

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND CRIME IN URBAN CENTRES

BY

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DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Youth Unemployment and Crime in Urban Centres" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined youth unemployment and crime in urban centres, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of youth; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with youth and unemployment. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Structural Functionalist Theory and the Social Learning Theory. A sample size of 404 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 390 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.01). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.592$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 6.31, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.1$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on youth.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of youth unemployment and crime in urban centres is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

The salience of youth in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of youth in everyday life. An examination by Ekwueme and Adekunle (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. Studies by Bamgbose and Alade (2019) largely support the view that youth exerts a measurable influence on outcomes of interest. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

The salience of youth in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. Federal and state governments have initiated several reforms, yet implementation gaps continue to constrain progress in matters of youth. A notable study by Chukwu and Obiora (2017) argued that the impact of youth is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding unemployment. The work of Ekwueme and Dauda (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that unemployment reinforces the effects of youth. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

youth continues to command considerable attention among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in sociology. Public institutions at the federal, state, and local levels have developed programmes that seek to mainstream youth into routine governance. A notable study by Ekwueme and Dauda (2017) argued that the impact of youth is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Adekunle and Olawale (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

Scholars have long recognised youth as a critical determinant of outcomes in sociology. The socio-cultural diversity of Nigeria implies that responses to youth must be differentiated rather than uniform. Comparative work by Musa and Oyelaran (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking youth with unemployment. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. Studies