

YOUTHS UNEMPLOYMENT AND VIOLENT CRIME IN NIGERIA: AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION

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Abstract

This study investigates youths unemployment and violent crime in Nigeria using Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State as the study locale. The general objective of this study is to investigate whether youth's unemployment leads or contributes to violent crime such as armed robbery, kidnapping, fraud, and drug trafficking in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State, Nigeria. With the aid of the study objectives, four hypotheses were formulated for the study. The survey research design was adopted for the study. A sample size of 397 was adopted from the population 51,223 of the study using Taro Yamene formula for sample size determination. Simple random sampling and proportionate sampling techniques were variously applied in the study at different stages. The summation of all the responses was presented using frequency distribution tables and simple percentages, while the Chi-square statistical tool was used to test the hypotheses formulated in the study. The test statistics reveals among others that, there is a significant relationship between youth's unemployment and kidnapping in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State. The study concludes that, youth's unemployment leads or contributes to violent crime in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State. Based on the findings, the study recommends among others that, Imo State Government, corporate bodies, non-governmental organizations, and philanthropists should create job opportunities as well as attract viable federal establishments to Owerri Municipality and Imo State in general. By so doing, unemployed youths would be gainfully employed and deceit from indulging in kidnapping as an act of criminality.

Keywords: Youths Unemployment, Violent Crime, Kidnapping, Armed Robbery, Fraud, Drug Trafficking

Introduction

Every society across the globe has its peculiar problems and challenges. As a developing nation, Nigeria faces, political, economic, legal, technological, agricultural, and social problems which have in no small measure affected the well-being of the populace. One of the social problems bedeviling Nigeria for a number of years is youth's unemployment. Youth's unemployment has continued to be on the increase despite the abundant human and natural resources in Nigeria. Every year, thousands of graduates are produced but there are insufficient job opportunities for them. The Nigerian streets are littered with youth hawkers who ordinarily would have gained employment in governmental establishments, organizations and non-governmental organizations (Okafor, 2005).

Okeke (2014) maintained that, youths occupy a prominent place in any society. They are one of the greatest assets any nation can have. Okeke (2014) stressed further that, apart from youths being the leaders of tomorrow, they out-number the middle aged and the aged. Similarly, Adebayo (1999) asserts that, the youths are the foundation of any society. Their energies, inventiveness character, and orientation define the pattern of development and security of a nation. Through their creative talents and labour power, a nation makes giant strides. In his own reaction, Obaro (2012) posits that "youths are the important assets for national creativity and innovation. If the peculiarities of the youths are not well harnessed, they may lead to social unrest and economic instability. The youths can easily fall prey to

people who may want to use them to ferment trouble and they can become a burden to the society.

Youth's unemployment is not new phenomenon in Nigeria but what is new is the level, it has reached in recent time. The depth and breadth of youth's unemployment calamity in Nigeria has become a serious issue confronting each new government or administration in Nigeria and therefore, requires urgent attention by the federal and state governments, corporate bodies, philanthropists and all stakeholders in order to curb down this menace in Nigeria. A number of factors have been identified as the remote causes of youth's unemployment in Nigeria. They are, rapid rural-urban migration, rapid expansion of the educational system, decline in the manufacturing sector, and high level of corruption amongst government and public officials (Okafor, 2005). The government on its' own is not taken the situation lightly as it has, introduced various programmes such as Graduate Empowerment Scheme, Youth Initiative Programme, Graduate Internship Scheme, Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme, The National Directorate of Empowerment Strategy, The National Empowerment and Development Strategy, just to mention a few. In spite of these initiatives and interventions, the labour market still continues to witness more job seekers in Nigeria (Okafor, 2005).

Violent crimes such as kidnapping, armed robbery, terrorism, rape, theft, domestic violence, battery, homicide, gang violence are the most inhuman crimes that continue to saddle Nigeria as a developing nation. This study therefore, tends to investigate whether youths unemployment, leads or contributes to violent crime in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

People's attestations and reactions have shown that, there appears to be linkage between youth's unemployment and violent crime in Nigeria. Their assumption is that, youths that are unemployed appear to be predisposed to crime such as, cultism, kidnapping, armed robbery, fraud, drug trafficking, terrorism, and pipeline vandalization. They contend that, youth's unemployment exert mental stress and anti-social behaviour thereby propelling the youths to engage in criminal activities in order to actualize their expected desire.

On the other hand, some people claim that, no matter the level of unemployment in Nigeria, youths do not indulge in criminal activities in order to meet up with the challenges in life. It is in light of the above situations that this study tends to investigate whether youth's unemployment leads or contributes to violent crime in Nigeria using Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State as the study locale.

Research Questions

Sequel to the foregoing issues in the statement of the problem, the following research questions are deemed imperative for this study.

1. Does youth's unemployment lead to kidnapping in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State?
2. Does youth's unemployment contribute to armed robbery in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State?
3. Does youth's unemployment lead to fraud in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State?
4. Does youth's unemployment contribute to drug trafficking in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State?

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to investigate whether youth's unemployment leads or contributes to violent crime in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State, Nigeria. While the specific objectives are:

1. To ascertain whether youths unemployment leads to kidnapping in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.
2. To determine whether youths unemployment contributes to armed robbery in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.
3. To examine whether youths unemployment leads to fraud in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.
4. To explore whether youths unemployment contributes to drug trafficking in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.

Literature Review

The Concept of Youths Unemployment

Adebayo (1999) maintained that, "a person is said to be unemployed when he or she is able and willing to work and available for work but does not have work." Youth's unemployment arises when young people within the working age remain without any gainful employment. Fajana (2000) posits that, "youth's unemployment refers to a situation where by young people who are willing and capable of working are unable to find suitable paid employment". It is also, lack of employment, and idleness of young individuals seeking employment at a prevailing wage rate. Youth's unemployment is a situation whereby young persons who are available, capable, and qualified are seeking for jobs but could not secure job opportunities, including youths who have lost their jobs and those who voluntarily left their jobs for reasons best known to them.

The Concept of Violent Crime

According to Aremu and Ahmed (2011), violent crime is any criminal offense, which involves the use of force or violence on the sufferer or sufferers. Similar, Ogujiobi (2006), views violent crime as, "behaviour by persons, against persons or properties that intentionally attempts, threatens, or actually inflicts physical force or aggression on victims".

Wolfgang (2008) affirms that, violent crime is "any act of commission involving deliberate use of physical force, or the overtly or covertly threatened use of such force by an individual or collective, national or sub-national agent, against the will of another for the purpose of securing some end". Violent crimes or violent offenses involve the use of force or injury to the body of another person. The seriousness of a violent crime is usually determined by the degree of physical harm caused to the victim. The use of weapon can raise the seriousness of the crime committed (Obaro, 2012).

Youths Unemployment and Kidnapping

According to Ugwulebo (2011), "kidnapping can be seen as the illegal abduction and detention of a person for the purpose of using his captivity to demand for ransom or make other demands". This days kidnapping is a lucrative venture by some jobless youths using the business for ransom or to make other demands. This is due to the fact that, unemployed youths are idle and live in a society where a man's importance is measured by his material acquisition. Unfortunately, kidnapped victims get killed before they are rescued while others are rescued by their relatives after paying ransom (Dukor, 2010).

Umahi (2010) observes that, between 2008 and 2010, Nigeria recorded about eight hundred and eight seven (887) cases of kidnapping. Records available in this period shows that, kidnapping was highest in Rivers State with 276 cases, Delta State with 85 cases, Abia State with 68 cases, Akwalbom State with 100 cases and Imo State with 61 cases. Umahi (2010) further noted that, the causes of kidnapping in Nigeria include, high rate of youth's unemployment, poverty, ostentations display of wealth and greed by some individuals, and political instability.

Sanusi (2010), avers that, 44.9 percent of youths in Nigeria between the ages of 15 and 25 years are unemployed. Sanusi (2010) further stressed that, "the growing scourge of insecurity and kidnapping in Nigeria is as a result of alarming rate of youth's unemployment". In the same vein, Alanana (2003) argues that, the rising wave of youth's unemployment in Nigeria has lured many youths into kidnapping. He further stressed that, unemployed youths believe that when they kidnap the rich, they would make money from the victim's kidnapped in order to solve their problems.

Youths Unemployment and Armed Robbery

According to Obikeze (2011), armed robbery is the type of robbery added with weapons to threaten, force and deprive a person or persons of the right to private, public or corporate belongings. Okafor (2005) argues that, the lingering unemployment amongst youths in Nigeria is fast tearing the fabric of the nation, thereby turning the youths who should have been agents of development into armed robbers so as to earn a living. This menace has not only lead to pervasive poverty amongst the youths but also raised serious security concerns as lack of jobs had turned the idle mind of the youths into the devils' workshop (Okafor, 2005).

Opara (2007) maintained that, the increase in robbery cases in Nigeria is due to multiplicity of factors which include peer group influence, greed, idleness and poverty arising from high rate of youth's unemployment. In the same vein, Okeke (2014) opines that, poverty and idleness are born out of youth's unemployment; the architect of deprivation and underdevelopment that virtually breeds crime of all forms including armed robbery in a society.

Alanana (2003) postulates that, "unemployment is one of the major problems affecting third world countries and its' implications on any nation are disastrous". In his own reaction, Okeke (2014) asserts that when youths are unemployed, they lack money in their pockets. That is, they become incapacitated to take care of their needs thereby making them to go into armed robbery as a means of livelihood. The longer they remain unemployed, the more disheartened they become.

Youths Unemployment and Fraud

According to Rusell and Norvig (2003), "fraud is an act of deliberate deception with the aim of securing a personal benefit by taking advantages of others". Adeniran (2008) affirms that, the internet remains a mechanism for dissemination of information, collaboration and interaction amongst individuals. Nigerian youths especially graduates, are so much attached to internet browsing and this medium, takes larger part of their time when compared to their other daily activities. The varieties of submission sent within and outside Nigeria through the internet such as, electronic mailing, chart systems, and internet messaging, often serve as veritable grounds for carrying out nefarious and fraudulent activities by the youths (Adeniran, 2008).

Jackson (2004) is of the view that, youths are not set out or purposely indulge in fraudulent acts as a way of life, but certain factors and needs in their lives trigger their act of becoming fraudulent. These fraudulent acts by the youths are brought about by desperation and socio-economic backwardness of some Nation-States. Just as the e-business environment commands different types of fraud, so also are the people who are into fraud business. The professional fraud artists are conceived as individuals who engage in fraud primarily for monetary or other gains. These artists who are mostly youths engage in fraud in order to live on financially (Jackson, 2004).

Youths Unemployment and Drug Trafficking

Drug trafficking is the transportation or carrying of drugs especially hard drugs like heroin, cocaine, marijuana, from where they are produced to where they will be consumed. Drug trafficking constitute a major threat to human and national security. This is so because, a country like Nigeria that is burdened with massive unemployed youths who are frustrated because of their condition, could engage in drug trafficking in order to acquire huge financial gains and this leads to loss of lives and bad image to Nigeria as a developing nation (Obaro, 2012).

According to Dambauzu (2007), many youths are frustrated in our society today because of unemployment. Unemployment leads to frustration and depression and thereby, causing youths to indulge into drug trafficking and other deceitful acts because, their desires or dreams are shattered and unfulfilled. In the same vain, Alabi and Alanana (2003) posits that, “the army of unemployed youths in the country presents a viable platform for recruiting couriers of hard drugs”. Large mass of poverty stricken unemployed youths are left with no other option than to venture into drug trafficking as means of livelihood.

Theoretical Framework

In this study, the Relative Deprivation Theory is adopted as the best theory suitable to guide this study. Relative Deprivation Theory was propounded by Ted Robert Gurr in 1970. In Sociology, relative deprivation theory is a view of social change and movements, according to which people take action for social change in order to acquire something for example, opportunities, status, and wealth that others possess and which they (people) believe they should have, too (Walker and Smith, 2001). Relative deprivation theory is used to describe feelings or measures of economic, political, and social deprivation that are relative rather than absolute. The theory has important consequences for both behaviour and attitudes, including feelings of stress, and participation in collective actions (Dambrun, Taylor, McDonald, Crush, and Méot, 2006).

The implication/relevance of the relative deprivation theory to this study is that, aggression in the form of violent crime such as armed robbery, kidnapping, fraud, and drug trafficking prevalent in the Nigerian society nowadays could be lured to aggrieved unemployed youths who through one way or the other seek for jobs in order to survive and meet up with the challenges in life and could not find opportunities to secure jobs.

Methodology

This study is carried out in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State, Nigeria. Owerri Municipal Council is one of the twenty seven Local Governments in Imo State. The Council has an urban setting with one Autonomous Community that is made up of five indigenous kindred's (Owerri Nshi Ise) namely; Amawom, Umuodu, Umuoyima, Umuonyeche, and Umuororonjo. For the purpose of this study, the survey research design was adopted. The survey research design was adopted to investigate the relationship between youth's unemployment and violent crime (the 'variables' of violent crime are: kidnapping, armed robbery, fraud, and drug trafficking) prevalent in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State. Therefore, the data required for this study must be subjective and hence, be collected from people and that is why the survey method was adopted. The population of the study is (51,223). To determine the sample size for the study, the Taro Yamane formula for sample size determination was applied and (0.05) percent was chosen as the level of significance or margin of error allowable. The sample size of (397) was chosen for the study. In choosing the sample for the study, the simple random sampling and proportionate sampling techniques were variously applied at different stages. For effective coverage, the simple random sampling technique was used to select three (Amawom, Umuonyeche, and Umuoyima) out of five

kindred's in Owerri Municipal Council while the proportionate sampling technique was employed in assigning number of respondents to be selected from each of kindred's since the kindred's do not have equal number of population. The primary and secondary sources of data collection were used in this study. The primary sources consist of questionnaire which was structured in Likert modified four-point response scale, while the secondary sources consist of information from text books, journal articles, seminar papers, and conference papers. Out of (397) copies of questionnaire distributed, (382) copies were successfully retrieved. Data collected from the field were presented using frequency distribution tables and percentages (%), while the Chi-square (χ^2) statistical tool was used to test the hypotheses formulated in the study.

Results and Analysis

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents on Youth's Unemployment and Kidnapping

Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total
1. Do you agree that, there have been incidents of kidnapping in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.	173 (45.3%)	152 (39.8%)	35 (9.2%)	22 (5.7%)	382 (100)
2. Adoption of people in Owerri Metropolis could also be attributed to youths that are unemployed.	141 (36.9%)	138 (36.1%)	67 (17.5%)	36 (9.4%)	382 (100)
3. Kidnapping has increased rapidly in Owerri Municipality with the rising rate of youth's unemployment.	139 (36.4%)	159 (41.6%)	31 (8.1%)	53 (13.9%)	382 (100)
4. Youths who are unemployed would not risk their lives by venturing into kidnapping in order to meet up with the challenges in life.	77 (20.1%)	52 (13.6%)	115 (30.1%)	138 (36.1%)	382 (100)
Total	530	501	248	249	1,528

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents on youth's unemployment and kidnapping. In question number 1, out of 382 respondents, (45.3%) strongly agreed that, there have been incidents of kidnapping in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State, (39.8%) agreed, (9.2%) disagreed, while (5.7%) strongly disagreed. In question number 2, out of 382 respondents, (36.9%) strongly agreed that, adoption of people in Owerri Metropolis could also be attributed to youths that are unemployed. (36.1%) agreed, (17.5%) disagreed, while (9.4%) strongly disagreed. In question number 3, out of 382 respondents, (36.4%) strongly agreed that kidnapping has increased rapidly in Owerri Municipality with the rising rate of youth's unemployment, (41.6%) agreed, (8.1%) disagreed, while (13.9%) strongly disagreed. In question number 4, out of 283 respondents, (20.1%) strongly agreed that, youths who are unemployed would not risk their lives by venturing into kidnapping in order to meet up with the challenges of life, (13.6%) agreed, (30.1%) disagreed, while (36.1%) strongly disagreed. From the above table, it infers that the respondents responded greatly that youth's unemployment leads to kidnapping in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents on Youth's Unemployment and Armed Robbery

Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total
5. Do you agree that on several occasions, residents of Owerri Metropolis have experienced incidents of armed robbery?	138 (36.1%)	167 (43.7%)	48 (12.6%)	29 (7.6%)	382 (100)
6. Incidents of armed robbery in Owerri Metropolis could also be attributed to unemployed youths.	128 (33.5%)	155 (40.6%)	48 (12.6%)	51 (13.3%)	382 (100)
7. As a result of joblessness, youths indulge in armed robbery as a means of livelihood.	124 (32.5%)	151 (39.5%)	50 (13.1%)	57 (14.9%)	382 (100)
8. No matter the rising wave of unemployment, youths do not indulge in armed robbery.	80 (20.9%)	68 (17.8%)	133 (34.8%)	101 (26.4%)	382 (100)
Total	470	541	279	238	1,528

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Table 2 shows the distribution of respondents on youth's unemployment and armed robbery. In question number 5, out of 382 respondents (36.1%) strongly agreed that on several occasions, residents of Owerri Metropolis have experienced incidents of armed robbery, (43.7%) agreed, (12.6%) disagreed, while (7.6%) strongly disagreed. In question number 6, out of 382 respondents, (33.5%) strongly agreed that, incidents of armed robbery in Owerri Metropolis could also be attributed to unemployed youths. (40.6%) agreed, (12.6%) disagreed, while (13.3%) strongly disagreed. In question number 7, out of 382 respondents, (32.5%) strongly agreed that as a result of joblessness, youths indulge in armed robbery as a means of livelihood, (39.5%) agreed, (13.1%) disagreed, while (14.9%) strongly disagreed. In question number 8, out of 382 respondents, (20.9%) strongly agreed that no matter the raising wave of unemployment, youths do not indulge in armed robbery, (17.8%) agreed, (34.8%) disagreed, while (26.4%) strongly disagreed. From the above table, it infers that the respondents responded greatly that, youth's unemployment contributes to armed robbery in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents on Youths Unemployment and Fraud

Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total
9. Do you agree that incidents of fraud have taken place in Owerri Municipal Council?	126 (33%)	154 (40.3%)	57 (14.9%)	45 (11.8%)	382 (100)
10. Cases of cybercrime/defraudment in Owerri Metropolis could be attributed to youths that are unemployed.	119 (31.1%)	144 (37.8%)	66 (17.2%)	53 (13.9%)	382 (100)
11. Youths that are unemployed are usually frustrated and can easily engage in duping people of their belongings.	108 (28.3%)	158 (41.4%)	72 (18.8%)	44 (11.5%)	382 (100)

12. No matter the level of unemployment, youths see fraud as a crime and therefore do not engage in the act.	57 (14.9%)	79 (20.7%)	155 (40.6%)	91 (23.8%)	382 (100)
Total	410	535	350	232	1,528

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Table 3 shows the distribution of respondents on youth's unemployment and fraud. In question number 9, out of 382 respondents, (33%) strongly agreed that, incidents of fraud have taken place in Owerri municipal Council, (40.3%) agreed, (14.9%) disagreed, while (11.8%) strongly disagreed. In question number 10, out of 382 respondents, (31.1%) strongly agreed that, cases of cybercrime/defraudment in Owerri metropolis could be attributed to youths that are unemployed, (37.8%) agreed, (17.2%) disagreed, while (13.9%) strongly disagreed. In question number 11, out of 382 respondents, (28.3%) strongly agreed that, youths who are unemployed are usually frustrated and can easily engage in duping people of their belongings, (41.4%) agreed, (18.8%) disagreed, while (11.5%) strongly disagreed. In question number 12, out of 382 respondents, (14.9%) strongly agreed that, no matter the level of unemployment, youths see fraud as a crime and therefore, do not engage in the act, (20.7%) agreed, (40.6%) disagreed, while (23.8%) strongly disagreed. From the above table, it infers that the respondents responded greatly that youth's unemployment leads to fraud in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents on Youths Unemployment and Drug Trafficking

Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total
13. Do you agree that, drug trafficking is in vogue in Owerri municipal council, Imo State.	146 (38.2%)	153 (40.1%)	44 (11.5%)	39 (10.2%)	382 (100)
14. Unemployed youths indulge in selling illicit drugs such as marijuana cocaine, heroin for livelihood.	122 (31.9%)	135 (35.3%)	64 (16.7%)	61 (16.1%)	382 (100)
15. Trafficking of illicit drugs could also be attributed to youths that are jobless.	118 (30.9%)	128 (33.5%)	79 (20.7%)	57 (14.9%)	382 (100)
16. Youths do not engage in drug trafficking irrespective that the fact that they are unemployed.	49 (12.8%)	74 (19.3%)	138 (36.1%)	121 (31.8%)	382 (100)
Total	435	490	325	278	1,528

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Table 4 shows the distribution of respondents on youth's unemployment and drug trafficking. In question number 13, out of 382 respondents, (38.2%) strongly agreed that, drug trafficking is in vogue in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State, (40.1%) agreed, (11.5%) disagreed, while (10.2%) strongly disagreed. In question number 14, out of 382 respondents, (31.9%) strongly agreed that unemployed youths indulge in selling illicit drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, heroin etc. for livelihood, (35.3%) agreed, (16.7%) disagreed, while (16.1%) strongly disagreed. In question number 15, out of 382 respondents, (30.9%) strongly agreed that trafficking of illicit drugs, could also be attributed to youths that are jobless, (33.5%) agreed, (20.7%) disagreed, (14.9%) strongly disagreed. In question number 16, out of 382

respondents, (12.8%) strongly agreed that, youths do not engage in drug trafficking irrespective of the fact that they are unemployed, (19.3%) agreed, (36.1%) disagreed, (31.8%) strongly disagreed. From the above table, it infers that the respondents responded greatly that youth’s unemployment contributes to drug trafficking in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.

Statistical Analysis and Test of Hypotheses

Test of Hypothesis One

H₀: There is no significant relationship between youth’s unemployment and kidnapping in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.

H₁: There is a significant relationship between youth’s unemployment and kidnapping in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.

This hypothesis will be tested using the values of responses in research questions 2, 3, and 4 in table 1 respectively.

Table 5: Contingency Table of Observed and Expected Frequencies

Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total
2	141	138	67	36	382 _{B1}
3	139	159	31	53	382 _{B2}
4	77	52	115	138	382 _{B3}
Total	357_{A1}	349_{A2}	213_{A3}	227_{A4}	1,146_N

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 6: Calculation of Expected Frequencies

Cell A ₁ B ₁	357x382 /1,146	119	Cell A ₁ B ₂	357x382 /1,146	119	Cell A ₁ B ₃	357x382 /1,146	119
Cell A ₂ B ₁	349x382 /1,146	116	Cell A ₂ B ₂	349x382 /1,146	116	Cell A ₂ B ₃	349x382 /1,146	116
Cell A ₃ B ₁	213x382 /1,146	71	Cell A ₃ B ₂	213x382 /1,146	71	Cell A ₃ B ₃	213x382 /1,146	71
Cell A ₄ B ₁	227x382 /1,146	76	Cell A ₄ B ₂	227x382 /1,146	76	Cell A ₄ B ₃	227x382 /1,146	76

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Table 7: Placing the Observed and Expected Frequencies for Test of Hypothesis One

O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
141	119	22	484	4.067
138	116	22	484	4.172
67	71	-4	16	0.225
36	76	-40	1600	21.053
139	119	20	400	3.361
159	116	43	1849	15.940
31	71	40	1600	22.535
53	76	-23	529	6.960
77	119	-42	1764	14.823
52	116	-64	4096	35.310
115	71	44	1936	27.268
138	76	62	3844	50.579
Total				206.293

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

From the contingency table,

$$\begin{aligned} Df &= (r-1) (c-1) \\ &= (3-1) (4-1) \\ &= 2 \times 3 \\ &= 6 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, DF = 6

Decision Rule: At 0.05 level of significance with 6 degree of freedom, the table value of Chi-square (χ^2) is 12.592 while the calculated value of Chi-square (χ^2) is 206.293. Since the calculated value of Chi-square (χ^2_{cal}) is greater than the table value (χ^2_{table}), we therefore reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis which states that, there is a significant relationship between youth's unemployment and kidnapping in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.

Test of Hypothesis Two

H₀: Armed robbery in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State is not significantly related to youths that are unemployed.

H₁: Armed robbery in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State is significantly related to youths that are unemployed.

This hypothesis will be tested using the values of the responses derived from research questions 6, 7 and 8 in table 2 respectively.

Table 8: Contingency Table of Observed Frequencies

Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total
6	128	155	48	51	382 _{B1}
7	124	151	50	57	382 _{B2}
8	80	68	133	101	382 _{B3}
Total	332_{A1}	374_{A2}	231_{A3}	209_{A4}	1,146_N

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Table 9: Calculation of Expected Frequencies

Cell A ₁ B ₁	332x382 /1,146	111	Cell A ₁ B ₂	332x382 /1,146	111	Cell A ₁ B ₃	332x382 /1,146	111
Cell A ₂ B ₁	374x382 /1,146	125	Cell A ₂ B ₂	374x382 /1,146	125	Cell A ₂ B ₃	374x382 /1,146	125
Cell A ₃ B ₁	231x382 /1,146	77	Cell A ₃ B ₂	231x382 /1,146	77	Cell A ₃ B ₃	231x382 /1,146	77
Cell A ₄ B ₁	209x382 /1,146	70	Cell A ₄ B ₂	209x382 /1,146	70	Cell A ₄ B ₃	209x382 /1,146	70

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Table 10: Placing the Observed and Expected Frequencies for Test of Hypothesis Two

O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
128	111	17	289	2.603
155	125	30	900	7.2
48	77	-29	841	10.922
51	70	-19	361	5.157
124	111	13	169	1.522
151	125	26	676	5.408
50	77	-27	729	9.467
57	70	-13	169	2.414
80	111	-31	961	8.657

68	125	-57	3249	25.992
133	77	56	3136	40.727
101	70	31	961	13.728
Total				133.797

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

From the Contingency table,

$$\begin{aligned} Df &= (r-1) (c-1) \\ &= (3-1) (4-1) \\ &= 2 \times 3 \\ &= 6 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, DF = 6

Decision Rule: At 0.05 level of significance with 6 degree of freedom, the table value of Chi-square (χ^2) is 12.592 while the calculated value of Chi-square (χ^2) is 133.797. Since the calculated value of Chi-square (χ^2_{cal}) is greater than the table value (χ^2_{table}), we therefore reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis which states that, armed robbery in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State is significantly related to youths that are unemployed.

Test of Hypothesis Three

H₀: There is no significant relationship between youth's unemployment and fraud in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.

H₁: There is a significant relationship between youth's unemployment and fraud in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.

This hypothesis will be tested using the values of responses derived from research questions 10, 11, and 12 in table 3 respectively.

Table 11: Contingency Table of Observed Frequencies

Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total
10	119	144	66	53	382 _{B1}
11	108	158	72	44	382 _{B2}
12	57	79	155	91	382 _{B3}
Total	284_{A1}	381_{A2}	293_{A3}	188_{A4}	1,146_N

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Table 12: Calculation of Expected Frequencies

Cell A ₁ B ₁	284x382 /1,146	95	Cell A ₁ B ₂	284x382 /1,146	95	Cell A ₁ B ₃	284x382 /1,146	95
Cell A ₂ B ₁	381x382 /1,146	127	Cell A ₂ B ₂	381x382 /1,146	127	Cell A ₂ B ₃	381x382 /1,146	127
Cell A ₃ B ₁	293x382 /1,146	98	Cell A ₃ B ₂	293x382 /1,146	98	Cell A ₃ B ₃	293x382 /1,146	98
Cell A ₄ B ₁	188x382 /1,146	63	Cell A ₄ B ₂	188x382 /1,146	63	Cell A ₄ B ₃	188x382 /1,146	63

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Table 13: Placing the Observed and Expected Frequencies for Test of Hypothesis Three

O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
119	95	24	576	6.063
144	127	17	289	2.275
66	98	-32	1024	10.448
53	63	-10	100	1.587
108	95	13	169	1.778
158	127	31	961	7.556
72	98	-26	676	6.897
44	63	-19	361	5.730
57	95	-38	1444	15.2
79	127	-48	2304	18.141
155	98	57	3249	33.153
91	63	28	784	12.444
Total				121.282

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

From the contingency table,

$$\begin{aligned}
 Df &= (r-1)(c-1) \\
 &= (3-1)(4-1) \\
 &= 2 \times 3 \\
 &= 6
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, DF = 6

Decision Rule: At 0.05 level of significance with degree of freedom, the table value of Chi-square (χ^2) is 12.592 while the calculated value of Chi-square (χ^2) is 121.282. Since the calculated value of Chi-square (χ^2_{cal}) is greater than the table value (χ^2_{table}), we therefore reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis which states that, there is a significant relationship between youth's unemployment and fraud in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.

Test of Hypothesis Four

H₀: Drug trafficking in Owerri Municipal Council, is not significantly related to unemployed youths.

H₁: Drug trafficking in Owerri Municipal Council, is significantly related to unemployed youths.

This hypothesis will be tested using the values of responses derived from research questions 14, 15, and 16 from table 4 respectively.

Table 14: Contingency Table of Observed Frequencies

Table	SA	A	D	SD	Total
14	122	135	64	61	382 _{B1}
15	118	128	79	57	382 _{B2}
16	49	74	138	121	382 _{B3}
Total	289_{A1}	337_{A2}	281_{A4}	239_{A5}	1,146N

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Table 15: Calculation of Expected Frequencies

Cell A ₁ B ₁	289x382 /1,146	96	Cell A ₁ B ₂	289x382 /1,146	96	Cell A ₁ B ₃	289x382 /1,146	96
Cell A ₂ B ₁	337x382 /1,146	112	Cell A ₂ B ₂	337x382 /1,146	112	Cell A ₂ B ₃	337x382 /1,146	112
Cell A ₃ B ₁	281x382 /1,146	94	Cell A ₃ B ₂	281x382 /1,146	94	Cell A ₃ B ₃	281x382 /1,146	94
Cell A ₄ B ₁	239x382 /1,146	80	Cell A ₄ B ₂	239x382 /1,146	80	Cell A ₄ B ₃	239x382 /1,146	80

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

Table 16: Placing the Observed and Expected Frequencies for Test of Hypothesis Four

O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
122	96	16	256	2.666
135	112	23	529	4.723
64	94	-30	900	9.574
61	80	-19	361	4.512
118	96	22	484	5.041
128	112	16	256	2.285
79	94	-15	225	2.393
57	80	-23	529	6.612
49	96	-47	2209	23.010
74	112	-38	1444	12.892
138	94	44	1936	20.595
121	80	41	1681	21.012
Total				115.315

Source: Field Survey, 2017.

From the contingency table,

$$\begin{aligned}
 Df &= (r-1) (c-1) \\
 &= (3-1) (4-1) \\
 &= 2 \times 3 \\
 &= 6
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus DF = 6

Decision Rule: At 0.05 level of significance with 6 degree of freedom, the table value of Chi-square (χ^2) is 12.592 while the calculated value of Chi-square (χ^2) is 115.315. Since the calculated value of Chi-square (χ^2_{cal}) is greater than the table value (χ^2_{table}), we therefore reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis (H_1) which states that, drug trafficking in Owerri Municipal Council, is significantly related to unemployed youths.

Discussion of Findings

The result of the first hypothesis of this study reveals that, there is a significant relationship between youth's unemployment and kidnapping in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State. This is in line with Alanana (2003) who argues that, the rising wave of youth's unemployment in Nigeria has lured many youths into kidnapping. He further stressed that, unemployed youths believe that when they kidnap the rich, they would make money from the victim's kidnapped in order to solve their problems.

The result of the second hypothesis of this study reveals that, armed robbery in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State is significantly related to youths that are unemployed. This is in consonance with Okafor (2005) who postulates that, the lingering unemployment amongst youths in Nigeria is fast tearing the fabric of the society, thereby turning the youths who should have been agents of development into armed robbery so as to earn a living. According to him, this menace

has not only lead to pervasive poverty among the population but also raised serious security concerns as lack of jobs had turned the idle mind of the youths into the devils' workshop.

The result of the third hypothesis of this study reveals that, there is a significant relationship between youth's unemployment and fraud in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State. This agrees with Adeniran (2008) who affirms that, Nigerian youths especially graduates, are so much attached to internet browsing and this medium, takes larger part of their time when compared to their other daily activities. The varieties of submission sent within and outside Nigeria through the internet such as, electronic mailing, chat systems, and internet messaging, often serve as veritable grounds for carrying out nefarious and fraudulent activities by the youths.

The result of the fourth hypothesis of this study reveals that, drug trafficking in Owerri Municipal Council, is significantly related to unemployed youths. This supports Obaro (2012) who stressed that, drug trafficking constitute a major threat to human and national security. This is so because, a country like Nigeria that is burdened with massive unemployed youths who are frustrated because of their condition, could engage in drug trafficking in order to acquire huge financial gains and this leads to loss of lives and bad image to Nigeria as a developing nation (Obaro, 2012).

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study concludes that youth's unemployment leads or contributes to violent crime in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State, Nigeria. For this reason, the following recommendations are made:

1. Imo State Government, corporate bodies, non-governmental organizations, and philanthropists should create job opportunities as well as attract viable federal establishments to Owerri Municipality and Imo State in general. By so doing, unemployed youths would be gainfully employed and deceit from indulging in kidnapping as an act of criminality.
2. Imo State Government should embark on rural development projects such as, rural industrialization and electrification projects as these would curtail rural-urban drift and also, make rural areas attractive to live in. These would also, enable the possibility of unemployed youths residing in the rural areas getting productively engaged which is in turn, a panacea to reducing the rate of armed robbery in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.
3. Youths in Owerri Municipal Council, should be creative and learn different vocational skills as this will go a long way in reducing youth's unemployment and fraudulent acts in the metropolis. However, at the time of completion of the vocational skills training, government should provide loans to the tarried youths as take-off capital to start off any skill and business of their choice.
4. Government at all levels should make sure that the general school curriculum is restructured to inculcate technical skills acquisition and development programmes. By so doing, students would acquire skills, values, and knowledge which would give them the opportunity to excel in life when they are out of school and as well, shy away from trafficking illicit drugs which can endanger their lives.

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