	30	8
8	Artisanal refining	25	7
	Total	360	100

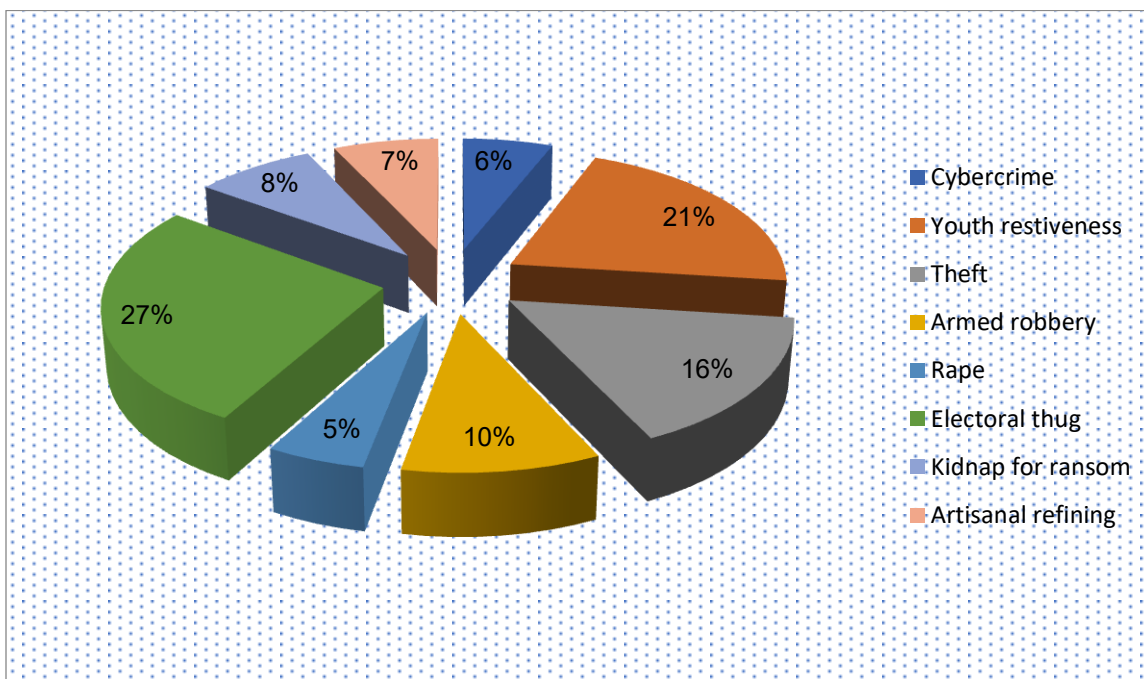


Fig.3: indicating the adverse impact of unemployment on human security in Port Harcourt City.
Source: Field Survey 2020

One of the respondents was asked during the interview if unemployment harms human security in Port Harcourt City? He smiled and replied that “an idle mind is devil workshop. A young man must survive, and it is worst on those who lack morals, hence, engage in illegitimate jobs.” Another respondent asserted that “the reasons for the increase of crime rate such theft, armed robbery, rape, yahoo yahoo (cybercrime), kidnap for ransom, youth restiveness, among others, are as a result of lack of jobs. Employments put money in their (youths) hands and keep them busy. They leave the house in the morning and return in the evening; they are tired and cannot engage in activities that could lead to crime. Those without jobs have become raw materials for the political class who used them during elections as thugs and violence. People can no longer move freely at night. Even at night, you must lock your house protectors with double steel padlocks. The level of insecurity in Port Harcourt Township is becoming unbearable. The insecurity is beyond the Nigerian Police.”

Discussion of Findings

Causes of unemployment in the Port Harcourt City

From our findings, unemployment in Port Harcourt City is occasioned by many factors such as an increase in mortality rate, rural-urban migration, lacked required skill, out-dated school curricula, non-indigenes factor, technological advancement, and years of experience, among others. From our findings, Port Harcourt City is a commercial hub in Nigeria. Hence, there is constant migration from rural to Port Harcourt urban in search of greener pasture or white-collar jobs. As more people troop into Port Harcourt City in search of jobs, the more the mortality rates keep increasing and the jobs are declining based on the economic downturn. This scenario has increased the number of unemployed people. Young people graduate from a tertiary institution without finding jobs, sometimes because of an out-dated curriculum that did not accommodate entrepreneurship; hence, these graduates become stranded. From our findings, the northern part of Port Harcourt is occupied by Ikwere people, while the southern part is mixed up with people from all walks of life, especially the Ijaw tribe. In the northern part, is where the King of Port Harcourt, His Royal Majesty late Eze Sunday Nnanta Woluchem, Eze Apará Rebisí XI resides. The king has been conscious of the fact that unemployment is becoming a menace in Port Harcourt decided to set up Employment Bureau in Port Harcourt. The primary aim of this Bureau is to source for jobs for Rebisí indigenes. The employments are controlled by the indigenes that are made the Community Liaison Officer (CLO), the companies rely on them when it comes to employment. This was more pronounced in Trans-Amadi industrial layout and other Government Residential Area 11. Hence, most of the companies look up to Palace Employment Bureau for recommendation letters before the applicant is hired. By this arrangement, applicants that are not natives are shut out of the system. However, in most Port Harcourt communities, the majority of the young men lacked the required skill, hence, they are unemployable. More often, the community youth president who is very influential compels the companies to hire his boys making the investment climate harsh; even they lacked the needed skill. Besides the constant harassment from the host communities, the companies are confronted with the challenges of double taxation from various statutory organizations. Most companies have packed up and laid workers off because of these challenges, hence, throwing people back to the labour markets. From our findings, the introduction of electronic computers in the company's operations has reduced the number of manpower required for a particular job. The computer can handle jobs meant for hundreds of persons in a few seconds. From our findings, several graduates face these challenges of years of experience before they are hired. The companies are finding it difficult these days to train any applicant; they prefer those with relevant years of experience. From our findings, there are few companies in the Port Harcourt south. The inhabitants who are more of the Ijaw extraction depend on fishing as their vocation. The industrial activities are limited; hence, there was a scarcity of job openings for the applicants. Each waterside has its committee formed by the residents referred to as an aborigine. Part of the responsibilities was to go to the companies sourcing for jobs. However, the aborigine committee later became malfunctioned when militants and cultists annexed the environment and became the dominant power.

The adverse impact of unemployment on human security in Port Harcourt City, Rivers State.

From our findings, Unemployed youths are vulnerable to vices. The “idle mind is the devil's workshop.” They are exposed to activities that threaten human security. These include electoral violence, general theft, armed robbery, artisanal refining, yahoo-yahoo, among others. As the degree of unemployment increases, the security situation in Port Harcourt City becomes unbearable.

Based on Numbeo safety-crime report in the last three years revealed that walking alone during daylight is 57.69 moderate while walking alone in the night is 28.57 low. There are high tendencies of been attacked by criminals at nights than in the afternoon. Below is the table of perception of residents on the crime rate in Port Harcourt City.

Table 4: The crime rate in Port Harcourt City, Nigeria from 2009-2020

CRIME RATES IN PORT HARCOURT, NIGERIA BY 2009-2020		
1	Level of crime	80.36 Very High
2	Crime increasing in the past 3 years	65.38 High
3	Worries home broken and things stolen	67.86 High
4	Worries being mugged or robbed	65.38 High
5	Worries car were stolen	63.46 High
6	Worries things from the car were stolen	67.86 High
7	Worries attacked	64.29 High
8	Worries being insulted	38.46 Low
9	Worries being subject to a physical attack because of your skin color, ethnic origin, gender or religion	39.29 Low
10	Problem people using or dealing drugs	64.29 High
11	Problem property crimes such as vandalism and theft	71.43 High
12	Problem violent crimes such as assault and armed robbery	82.14 Very High

Source: <https://www.numbeo.com/crime/in/Port-Harcourt-Nigeria>: **Table prepared by the author**

From our findings, the Port Harcourt south and Diobu in the north are centres of gravity for criminalities. The traders in the Diobu axis of Port Harcourt complained of constant harassment by the cult boys who extort five hundred naira daily from them. Any resistance in payments ends up been attacked after the business of the day. Some residents in the Diobu axis of Port Harcourt cannot move freely at night without been molested by unemployed youths who are members of local cult groups. Hence, most streets and estates in Port Harcourt City are barricaded with big steel gates at the entrance and these gates are closed between 8 pm–9 pm because of the level criminality experienced by the residents. In the southern part of Port Harcourt City, several non-state actors coexist with the state actor (government). The experience is best described as Hobbian state of nature where life is nasty and brutish. Port Harcourt south is dominated by cultist who carries out all forms of nefarious activities that impact negatively on human security. PIND (2015, p.2) report revealed that:

Cults have served as a gateway to all kinds of criminality and violence, including militancy. These groups and networks of groups have wide geographical penetration in the state and are heavily armed. In Rivers, as well as other states, cult groups overlap with street gangs, criminal syndicates, youth associations, and other militias. From the more notorious Deebam, Deywell, Greenlanders, and Icelanders, to the lesser-known Doctor's Squad, Italians, Blood Hunters, Junior Vikings, Bermudas, and others, cult groups have proliferated in Rivers State with reach into the communities of Emohua, Ikwerre, Khana, Ogba Egbema Ndoni, Ahoada, the Kalabari, and Okrika villages

Furthermore, PIND (2015, p.3) reported that "...the highest number of fatalities reported in the state, as a result of cult violence, Port Harcourt had by far the highest number of incidents in 2015. These include robbery, kidnappings, killings (eg. of an ex-militant, four men in a restaurant, and several people in a bar), as well as several reports of political intimidation in the run-up to the elections. There were also reported conflicts over the control of an oil bunkering camp and revenue from banana dealers." Our finding revealed that the security agents do not have firm control over these areas or watersides. "No one is ignorant of the existence and activities of the gangs. People living in some parts of the city, especially the marginal

squatter settlements (or what are known locally as "watersides"), and high density, low-income neighbourhoods, and the urban villages have been especially affected. The magnitude of the gang problem is seen in the one hundred and three groups (103) listed as banned organizations in the Rivers State Anti-cult Bill" (Oruwari and Owei, 2006, p.7). Port Harcourt City has over 40 Waterside residential areas that accommodate over 600,000 people. The Waterside environment is dominated by the overlords. For instance, Abuja Waterside is a hub of criminals in Port Harcourt south. The Port Harcourt south is dominated by unemployed youths who cannot find decent jobs or are not willing to work but take elation in criminalities such as oil theft, violence, artisanal refining, armed robbery, stealing, mercenaries, political thugs and other activities that impact negatively on human security. Our findings revealed that the majority of Port Harcourt ex-militants/cultists who accepted late President Yar Adua amnesty offer reside in the southern part of Port Harcourt. The amnesty programme could not solve the problem because some of the youths have taken criminalities as a vocation. From our findings, most oil company personnel and prominent individuals move with a police escort for protection in Port Harcourt City. Companies pay heavily to secure their workers or pay homage to these overlords for them to move freely and carry out their legitimate business. From our findings, unemployed youths in Port Harcourt City are used as raw materials by the political class to achieve political goals. Odoemene (2011, p. 127) revealed that:

Many militant groups were never disarmed after the elections were held, becoming in effect standing armies for their political patrons. But while the armed groups remained, their political allegiances constantly shifted. Sekibo found himself unable to reign in Ateke's excesses, and the pair had a falling out during the 2007 election campaign when the latter blew up several police stations in Port Harcourt, freeing his supporters but injuring many bystanders.

Concluding Remarks

Unemployment leads to anti-social behaviour. Most societies with a high employment rate are more likely to experience limited criminalities. The soaring rate of unemployment in Port Harcourt City, Rivers State, and Nigeria at large has increased the degree of violent crimes, creating panic and limited freedom. Unemployment creates an inferiority complex among peers and society at large. It is more frustrating among individuals who decided to pursue higher education, additional studies, or training with the expectation to find better jobs. The frustration could result in engaging in an illegitimate endeavor such as armed robbery, theft, political violence, youth restiveness, cybercrime, kidnap for ransom, artisanal refining, among others. Though several reasons have been deduced for inability to obtain employment such as outdated school curricula, rural-urban migration, high mortality rate, lack of required skills, harsh investment climate, limited years of experience, among others, employment is essential to a healthy society devoid of criminalities and social vices, which robs on human security. From our findings, the unemployment rate in the Port Harcourt South has partially created ungoverned space and centre of gravity for criminalities. It has become a situation where various violent nonstate actors coexist with the state actor, and citizens are vulnerable with little or no protection from the state actors. The presence of unemployable overlords in Port Harcourt south, particularly in Abuja Waterside create a fertile ground for the recruitment of young people into local cultism, which has constituted serious security challenge in Rivers State. An overwhelming percentage of those recruited into local cultism in Port City and Rivers State at large are young people without jobs or no hope of getting a job. There are many cases of cult conflicts in Port Harcourt City which have resulted in deaths of members and innocent citizens who reside in the neighbourhood where they operate freely without police intervention. Hence, politicians recruit them (cultists) to create panic to achieve their self-goals.

Recommendations

The entire educational system in Rivers State and Nigeria at large should be overhauled and curriculum at all levels to be re-designed towards satisfying the needs of the changing global labour market.

1. There should special incentives such as scholarship and occupational financial package to be given to the trainees by the government and corporate bodies for those deciding on self-employment training.
2. There should be legislation by the Rivers State House of Assembly to facilitate effective funding for vocational training in the state.
3. The Rivers State government should enter into a partnership with Multinational Corporations as part of their social corporate responsibility and establish an institute that will train youths in the oil and gas sectors to avoid youth's restiveness in Port Harcourt City.
4. The government and private sector should encourage agro and agro-allied –based industries that will eventually

absorb a large number of the labour force in the rural areas to reduce the degree of migration to Port Harcourt city in search of jobs.

5. The state government should make an effort to decongest by developing and siting industries in other parts of Rivers State.
6. The southern part of Port Harcourt city needs urban environmentally sustainable planning including programmes, which will include well-defined policies that will address the security situation, especially the waterside environment.
7. There is an urgent need for the government to encourage vigilante groups or community policing that will collaborate with the Nigerian Police in tackling insecurity in Port Harcourt City.
8. There is a need for Nigeria's National Assembly to move security from Exclusive List to the Concurrent List, particularly the paramilitary agencies like the police and civil defense.
9. The government should enforce relevant laws allows citizens to own identity cards to easy crime management

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