

**Youth Unemployment and Criminal Behaviour in Alimosho Local Government  
Area of Lagos State, Nigeria**

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### **Certification**

This is to certify that Alexander Ailendesuan UKHUREIGBE with matriculation number LCU/PG/0020159 carried out this research work titled: Youth Unemployment and Criminal Behaviour in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State, Nigeria, in the Department of Criminology and Security Studies, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State for the award of Master Degree (MSc) in Criminology and Security Studies and that this has not been previously submitted.

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## **Dedication**

This research work is dedicated to Almighty God, who made it possible for me to be able to complete this work despite all challenges encountered.

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### **Acknowledgement**

My special appreciation goes my Supervisor, Professor Oludayo Tade, whose invaluable intellectual contribution to the success of this work cannot be quantified and also the Head of the Department, Professor Jane Adebusuyi,

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To my wonderful kids and wife I appreciate you also. God bless you all.

## **Abstract**

The vibrant youth population in Alimosho is presently facing serious unemployment situation and this has led to political and socio-economic vices which have snowballed to serious crimes including armed robbery, banditry, kidnapping, drug and human trafficking, cultism, insurgency, etc. and this is threatening national unity and cohesion. In the face of this insecurity situation, the attitude and modus operandi of the security apparatuses remain suspect and unsatisfactory. The study employed a descriptive research design, and used a mixed method of questionnaire and interviews. The theoretical review was anchored on Frustration-Aggression Theory postulated by Fererabend and Feirauben (1972). Four research questions and one research hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. Questionnaire was used to collected data from the youth that were involved in this study. Six In-depth interviews were conducted with the chairmen of the six Local Government Areas and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs), while 8 focused group discussion were done with the members of the community development association (CDAs). The responses from the questionnaire, interviews and focused groups discussion were transcribed, coded and analyzed using frequency tables and percentages while the hypotheses were tested using manually-computed chi-square (X<sup>2</sup>) statistics at 0.05 level of significance with appropriate degree of freedom (d.f.). information from the instruments were used to authenticate other responses from the questionnaire. The findings indicated strong and positive relationship between youth unemployment and criminality in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State, Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Youth, Unemployment, Underemployment, Alimosho LCDAs

**Word Count:** 213

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## **Chapter One**

### **Introduction**

#### **1.1 Background to the study**

The concept of unemployment is a global phenomenon. It is one of the major socio-economic challenges that every society faces. Globally, an estimated 66 million young men and women were unemployed<sup>1</sup>. Despite efforts to resolve the crisis, current evidence reveals that youngsters around the world continue to confront declining work opportunities<sup>2</sup>. Global youth unemployment has remained high and has reached unprecedented levels, exacerbated by the global financial and economic crisis, with the potential of a long and uneven recovery<sup>2</sup>. In the same line, the ILO 2012 Conference titled "The Youth Employment Crisis: Time for Action" highlighted that the depth and breadth of the youth employment problem had reached unprecedented dimensions and hence required urgent attention<sup>3</sup>.

The Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), citing the International Labour Organization's (ILO) definition of unemployment, states that the unemployed population are those in the labor force, or people of working age, ages 15-64, who are willing and actively looking for work but could not find it for at least 20 hours during the reference period<sup>4</sup>. According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), unemployment is a situation in which people above a certain age group, often 15 years or older, are not in paid employment but are available for work throughout the reference period. Youth unemployment globally referred to a proportion of young persons, men and women between the age group of 18 and 40 years who in spite of their possession of human attributes and skills, academic, technical, vocational and

professional values that should empower them for national development are wasting away because of limited opportunities<sup>3</sup>.

The International Labour Organization's Guideline defines unemployment as "all those of working age who were not in employment, carried out activities to seek employment during a specified recent period, and were currently available to take up employment given a job opportunity"<sup>1</sup>. It can also include people that are not working at all or those that worked for less than 20 hours a week<sup>1</sup>. According to the Everyman's Dictionary of Economics, unemployment is defined as the involuntary idleness of a person who is willing to work at the current wage rate but is unable to find work. The international definition, on the other hand, includes those aged 15 to 64 who were actively looking for work but were unable to find it<sup>2,3</sup>. Research has demonstrated that various social issues such as robbery, hooliganism, prostitution, drunkenness, domestic violence, drug abuse, gangsterism, social, religious, civil unrest, and other types of criminality, as well as suicide, to name a few, become more serious in times of high unemployment<sup>5</sup>.

Unemployment has been part of what scholars have identified as the major factor causing insecurity and the challenges all over the world have been overwhelming. According to the NBS, unemployment and underemployment rates increased in 2018 to 23.1% and 16.6%, respectively. The Nigerian government has continued to conceal quarterly figures on employment creation compiled by the National Bureau of Statistics in order to avoid more criticism from Nigerians<sup>6</sup>. According to recent World Bank figures, Nigeria's unemployment rate is 22%, with a youth unemployment rate of 38%. According to the research, people aged 15 to 35 make up over 60% of Nigeria's population and 30% of its labor force. The report also states that roughly 4 million people enter the work

market each year<sup>7</sup>. In the fourth quarter of 2020, Nigeria's unemployment rate reached 33.28%. It was between years 2015 and 2020 that the unemployment rate grew very rapidly.

For example, in 2017, the jobless rate rose the fastest, by around 6%. According to the most prevalent international approach, Nigeria's unemployment rate was 17.5% at the end of the year<sup>8</sup>. Unemployment is the third most serious issue confronting Nigeria's economy, behind power and infrastructure. Unemployment is a big issue, which has been exacerbated by an increase in job losses caused by the present crisis throughout the years. Nigeria has faced a wide range of security concerns, including abduction, kidnapping, insurgency, armed robbery, cultism, gangsterism, ritual killings, and online fraud.

Looking at violent crime and security in general, it is impossible to ignore the level of unemployment. Joblessness is thought to cause irritation, rage, and provide people more opportunity to conduct crimes, fuelling insecurity. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Lagos has the highest percentage of crime-related cases reported, with 50,975 (39.9%) recorded<sup>9</sup>. Abia and Delta states followed closely, with 12,408 (9.2%) and 7,150 (5.3%) cases rewarded, respectively. Kebbi has the lowest percentage of total cases reported at 205 (0.2%). Criminal behavior refers to actions and conducts that violates laws and regulations, resulting in harms or injury to individuals, community or society at large. Understanding criminal behavior involves examining various factors. In scholars' views and theoretical assumptions, some of which may include Biological and Psychological factors, genetics, brain function, personality trait, mental well-being etc.

Scholars have also identified environmental and social factors, family dynamics, peer influence, education, socio-economic statuses, community conditions as some other factors<sup>3,10</sup>. Social learning theory developed by Albert Bandura posited that learning is a cognitive process that takes place in a social context. The theory which is psychological based explained how people learn new behaviors, attitudes, knowledge through observations, imitation and reinforcement. Control theory developed by Walter Reckless, in explaining why people engaged in crime stressed that the individual has natural tendency towards crime but that they are checked by internal and external control<sup>11</sup>. Internal control involves self-control and restraint, moral belief and personal values and external control includes family bonds, social norms and legal sanctions.

The general position of the theory is that when both internal and external control are strong, the individuals are likely to engage lesser in criminal behavior, inversely when both the internal and external control are weak, crime is likely to be on a very high side. This theory has been very influential in dealing with juvenile delinquency and has greatly provided crime prevention and intervention strategies<sup>11,12</sup>. Strain theory, a sociological theory developed by Robert Merton explains how social structure and cultural values can lead to deviant behavior and crime. His argument is that if there is gap between culturally defined goals and means to achieving these goals, the individuals may experience a departure from what is considered normal or acceptable and this can lead to crime<sup>12</sup>.

The role of the internal and external control offers insight into why most individuals resist crime even in the face of temptation. This theory gives better insight into the problem of why crime is most committed by youth with greater relevance to the situation of things in the present socio-economic situation of our dear country<sup>13</sup>. It

provides that certain goals are set as desirable, success, wealth and status and that every individual has access to achieving these set goals but that once there is disjunction between the cultural goals and the means of achieving them, the individuals experience a departure from what is considered normal and acceptable deviant behavior<sup>14</sup>. Its adaptation mode further expatiates its relevance. The individuals accept the goals and means of achieving goals working within the system.

According to National Bureau of Statistics crime rate in Lagos State shows; Level of crime is 73.42% which is high. Problem of people using or dealing in drugs is 65.61% which is high. Problem of property crime such as Vandalism as theft and Burglary is 71.91% which is high. Problem of Violent crimes such as assault, armed robbery and cultism is 75.42% which is high. Problem of corruption and bribery is 88.9% which is very high<sup>9</sup>. Amidst Africa's natural wonders and cultural treasures, a major issue looms large: rising crime rates, which throw a pall over the continent's natural beauty and varied traditions. This continent is full of potential and it is trying to overcome the security issues that impede her advancement. Africa has continued to face high levels of criminality retaining the world's second highest with about 5.25% out of 10, after Asia. In 2021, the score appears to be mostly influenced by criminal actors, who have a score of 5.45%, higher above the African average for criminality. Criminal markets had a lower score of 5.05<sup>9</sup>.

As one of the continent's largest and most influential countries, Nigeria has a high crime rate, which is related to its population. According to a Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime report, Nigeria is ranked sixth in the world with a crime index of 7.28%. The Democratic Republic of the Congo ranks fifth with a crime index of

7.35%, while South Africa ranks seventh with 7.18%. Other African countries include Kenya (16th with an index of 7.02%), Libya (18th with an index of 6.93%), Central African Republic (23rd with an index of 6.75%), Uganda (29th with a crime rating of 6.55%), and Sudan (34th with a crime index of 6.37%). So also, we have the likes of South Sudan in the 36<sup>th</sup> position with a crime index of 6.32% and Cameroon as 37<sup>th</sup>, with a crime index of 6.27%<sup>1,9</sup>.

The Organized Crime Index 2023 includes five new indicators to track criminal activities. The Organized Crime Index now includes these new measures to better represent the changing nature of crime. Financial crimes, cybercrime, and illicit trade in goods are all on the rise, and they can have serious consequences for individuals, organizations, and economies<sup>11</sup>. Extortion and protection racketeering are serious crimes that can undermine the rule of law and instill fear. Incorporating these new variables into the Organized Crime Index 2023 is a significant move. It will help us better understand the nature and scope of organized crime, as well as give policymakers with more knowledge to design effective measures to tackle this menace.

There is a relationship between unemployment, poverty, and criminality. When someone is unable to earn an income through legal, legitimate, and socially acceptable work/means, they resort to illicit activities. As unemployment continues to rise, the challenge of social and crime control becomes more serious<sup>9</sup>. The level of insecurity in Lagos, and by extension Nigeria, is increasing at an alarming rate. Armed robbery, prostitution, kidnapping, banditry, assassinations, religious crises, and other sorts of criminal activity are commonplace. Unemployment is a social issue that affects a significant number of Lagos residents, both directly and indirectly. It may lead to a rise in

poverty. Lagos State is heavily populated, with youths accounting for the majority of the population, and with an alarming number of them unemployed<sup>12</sup>.

Several avenues have been established to help solve the problem of unemployment in Nigeria, and especially in Lagos State. The creation of incubation hubs all around the nation, most especially in Lagos state, is one of the ways. Incubation hub spaces provide domicile startups, various types of support services in order to aid their growth and development. Ultimately, it has been helping in solving many social problems, creating jobs and improving the lot of young people in the state at large<sup>10</sup>. Extensive studies have been done concerning unemployment and criminal activities in Lagos, but, there is dearth of literature concerning unemployment and criminal behavior in Alimosho Local Government Area, despite having highest crime rate in the city. This research aims to fill the gap in knowledge by investigating the relationship between unemployment and criminal behavior among the youth population in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

According to the global analysis presented by Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD)<sup>11</sup>, the monthly unemployment rate declined for the fourth consecutive month in August 2021, to 6.0% from 6.1% in July 2021. This current update continues the declining trend that began in April 2020, when it peaked at 8.8%. The number of unemployed workers in the OECD area has continued to reduce. In the Eurozone, there were drops of 0.3 percentage point or more in Greece (to 13.2%, from 14.2% in July), Finland (to 7.2%, from 7.8%), Spain (to 14.0%, from 14.5%), Latvia (to 7.1%, from 7.5%), and Lithuania (to 7.2%, from 7.5%).<sup>6</sup> According to the ILO Report,

unemployment is one of the most serious challenges to social stability in many nations, putting the global rate at 12.6%<sup>3,9</sup>.

Nigeria's unemployment situation is more significant than that of other countries on the continent. For example, South Africa's unemployment rate is currently at 25.2%, Ghana's is approximately 14% in 2010, and Nigeria's is around 37%.<sup>11</sup>. Unemployment is not a new phenomenon<sup>3</sup>. Therefore, there have been so many researches about its causes, overall effect on the economic situation of a particular country, and how it has been able to contribute to criminal behavior of people. However, there had been dearth of research on the influence of the population of young adults on patterns and trends of criminality as occasioned by the rate of unemployment of Youths in the Alimosho local government area of Lagos state. For instance, out of the 226,746,934 as estimated for Nigeria by the World Population Preview in December 2023, the population of Lagos State is 16,387,639 while Alimosho local government alone has over 11 million of the entire population according to the world population review in its December, 2023 population estimate.

This population is expected to have a great influence on the employment situation of the state. The latest Nigerian population projection by NBS is put at 200 million with Lagos state taking 30 percent of this projection. Lagos, a relatively peaceful environment for business and settlement<sup>13</sup>. Based on the implication of the research theme as stated in the preamble, the relationship between youth employment and criminal behavior among the youth was x-rayed with the overall objective of extirpating or reducing unemployment and crime to the barest minimal, in order to enhance security of lives, and property and development of the area. The choice of Alimosho Local Government Area is based on the

alarming Crime rate as shown by the National Bureau of statistic as the Local Government Area with the highest crime rate. It indicate that Alimosho Local Government Area shared about 36.81% of the total crime reported<sup>12</sup>.

It is therefore believed that research about Alimosho Local Government Area, its unemployment rate and the criminal behaviors among the youth, its causes, trend, and types of crime that is prominent in the area will help to prefer solutions to the problem. A cursory look at the rush into Lagos state by unemployed and unproductively engaged youths depicts the calamitous and outrageousness of the problem, yet the government of Lagos State has continued to strive to contain the contagious effect of youth unemployment by providing youth development and empowerment programmes. This has not helped in reducing the crime rate in the State, rather, it is increasing by the day.

### **1.3 Aim and objectives**

The main aim of this study was to find out the relationship between unemployment on criminal behavior of youths in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State, Nigeria. In achieving this, some specific objectives were set and they included the following

- i. find out the causes of unemployment that is affecting the youth of Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State;
- ii. find out the tendencies of criminality among youths in Alimosho Local Government Area, Lagos State;
- iii. examine the effectiveness of government efforts in addressing young unemployment in Lagos State's Alimosho Local Government Area.

## 1.4 Research questions

In view of the identified problems in the background to the study, this study raised some questions followed:

- i. What are the causes of unemployment among youth in Lagos State's Alimosho Local Government Area?
- ii. What is the link between youth unemployment and criminal activity in Lagos State's Alimosho Local Government Area?
- iii. What are the patterns of criminality among youths in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State?
- iv. What are the effects of governmental interventions that are available to solve the challenges of youth unemployment in the Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State?

## 1.5 Hypothesis

In attempt to answer the above research questions, the following hypothesis were formulated to guide the study.

**H0:** There is no significant relationship between unemployment and criminal behavior of young people in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos state. (Rejected)

## 1.6 Significance of the study

The significance of this study is embedded in the fact that there is an urgent need to curb the growing rate of youth unemployment in the Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State being the largest local government in Lagos State and the most populated

in Nigeria. It is also believed that if unemployment can be dramatically reduced successfully in an area that is this populated, it would have an overriding multiplier effect on the management of criminality in other local government areas in Lagos State and in Nigeria as a whole. The significance was brought forth as the study shall reveal the nature, pattern and trends in the criminality of the study area which can be adapted in finding solution to the entire crime fighting mechanism in the Lagos State and Nigeria. It is however hoped that it would help to institutionalize peace, and safety and Security in this area.

The study is also important because it will enable policy makers in decision-making. It will also help local, state and the federal government to gain insight into the nature of youth unemployment in Nigeria. Since the crisis that is generated from unemployment is capable of throwing the country into chaos, the local, state and federal governments will have a reason to wake up to their responsibilities in order to save the country from further or more crisis. Other countries with unemployment and security challenges will benefit tremendously from the study. The study will also serve as valuable research tool or reference point since its outcome will add value to knowledge.

### **1.7 Scope of the study**

The scope of the study was limited to Alimosho Local Government Area and the LCDAs that was carved out of it. It included unemployed youths, community members that are landlords and belong to the association. So also, the scope was extended to

chairmen of the local government and its LCDAs. The study was done within 5 months, between December 2022 and June 2023.

### **1.8 Operational definition of terms**

**Unemployment:** is a condition or situation where people above a specified age usually 15 year and above are not in any paid employment or self-employment but are currently available for work during the period under reference.

**Youth unemployment:** Globally is the proportion of the youth, men and women, between the age bracket of 18 and 49, who possess human attributes or skills, academic, technical, vocational and professional well with that should empower them for national development.

**Criminal behavior** refers to actions or conducts that violate laws and regulations, resulting in harms or injury to individuals, communities, or society at large.

**Alimosho Local Government Area:** This is a local government area located in Lagos state of Nigeria. It is located in the Ikeja division with a total population of about 1,288,714 inhabitants according to the 2006 national census.

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## **Chapter Two**

### **Literature Review**

#### **2.1 Conceptual Review**

##### **2.1.1 Youth**

Youth is commonly seen as the stage at which childhood transitions into adulthood, and it marks the change from dependence to independence<sup>1</sup>. One of the most important aspects is employment status, and most young people believe that having a job or source of income will offer them a sense of independence, allowing them to make decisions about their lives, families, and peers<sup>1,2</sup>. This has resulted in a misunderstanding of the potential benefits of youth enterprise as a means of enhancing youth livelihood. The concept of youth has been interpreted and applied differently by many governments, non-governmental groups, and the general public. The United Nations defines youth as individuals aged 15 to 24 years, while the Common Wealth Association defines youth as those aged 15 to 29 years<sup>3</sup>. Most countries have adopted either the UN or the Common Wealth, but Nigeria has adopted the age range of 18 to 35 years as youth.

Different cultures have unique perceptions of youth. In many societies, youth is celebrated as a time of potential and possibility. Cultural rites of passage, such as graduations or coming-of-age ceremonies, highlight the transition from adolescence to adulthood. Conversely, in some contexts, youth can be seen as a period of immaturity or inexperience, where young people face challenges in being taken seriously<sup>4</sup>. Psychologically, youth is a critical time for identity development. Theories such as Erik Erikson's stages of psychosocial development emphasize the importance of this stage in

forming a coherent sense of self. During youth, individuals grapple with questions of identity, purpose, and belonging, often experimenting with various roles and beliefs.

Social dynamics greatly impact youth experiences. Peer relationships become increasingly important, shaping behaviors, attitudes, and self-esteem. The influence of technology and social media cannot be overstated, as they provide both opportunities for connection and avenues for comparison, often affecting mental health<sup>5</sup>. Youth today encounter numerous challenges, including mental health issues, educational pressures, and societal expectations. The rise of social media can exacerbate feelings of inadequacy and anxiety, while economic instability may limit opportunities for career advancement. Moreover, issues such as climate change and political unrest can create a sense of uncertainty about the future<sup>6</sup>.

Despite these challenges, youth are often at the forefront of social change, advocating for issues such as climate action, social justice, and equality. Their energy, creativity, and willingness to challenge the status quo position them as vital agents of change in society. Youth is a complex and multifaceted concept that encompasses more than just a specific age range<sup>7</sup>. It is a period filled with both challenges and opportunities, where young individuals navigate their identities and roles in an ever-evolving world. Understanding and supporting youth is essential for fostering a healthier, more equitable future for any country.

### **2.1.2 Unemployment**

Unemployment is a pressing economic issue that affects individuals, families, and communities worldwide. Defined as the state of being without a job while actively

seeking employment, unemployment can have far-reaching consequences on economic growth, social stability, and individual well-being<sup>8</sup>. The effects of unemployment extend beyond financial instability for individuals and families. Unemployment can lead to increased social issues, such as crime and mental health problems. High unemployment rates can stifle economic growth. According to Okun's Law, a one percentage point increase in unemployment can lead to a two percentage point decrease in a country's GDP<sup>9</sup>. Consequently, prolonged unemployment can hinder investment and consumption, creating a vicious cycle of economic decline. Unemployment can lead to a host of social issues.

Studies have shown that individuals who are unemployed are more likely to experience mental health problems, including depression and anxiety<sup>10</sup>. Communities with high unemployment rates may experience increased crime rates as individuals turn to illegal activities out of economic desperation. To combat unemployment, governments and policymakers can implement various strategies. These interventions can be categorized into fiscal policies, labor market programs, and educational initiatives. Governments can stimulate the economy through fiscal policies, such as increased public spending or tax cuts. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries implemented stimulus packages to support businesses and individuals, which helped mitigate unemployment spikes<sup>11</sup>.

Labor market programs, including job training and placement services, can help reduce structural unemployment. Programs that focus on reskilling workers to meet the demands of a changing labor market have proven effective in various countries<sup>12</sup>. Investing in education and vocational training can prepare the workforce for future job

demands. Countries that prioritize education and skills training often experience lower unemployment rates and greater economic resilience<sup>13</sup>. Unemployment is a multifaceted issue with significant implications for individuals and society as a whole.

There are six basic global experiences of unemployment. Frictional unemployment which is basically experienced where there is lack of adjustment between the demand for labor and the supply of labor. This may be caused due to lack of knowledge on the part of the employer about the availability of work or on the part of the employee that there is work opportunities at a particular workplace or as a result of lack of skilled, personal labor mobility, breakdown of machineries or shortage of raw materials<sup>14</sup>. Basically Friction unemployment is the period between losing a job and finding another one.

Cyclical unemployment is another type of employment which rises due to cyclical fluctuations in the economy or induced by international business and economic forces. A business cycle consist of alternatives period of boom and depression. It is during the down swing of the cycle that Incomes and out puts falls thus leading to widespread unemployment. Structural unemployment, this results from a variety of causes<sup>15</sup>. It may be as a result of lack of cooperation amongst the basic factors of production or as a result of changes in the economic structure of the society. Here the economy changes are massive, extensive and deep-seated amounting to transformation of an economic structure. The supporters of the structural transformation thesis whose proponents are mostly from the world bank, IMF , WTO holds the view that the numbers of vacancies is greater than or equal to the number of displaced workers due to structural changes in a particular area, industry or occupation and unemployment is not due to inadequacy of demand (ILO)<sup>1</sup>.

Technological unemployment, her modern production process is essentially dynamic where innovation leads to the adaptation of new machineries and inventions there by displacing existing workers and leaving behind a trail of unemployment<sup>14</sup>. Here, there is automation or displacement of old technology by new one requiring lesser workers than before. It is worth of note to state that both structural and technological unemployment changes trends to increase output per man hour and which has the effect of raising the potential total output in the economy, if the momentum of the activities are sustained<sup>15</sup>. However if the potential growth in output is not matched by the actual growth in output there will be unemployment in the economy and this will be due to deficiency in demand. Classical economist are of the opinion that unemployment is caused by structural changes and the inadequacy of demand taken together.

Disguised unemployment also known as concealed unemployment or under unemployment. It is a notable features of under developed countries. Here unemployment is not voluntary but involuntary. People are prepared to work but they are unable to find work during the period in question due to complimentary factors<sup>14</sup>. A person is said to be a concealed unemployed if he or she contribution to output is less than what he or she can produce by working normal hours per day. Seasonal unemployment raising from seasonal fluctuations in the demand for labor. This is usually predominant amongst farmers and farm worker who are engaged during planting and harvest period and disengaged or unemployment afterwards. A good example are the rice farmers<sup>15</sup>. Laborers are only employed during rainy season, during planting and harvest period and remain unemployment during dry season.

There are other forms of under employment situation, when a person is forced by the economic situation and lack of job opportunities to take up a job that is not commensurate or compatible to his or her level of training or not adequate to his or her purpose but just for the purpose of survival. Example of this are the commercial bus drivers and conductors, and the artisan<sup>14</sup>. The situation breeds a feeling of low self-perception and could lead to drunkenness, drug addiction, neurosis, come perpetrations which may include armed robbery and political thuggery. Lastly are also other people who work full time but earn little just to rise above poverty, this include hawkers, pretty traders, hotel and restaurants workers open and disguised unemployment in both rural and urban areas amongst under developed African countries is estimated to be 30 - 33 percent of labor work force<sup>15</sup>.

## **2.2 Theoretical Review**

### **2.2.1 Frustration - Aggression and Strain Theory**

Propagated by Marx and Engels in 1848, elaborated by David McLellanD in 2009 but further reworked by Breuer Johannes & Elson Malte in 2017<sup>16</sup>. Historically, there have been two primary schools of thought about the unemployment-crime relationship: the first school focuses on the "supply of offenders," and the second school focuses on the "supply of victims." Economists have always concentrated on describing the economic behavior of potential offenders and how they react to changes in economic situations. The theory has also been very useful in clinical and social psychology, sociology, ethnology, criminology, medical studies, and so on<sup>17</sup>. One underlying idea is that in order to maintain a particular quality of living during a period of unemployment, a person will become

more aggressive and more likely to commit a criminal offense. While frustration-aggression theory has been used to explain animal behavior<sup>18</sup>, this chapter will only discuss its applications in the study of human behavior. Given the scope and targeted readership of this guidebook, as well as the theory's inception, the focus will be on the social sciences, notably psychology.

Strain Theory is a sociology and criminology theory developed by famous American sociologist Robert K. Merton in 1938, it stipulates that individuals are greatly pressured to achieve socially acceptable goals even when they lack the means<sup>19</sup>. This pressure leads to negative emotions, frustrations and anger and create collective action and crimes in one positive response. Strain theory is structured, it refers to the processes at societal level that shows how the individuals perceive his or her needs. This study adopts Frustration-Aggression theory is used to explain the influence of unemployment on the likelihood of engaging in crime for self-actualization in South Western Nigeria. The hypothesis explains powerful behavioral dispositions caused by people's incapacity to meet their basic human needs<sup>20</sup>. It is founded on the broad idea that all humans have basic needs that they attempt to meet, and that any impediment to meeting these needs by individuals or organizations elicits violent reactions. Frustration-Aggression theory stresses the difference between what people feel they desire and the divergence, however minor, between what is sought and what they obtain, the bigger the violent reaction<sup>21</sup>.

In the face of these disappointed expectations, a group is most likely to engage in aggressive destructive conduct or to act as a ready army to provoke a catastrophe. The key idea behind this argument is that aggressiveness is the natural result of dissatisfaction. When an individual's or group's legitimate desires are denied, either directly or indirectly,

as a result of the way a society is structured, the feeling of frustration can drive such people or groups to express their rage through violence directed at those perceived to be responsible for their misfortune or others who are indirectly related to those frustrating their expectations<sup>21</sup>.

The relevance of the Frustration-Aggression theory to this academic endeavor is better grasped when examined in the context of broad youth restiveness and inadvertently associated insecurity in Nigeria. Examples in this regard are enormous. For instance, Nigeria witnessed the EndSars protest some two years ago and it was led by the youth constituency in this nation. Yes, it was not all the youth that participated in the protest that are unemployed, but the protest which started on good notes was fueled to become a disaster because so many unemployed youths saw it as an avenue to express their anger against the government of the day<sup>22</sup>. They were frustrated with the style of governance and the hardship being faced by Nigerian. Such frustration usually brought about aggression and thus are left with no choice but to advocate for self-determination, which frequently results in fights with security personnel who appear to be supporting the so-called bad government, or status quo.

Frustration-Aggression theory provides a compelling framework for understanding the relationship between youth unemployment and the potential for aggressive behaviors among young people in Nigeria. At its core, the theory posits that frustration arises when individuals are blocked from achieving their goals, leading to feelings of anger that can manifest as aggression. In the context of Nigeria, where youth unemployment rates are alarmingly high, many young individuals face significant obstacles in their pursuit of economic stability and personal fulfillment<sup>23</sup>. For countless youths in Nigeria, the

aspiration for a good job is met with harsh realities: a saturated job market, a lack of relevant opportunities, and a mismatch between their education and the skills needed by employers. This gap creates a deep sense of frustration, particularly among graduates who have invested time and resources into their education, only to find themselves unable to secure employment<sup>22</sup>. The prolonged experience of unemployment can foster feelings of hopelessness and disillusionment, which, when compounded, can lead to aggressive behaviors as a misguided outlet for their pent-up emotions.

Moreover, as frustrations mount, some youths may feel compelled to seek alternative means of survival, leading them to engage in criminal activities. The theory suggests that aggression may not always be directed at the source of frustration; instead, it can be displaced onto other targets<sup>20,22</sup>. In Nigeria, this can manifest in various forms, including theft, violence, or even participation in organized crime, as individuals attempt to assert control over their circumstances or regain a sense of agency in an environment that feels overwhelmingly limiting. The societal context further exacerbates this dynamic. The pervasive nature of corruption, political instability, and inadequate social support systems can amplify feelings of frustration among unemployed youths<sup>23</sup>. When they perceive that legitimate paths to success are obstructed by systemic barriers, the likelihood of aggression increases. This can lead to a cycle where frustrated youths young people to engage in aggressive or criminal behaviors as a means of coping with their circumstances<sup>24</sup>. Understanding this relationship is crucial for developing effective interventions that not only address youth unemployment but also promote healthier avenues for expression and empowerment among Nigeria's youth.

## **2.4 Empirical Review**

### **2.4.1 Causes of Unemployment among Youth Population**

The cause of unemployment has been a major issue among different disciplines. The way unemployment is seen among the academia, economists, sociologists, criminologist, other professionals, and including the common man on the street is different. Why then is it that so many people especially youth of working age do not have jobs to do? Emeh reported that of the 40 million Nigerian youth that are unemployed, 23 million are unemployable and therefore susceptible to crime<sup>25</sup>. Another author is of the opinion that the level of unemployment in a country is a reflection of the economy of the nation. In other words, youth unemployment depends on the overall status of the economy<sup>13</sup>.

#### **(i) Population Growth**

A growing population simply means a large workforce leading to increased competition for job and surplus of workers, making it hard for individuals to gain employment. Rapid population growth puts pressure on resources, leading to a mismatch between workers' skills and the requirements of available jobs<sup>26</sup>. The Nigerian population is rapidly growing. The high rate of population expansion has resulted in a significant increase in the labor force. Nigeria's population was 140,431,790 according to the 2006 census; by 2012, it had grown to 184 million people as of 2018, yet there has been no equivalent economic progress due to poor planning by the country's leadership. In the year 2024, the population of Nigeria has climbed to over 232, 679, 478. As the population

continues to expand, so does the number of young people who are actively looking for work<sup>14</sup>.

(ii) **Nigeria Educational Curriculum**

The type of educational curriculum we have in Nigeria is tailored towards white-collar jobs. The Nigeria education has always raised youths' expectations that they will easily get government or corporate jobs after their education. Therefore, most of the youths lack skills needed for self-employment but are only pursuing paper certificates that qualify them for office jobs. In the same vein, individuals with secondary education graduates are significantly less likely to be informally employed, but their prospects of getting formal job grow steadily following graduation<sup>27</sup>. As a result, persons attempting to migrate from informality to formality encounter the greatest challenges at the lower end of the educational scale<sup>15</sup>. This is not very surprising, but it does highlight the need to give special attention to those most at risk of continuing permanently in informal employment: informally employed young people with a low level of educational attainment.

(iii) **Economic Recession**

This is a period of general economic decline *vis a vis* drops in the stock market; an increase in unemployment, etc. The economic recession normally bites hard on the citizenry as it generally affects all the areas of the national economy. The question that could be asked in this regard is, what has Nigeria done or how has Nigeria affected the lives of the unemployed youths during the economic boom? What has been Nigeria's

preparation for a time like this<sup>26</sup>? During economic recession businesses often prioritize cost cutting measure, leading to widespread job lose and increased unemployment rate.

(iv) **Corruption**

Corruption is one of Nigeria's primary challenges, and it contributes significantly to the country's unemployment rate. As January 2006, Nigerians had lost £20 billion (about \$500 billion) in looted funds by various Nigerian governments since independence<sup>27</sup>. In 2014, more than \$20 billion could not be accounted for at the NNPC, which is one of many agencies where corruption is rampant. Similarly, in 2015, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) detained Dasuki, the government's former Security Adviser, in connection with the \$2.1 billion arms trade scam, among numerous other corruption investigations. The stolen funds could have been used to improve the country far more than the European countries to which Nigerians are now fleeing seeking greener pastures<sup>27</sup>.

(v) **Influx of Expatriates**

Expatriates are people of foreign nationals who have come into the country to work for a particular period of time. However, continuous penetration of these people into the country has worsened the unemployment situation of Nigeria. The unchecked influx of foreigners most especially Chinese, Indians, etc, under the notion of possessing adequate skills that are lacking in Nigeria have continued to add to the number of unemployed youth in the country. The expatriates flood Nigeria competing for

employment opportunities with Nigerians in areas such as construction sites, factories, auto sales outlets, communications companies, etc<sup>28</sup>.

(vi) **Rural-urban Migration**

Another cause of unemployment in Nigeria is massive youth movement from rural to urban areas. Nigeria's development pattern has always been advantageous to the country's urban areas. This trend of development has resulted in a huge exodus of Nigerian adolescents to a few metropolitan centers in search of work, causing urban cities to become congested and leading to a labor shortage<sup>28</sup>. The government had overlooked rural areas that could have helped to create some jobs in the form of infrastructure improvements that could have encouraged young people to stay. The labor market, while tough to manage, is not limited to urban areas. According to research on Nigeria and Tanzania given in Fox, 2019, as well as Ghana, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe cited in Yeboah et al<sup>29</sup>, secondary and post-secondary school graduates in small cities and rural communities face similar challenges. Rural education is of considerably worse quality than urban education and remains costly<sup>29</sup>.

(vii) **Insecurity**

Insecurity reduces discovery and economic activities. It increases poverty and it is considered as one of the major factors responsible for workforce migration, access to education and skill acquisition. Addressing insecurity, government can create more viable and stable socio-economic environments and reduce unemployment. Security is critical for the nation's economic development, and its absence stifles progress and development<sup>25</sup>.

The insecurity of lives and properties/companies has forced numerous Nigerian enterprises to close or relocate. Many companies in Nigeria, particularly in the north, have closed as a result of the dreaded Boko Haram rebels' activities, contributing to the country's high unemployment rate. Similarly, in southern sections of the country, there are incidences of armed robbery and kidnapping, which have negatively impacted the industry development<sup>26</sup>.

(viii) **Governmental Regulation**

Government regulations relates to laws, rules and standards set through policies of government by government regulating agencies to govern and control the behaviors of businesses, industries and individuals. This regulations are aimed towards the protection public health and safety, promote fair competition, support economic growth and development and regulates financial markets and transactions for national security and defense. Government regulation can sometimes lead to unemployment<sup>24</sup>. For example, some products are prohibited because they are considered detrimental to human life. Recently, there have been strict regulations imposed on the importation of frozen goods such as turkey, fish, and poultry; the use of preservatives in these items is deemed detrimental to health, thus government prohibitions against them.

Similarly, commercial motorcyclists are prohibited from riding on certain highways that are deemed unsafe for these types of labor activities<sup>24</sup>. Although the prohibition on the importation of numerous products is intended to safeguard indigenous enterprises and create more jobs locally, the government's decision to prohibit commercial motorcyclists is intended to protect citizens<sup>28</sup>. However, the restriction should have been

implemented gradually, as it has increased the country's unemployment rate. There is however a superior argument that commercial motorcyclist are used for robbery and the high incident of accident they cause on our roads<sup>23</sup>.

(ix) **Technological Advancement**

Technological advancement depicts the means and processes of improving, developing and modernizing new products, technologies or processes that transform the way we live and interact<sup>26</sup>. It evolves around the application of scientific knowledge engineering and innovation to create new and improved product and services. Technology innovation, which involves the use of technology instruments in daily economic activities, has made organisational duties easier, resulting in a continuing reduction in the number of personnel required for a specific job<sup>26</sup>. For example, the use of technical instruments like as computers and other cashless electronic transactions in comparison to the use of Automated Teller Machines (ATM), Online Banking, and the usage of Point of Banking Sales (POS) has resulted in a reduction of the personnel in the banking and other financial institutions.<sup>22</sup>

(x) **Epileptic Electricity Supplies**

Poor energy supply has forced many firms to close, as they rely on a steady supply of electricity to produce goods and services. Some of these firms used power generation plants to provide power. However, many of these enterprises are losing money as a result

of the high cost of fuel, which in turn raises manufacturing costs. As a result, many of these enterprises that could not continue to run at a loss, had to close down<sup>29</sup>. Epileptic electricity supplies pose significant challenges that extend beyond mere inconvenience. Their impact on unemployment and economic stability is profound, affecting industries, small businesses, and the healthcare sector. Stakeholders can work towards creating a more reliable power supply, ultimately fostering economic growth and reducing unemployment in affected regions.

(xi) **Non-diversification of the economy**

Nigeria's reliance solely on crude oil as its primary source of revenue and economic foundation has contributed to a high proportion of unemployment. Instead of diversifying into other economic pursuits, Nigeria has chosen to focus on a single economy. Nigeria's continuous neglect of the agriculture sector is a catastrophic error. Agricultural sectors, which were the primary employers before to the discovery of crude oil, were completely neglected<sup>27</sup>. It should be noted that prior to the discovery of oil in Nigeria, a federating nation oil as oil Nigeria exploited oil as a competitive advantage in revenue generation to the current economy, when each component region of the country had its own primary source of income. The northern half of the country produced the groundnut pyramid, the western part produced cocoa, and the eastern region produced oil palm in an economic quantity. Unfortunately, the oil industry, to which the nation's economic attention was moved, could not supply the necessary jobs for the teeming youths<sup>26</sup>.

(xiii) **Social stigmas**

This is a significant role in perpetuating unemployment, particularly for individuals facing discrimination based on race, gender, or disability. Despite possessing the necessary qualifications and skills, these individuals often find themselves at a disadvantage in the job market due to preconceived notions and biases that influence hiring decisions. Race-based discrimination remains a pervasive issue<sup>27</sup>. Research consistently shows that job applicants from marginalized racial and ethnic backgrounds often face barriers that their white counterparts do not. This discrimination can manifest in various forms, from unconscious biases during the hiring process to systemic inequalities within industries<sup>28</sup>. For instance, studies have demonstrated that resumes with "ethnic-sounding" names receive fewer callbacks compared to those with traditionally white names, highlighting how racial prejudices can hinder opportunities for qualified candidates<sup>27</sup>.

Gender has continues to affect employment prospects. Women, especially women of color, often encounter challenges not only in securing positions but also in advancing within organizations. Stereotypes about women's capabilities, especially in male-dominated fields such as technology or engineering, can lead to biases that unfairly label them as less competent<sup>28</sup>. This results in women being overlooked for promotions or being offered lower salaries than their male counterparts for similar roles, further entrenching gender disparities in the workforce. Disability discrimination presents another significant barrier. Despite laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) aimed at protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities, many still face stigma and misconceptions that question their ability to perform essential job functions<sup>29</sup>. Employers may harbor unfounded fears about the productivity or reliability of workers with

disabilities, leading them to exclude these candidates from the hiring pool altogether. This not only limits opportunities for disabled individuals but also deprives organizations of the unique perspectives and talents they bring.

The impact of social stigmas extends beyond the individual level; it affects organizations and economies as well. When qualified individuals are excluded from the workforce, businesses miss out on diverse talents that can drive innovation and growth. Furthermore, high unemployment rates among marginalized groups contribute to broader societal issues, such as economic inequality and social unrest<sup>30</sup>. Employers must cultivate inclusive hiring practices, such as blind recruitment and diversity training, to mitigate biases. Promoting awareness and education about the value of diversity in the workplace can challenge stereotypes and encourage a more equitable job market. Confronting social stigmas will make societies create an environment where all individuals, regardless of race, gender, or disability, have an equal opportunity to contribute their skills and talents to the workforce. Ultimately, dismantling these barriers not only benefits the individuals affected but also enriches the entire economy, fostering a more inclusive and prosperous society<sup>31</sup>.

Youth enter the job force seeking to make a living. Sometimes there are opportunities, but they cannot locate them (a matching issue). This means that young people must continue to search. Sometimes youth may not have adequate abilities for the chances offered, so they must return to school or find another way to get the necessary skills<sup>32</sup>. However, many kids have talents, but there are limited opportunities relative to the quantity entering the labor sector. In this instance, people must seek out or create new possibilities, such as beginning a self-employed firm, even if these new chances may not

allow them to work to their full potential<sup>33</sup>. All of these situations, whether unemployed (not working but looking for job) or underemployed (working below one's potential)<sup>33</sup>. Reflect disequilibrium in the matching of labor supply and demand in the labor market. While they can never be totally eliminated, one goal of labor market policy is to limit the amount of time that young people and other workers spend in this predicament.

Unemployment, which is usually seen as a leading and reliable sign of labor market difficulty, does not occur in South Africa until the country reaches upper middle class level. The pattern is similar to that seen elsewhere in the world, with middle-income nations having the highest unemployment rates<sup>34</sup>. Open unemployment is generally rare in low-income nations since it is both futile and unaffordable. Most households have limited finances to support a job hunt, and there are few wage positions available. In these countries, employment entails starting your own business or collaborating with family members on a farming or non-farming venture. Although young unemployment is generally greater than the national average, the difference is negligible in the poorest countries. As countries become wealthier, they create more pay employment opportunities relative to the supply of labor, and households have more money to fund a job search<sup>35</sup>. Education levels and employment expectations are also rising. This leads to higher unemployment among educated individuals, particularly those who have completed secondary school but have no further education, which is common in South African cities.

South Africa is an especially egregious example of this issue, but middle-income countries in the Middle East, North Africa, and Latin America also exhibit a similar pattern. One reason for the higher unemployment rate among highly educated youth is that the demand for labor with intermediate skills has not increased as quickly as the

supply of this workforce; educational attainment has risen faster than labor demand. Related to this trend is growing capital intensity in manufacturing, which has resulted in fewer jobs for people with this level of education around the world<sup>36</sup>. Once a country reaches a high economic level, the average jobless rate falls significantly as the quality of education rises. The quantity of work opportunities relative to labor supply returns to balance, and schooling, post-secondary training, and job support systems do a better job of matching employers and job seekers<sup>32</sup>.

Unemployment is a situation in which persons who are capable of working on a salary or for themselves who are legally able to work cannot find work<sup>26</sup>. According to NBS data, current youth unemployment is 25%, which means that approximately 25 million of Nigeria's youth population out of 100 million are unemployed. According to studies, over two million graduates enter the labour market each year with relatively limited job opportunities<sup>32</sup>.

### **2.3.2 Links between youth unemployment and criminal behaviors**

The relationship between youth unemployment and criminal behavior has been a significant area of research in criminology and sociology. As economies fluctuate, rising youth unemployment rates have raised concerns about potential increases in crime, particularly among marginalized populations. Numerous studies have examined the empirical links between youth unemployment and crime<sup>37</sup>. A meta-analysis found a significant association between unemployment and various forms of delinquency. It was noted that the relationship is particularly strong among young males, who are more likely to engage in risk-taking behaviors. In a longitudinal study, it was identified that economic deprivation during adolescence could lead to increased delinquency. Moffitt's research

highlighted that youth who faced chronic unemployment were more likely to develop a pattern of antisocial behavior, suggesting that early experiences of unemployment could have long-term effects on criminal behavior<sup>38</sup>.

Another study utilized a natural experiment design in Sweden to assess the impact of youth unemployment on crime rates. The findings indicated that increases in unemployment correlated with higher rates of property crime among young adults, particularly among those with prior criminal records. The study emphasized that the economic necessity created by unemployment often drives youth toward illegal activities<sup>39</sup>. Social and economic factors play a crucial role in shaping the relationship between youth unemployment and crime. Unemployment can exacerbate feelings of social exclusion and marginalization, leading to increased criminal behavior as a means of survival. Furthermore, neighborhoods with high unemployment rates often experience higher crime rates due to a lack of resources and community cohesion. In examining the intersections of race and economic status, Pager found that minority youth face compounded disadvantages, resulting in higher rates of unemployment and subsequently higher engagement in criminal activities<sup>32,37</sup>. The stigma of unemployment can further alienate these individuals, pushing them toward criminal networks for social belonging and economic support.

Several theoretical frameworks provide insight into the connection between youth unemployment and criminal behavior. Strain theory posits that individuals experiencing strain such as the inability to achieve socially accepted goals may resort to criminal behavior as a coping mechanism. Similarly, the routine activity theory suggests that crime occurs when a motivated offender encounters suitable targets without capable

guardianship<sup>40</sup>. Both frameworks underscore how unemployment can create strain and reduce guardianship, thereby increasing the likelihood of crime.

Youth unemployment is crucial for crime prevention strategies. Programs that focus on job training and education have shown promise in reducing both unemployment and crime rates. For instance, the Youth Build program in the United States, which provides education and job training to disadvantaged youth, has reported significant decreases in recidivism among participants<sup>41</sup>. Moreover, policies aimed at improving economic opportunities for young people, such as internships and apprenticeships, can mitigate the risks associated with unemployment. The integration of social services with job placement programs may also offer a holistic approach to reducing youth crime, addressing both the economic and social needs of at-risk populations<sup>24,41</sup>.

Surprisingly, the most underutilized abilities identified in this survey were digital ones. The ILO skill mismatch metric compares the employed person's education to the median number of years of education reported by all employed people in that occupational group<sup>42</sup>. Their findings demonstrate that, despite persons who appear to be statistically well matched to their occupation make up the biggest single group, LMI countries have the highest proportion of over skilling (skill underutilization). The African Development Bank discovered that reported overkill increases as education level increases. Notably, the African Development Bank discovers that education has a low correlation with labor productivity, which may explain why companies are less willing to hire well-educated job seekers. These findings are consistent with the high percentage of unemployment among highly educated individuals in LMICs<sup>42</sup>.

The challenges of absorbing educated youth in SSA economies have been attributed in part to SSA education systems. Although African countries invest a large portion of their public and private budgets on education, the expenditures are inefficient. The general quality of SSA education is poor, and SSA children's learning outcomes (as evaluated by standardized tests) are lower than their classmates in other regions, even when correcting for income level<sup>41</sup>. The pattern is particularly pronounced in resource-rich countries, which have some of the poorest human development outcomes overall, adjusted for income. The curriculum and teaching techniques are also not directed towards building non-cognitive skills and employability information useful for navigating the job market, particularly in secondary and post-secondary education systems.

As a result, graduating students do not know how to communicate with potential employers in order to obtain work, or how to interact with self-employed mentors to learn how they may improve. Employers mention a lack of socioeconomic skills as the primary reason they prefer not to hire young graduates<sup>43</sup>. Post-secondary formal technical and vocational training (TVT) programs have been a major and costly failure, in part because they do not prioritize these skills, despite the fact that internships within these programs appear to help develop them. Difficulty navigating the labor market is not solely an urban issue; research on Nigeria and Tanzania reported in Fox, as well as Ghana, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe demonstrates that secondary and postsecondary education graduates in small cities and rural communities face similar challenges.

Rural education is of even lower quality than urban education and remains costly. Many rural children are disappointed with the professional opportunities available after completing junior or senior secondary school, citing a lack of cash and/or bad exam

scores as the primary reason they were unable to continue their education. In African school-to-work transition surveys, rural youth's goals for the type of profession they desired were high and did not correspond to their education, which was insufficient and did not give the skills they required or the prospects in their area<sup>36,38</sup>. To summarize, after controlling for income level and the prevalence of mineral exports, SSA does not have more youth unemployment than other regions. Indeed, unemployment in most SSA is low outcomes could be better particularly among educated youngsters.

Several micro-studies have found that African youngsters frequently have no understanding where employment opportunities are developing or what specific jobs or occupations pay an entry-level wage. As a result, educated urban adolescents in Africa spend years after leaving school looking for formal wage work, hoping for a higher income or a better job than they are likely to get, and the vast majority fail<sup>32</sup>. It is probable that as wage work opportunities rise in urban and peri-urban areas, these search expenses will fall. However, a greater emphasis in the education system on both necessary cognitive skills and general readiness for joining the labor market, whether as a wage employee or self-employed, could lessen these employment barriers for adolescents.

The greater time spent in education can help to explain the drop in labor force participation rates and employment-to-population ratios among young people. Currently, more than half a billion young people work solely in education<sup>38</sup>. The gross enrolment ratio in secondary education worldwide climbed from 59% in 1999 to 76% in 2018, whereas the similar ratio for tertiary education went from 18% to 38% during the same period. This shows that low labour force participation rates may result in a more competent adult labour force and, perhaps, higher aggregate participation rates in the

future. However, educational enrollment has a minimal impact on differences in youth labor force participation rates across subregions. Although there is a natural fall in educational enrollment with age and a rise in labor force involvement, not all young people leave school at the same time to enter the labour market. In many circumstances, young people enter the labour market while still studying<sup>37</sup>. Part-time work, apprenticeships, and summer employment are all examples of this. Cultural standards, as well as the specifics of country labor markets and educational systems, impact the complex link between education and work. The most significant losses in adolescent labor market engagement have occurred in Asia, where participation is currently below that of Northern America and on level with that of Northern, Western and Southern Europe<sup>44</sup>. Despite a huge increase from 14% in 1999 to 46% in 2018, Asia's gross enrolment ratio in higher education remained significantly lower than that of those two subregions. Tertiary enrolment in Sub-Saharan Africa increased throughout this time span, however it remained at only 9% in 2018.

Despite attempts by concerned agencies to combat the problem, drug usage appears to be on the rise among Nigerian adolescents. Psychoactive substance use is on the rise<sup>45</sup>. According to empirical findings and media accounts, psychoactive substance use and misuse continue to be widespread. Other investigations found that past studies on student substance use in Nigeria were primarily hospital-based and limited to specific parts of the country. However, in the last 10-15 years, such studies have taken the form of fieldwork using epidemiology methodologies to provide more extensive information about the varieties, patterns of use, and psychosocial correlates of drug use among secondary school students.

According to studies, pupils, particularly those in secondary school, perceive drug users to be aggressive, daring, and strong. Many young people have been known to use drugs in the presence of peers, elders, or siblings<sup>31</sup>. Students who feel inadequate have been known to utilize drugs to gain social acceptance. He also stated that past study has shown that the problem of drug abuse knows no boundaries or social class. It impedes the growth of any society by endangering the lives, health, dignity, and prosperity of all persons.

The Lagos State Ministry of Health has stated that the rising use of alcohol and mind-altering drugs among youths in the state is particularly concerning. This habit is strongly associated with juvenile delinquency, school failure, HIV/AIDS transmission, violent crimes, and an overall dangerous environment<sup>27,38</sup>. The use of heroin and cocaine is more common in Lagos and other major cities. Alcohol misuse and heroin usage may cause a surge in blood sugar: heroin appears to interact with the pancreas, and the complicated chain reactions that heroin can generate may result in hyperglycemia. Aside from the possibility of developing type 2 diabetes early on, female youth may experience heavy menstrual flow as a result of hyperglycemia. Similarly, tobacco, one of the most overused substances by youngsters, has been reported to kill nearly 6 million smokers worldwide each year, including more than 600,000 nonsmokers who die from smoke exposure<sup>17,22</sup>.

The adjective attitude means "a complex mental state involving beliefs, feelings, values, and dispositions to act in certain ways". Attitudes fluctuate over time and in response to environmental stimuli, and they can predict a person's future behavior. This study was one of the first to employ an attitudinal measure to predict entrepreneurial

activity. They employed the Entrepreneurial Attitude Orientation (EAO) scale to measure entrepreneurial attitudes based on the frameworks of accomplishment, creativity, personal control, and self-esteem<sup>25</sup>.

Robinson et al., say business achievement refers to tangible achievements linked with the launch of a business, whereas personal control of business outcomes refers to one's impression of control or influence over his or her business. Also, perceived self-esteem in business refers to self-confidence in one's business dealings, whereas innovation in business refers to carrying out commercial activities in unique methods. According to research, attitudes toward self-employment can have a significant impact on its success. Individuals' inventiveness and behaviour are heavily influenced by their attitudes<sup>36</sup>. Self-employment attitudes are described as people's attitudes toward entrepreneurship, or the degree to which they believe there are favorable chances for beginning a firm. Attitudes are particularly important in developing self-employment activity within a population, and the attitudes involved include willingness to bear the level of risk that individuals may be willing to face, as well as individuals' judgments of their own talents, knowledge, and experience in business creation.

A study of Informal Self-Employment and Poverty Alleviation in two major Nigerian cities found that the informal sector employs a large number of young school leavers, with 86% earning more than the minimum wage level<sup>14</sup>. A national survey conducted in 2004 by the NUC and the Education Trust Fund (ETF) to determine labour market needs revealed that 44% of the 20 organizations rated Nigerian science graduates as average in competence, 56% as average in innovation, half as average in rational judgment, 63% as average in leadership skills, and 44% as average in creativity<sup>14-16</sup>.

However, on required skills such literacy, oral communication, information technology, entrepreneurship, analytical, problem-solving, and decision-making, 60% ranked. These results echoed a negative judgment of Nigerian university graduates and strengthened the claim that they are unemployed.

Exploring the links between employment and crime at both the individual and community levels improves our ability to investigate the causal mechanisms that link the two notions. When only aggregate-level analyses are used to construct theoretical models of the relationship between work and crime, it is extremely difficult to verify causal processes<sup>33</sup>. Most studies that have examined the impact of community features on criminal behavior have also employed aggregate crime rates as dependent variables. This makes it extremely difficult to discern whether interactions are driven by person-level processes aggregated up to the community level, or by contextual-level processes that occur independently or concurrently with individual characteristics<sup>17</sup>. The ecological fallacy might result from the idea that an aggregate link is caused by an individual-level causal process.

For example, evidence indicating cities with high levels of unemployment also have high levels of crime does not always imply that unemployed people are contributing to the crime rate. Aggregate unemployment may produce a situation in which both employed and jobless individuals commit crimes at a higher rate. The present work uses both the person and the community as units of analysis. They are first investigated separately, then together. The emphasis on community industrial and labor market variables connects this study to the vast body of aggregate-level studies on employment and crime<sup>19</sup>. However, it broadens the focus to include community factors that predate

labor force participation and economic well-being, such as industry makeup. Macro factors like this have gotten little attention in research on work and crime.

Examining individual employment experiences and traits provides a more in-depth understanding of how work promotes criminal conduct. Treating both community and individual variables as major indicators of criminal conduct allows for the separation of individual and environmental influences that labor markets have on crime<sup>41</sup>. This examination focuses on the ecological fallacy and provides more valid support for postulated causal processes at both the individual and community level. The inclusion of industrial composition and labor market context in an examination of individual criminal behavior is especially important in light of the U.S. economy's rapid shift away from centralized production and manufacturing and toward a labor market dominated by information technology and service sector employment<sup>39</sup>. Some have suggested that while these macroeconomic shifts in patterns of production have driven down wages, weakened unions, and increased levels of economic inequality and stratification across the United States, these shifts have been especially detrimental to the health and well-being of communities where manufacturing and extractive industries were heavily concentrated.

The term "underclass" first appeared in the social sciences when scientists began to focus on the reasons and implications of pushing concentrated sectors of urban populations to the margins of the labor market, as a result of de-industrialization. One of the most well-known characteristics of the underclass is the high rate of criminal activity, particularly violent crime, among those living in places marked by unemployment, poverty, and high levels of social disorganization<sup>41</sup>. While focusing solely on individual-level features can provide some insight into the causal process by which economic or job

issues can lead to criminal activity, incorporating contextual-level information increases the potential for deeper explanation. These concerns, which involve the influence of work characteristics and geographical setting on criminal behavior, are sociological and criminological in nature<sup>40</sup>.

However, the question is whether an area's economic, industrial, labor market, and racial backdrop influences the individual-level association between a person's employment experience and criminal behavior. Will the individual association between work characteristics and crime be higher in a town with unusually high or low unemployment, in a labor market dominated by specific industries, or in an area with specific ethnic composition? This approach might be referred to as "slopes as outcomes." The dependent variable of interest is assumed to be a product of contextual circumstances is the slope of the individual affiliation<sup>19,23</sup>.

Nesting the individual-level relationship between work and crime within the larger economic and labor market framework provides additional insight into the causal mechanisms that drive this relationship by describing the conditions under which it is more or less likely to arise. While including economic and labor market background in this multi-level study follows the natural evolution of indicators of racial composition and segregation in previous analyses<sup>16</sup>. These variables are included to the investigation to investigate the implications that segregation (and the lack of job networks that frequently accompany it) may have on the individual-level link between work and crime. These features have been highlighted as critical determinants in our efforts to understand the repercussions of labor market transitions and the ensuing concentrations of urban, frequently minority, poverty and unemployment<sup>19</sup>.

Instead, work statuses and job characteristics at the micro level, as well as industry and labor market structure at the macro level, are seen as potential predictors of criminal conduct. The shift toward a more multidimensional definition of work, both at the individual and aggregate levels, was originally proposed in the late 1980s and has been expanded upon during the previous fifteen years<sup>23</sup>. This dissertation broadens this way of conceptualizing employment.

Generally speaking, the youth population in Alimosho Local Government Council Area which comprises of the main Local Government Council and five Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) is presently facing economic and security challenges. The major economic challenge in the area is the lack of employment opportunities for the exuberant young men and women in the age bracket of 18 and 40 years. This youth population has acquired secondary and tertiary education with some having been trained in practical vocational skills under the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and other apprenticeship empowerment schemes that should make them self-dependent and contributing to national development. Yet, job opportunities to showcase their talents are limited due to very high unemployment rate across the country.

As a result of this phenomenon, the youth are at most times involved in antisocial and criminal activities such as internet fraud, armed robbery, cultism, prostitution, drug addiction and trafficking, human trafficking, ritual murder (or what is known as „Yahoo Plus“), etc. The insecurity situation undermines national security and cohesion. To understand the challenges of insecurity in the area under focus, it is dangerous to keep late at night or to leave for one's place of work or

business very early in the morning for fear of being attacked or molested by the army of this dangerous youth who use intimidation to dispossess unsuspecting pedestrians and commuters, especially those on motorcycle (popularly known as Okada in local parlance).

If this young men and women are mobilized in organized manner through a program of socialization and empowerment programs, they can readily bring about great changes in their lives, communities and the society (since they are products of society). Their potentials and talents could be relevant for national development if adequate attention is paid to them in the country's development agenda. This is partly the challenge of Nigeria's development tragedy.

### **2.3.3 Youth Unemployment and Patterns of Criminality in Nigeria**

Criminality in Nigeria is not a new phenomenon but the pattern it takes has continued to reinvent itself. Crime and delinquency can take many forms. Robbery is the crime of obtaining property by force or intimidation, as opposed to stealth or fraud. Robbery is defined as "the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force, threat of force or violence, and/or by instilling fear in the victim<sup>45</sup>." Robbery is defined in common law as taking another's property with the goal to permanently deprive the person of that property through force or fear<sup>25</sup>. Precise definitions of the offense may differ across countries. Robbery varies from mere stealing in that it involves violence and intimidation.

Robbery can be classified into several types, including armed robbery, aggravated robbery, highway robbery, carjacking, and extortion. Other examples of armed robbery

include homes, organisations, and banks in the research sector. Housebreaking is a felony in which someone enters another person's building with the intent to commit an offense. Typically, that offence is theft, although most countries identify other crimes that fall under the category of burglary. Burglary is defined as "unauthorized access into a structure to conduct a felony of theft<sup>26</sup>. Sir Matthew Hale defined burglary in common law as breaking and entering another person's home at night with the intent to commit a felony, whether or not the felony is committed.

Rape is defined in criminal law as an attack in which a person engages in sexual contact with another person without their consent. Outside of the legal context, the phrase is frequently used interchangeably with sexual assault; nonetheless, in most jurisdictions, rape and other forms of non-consensual sexual activity are considered separate types of assault<sup>27,28</sup>. Indecent assault is considered serious assault in several countries. It is classified as a sex crime and is described as any unwelcome sexual behavior or touching that is imposed on somebody without their consent. It could involve forcing someone to view pornography or masturbating. This also applies to physical assault incidents, including but not limited to unwelcome oral sex.

In legal contexts, statutory rape refers to sexual interactions that take place when one of the participants is under the legal age to consent to the behavior. Although it primarily refers to adults having intercourse with minors under the age of consent, different countries use a variety of statutory words to describe the offense, for example. "Sexual assault," "rape of a child," "corruption of a minor," "carnal knowledge of a minor," etc. "unlawful carnal knowledge". In contrast to forcible rape, statutory rape does

not require the presence of overt force or threat<sup>28</sup>.

Murder, as defined by common law, is the unlawful death of another human being with intent, and this mental condition distinguishes murder from other types of unlawful homicide, such as suicide or manslaughter. Manslaughter occurs when the defendant murders with the intent to kill or cause serious harm, although there are mitigating factors such as provocation, self-defense, decreased capacity, etc. that are sufficient to mitigate responsibility. In contrast, suicide is the purposeful killing of oneself. According to research, underlying mental disorders such as depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, alcoholism, and drug misuse are the leading causes of suicide<sup>23,27</sup>. Financial challenges and other unfavorable events play an important role. Over one million people commit suicide every year, making it the tenth leading cause of death worldwide. It is a leading cause of death among teenagers and adults under 35<sup>27</sup>. There are an estimated 10 to 20 million non-fatal attempted suicides every year worldwide<sup>28</sup>.

Retail crime refers to professional shoplifting, cargo theft, retail crime rings, DVD and VCD piracy and other organised crime occurring in retail environments. The prevalence of retail crime in Alimosho cannot be overemphasized. These criminals move from store to store and even from area to area. Working in teams, some create distractions while others steal everything from infant formula, raw food materials, and cloths to DVDs and money. Often, they are stocking up on specified items at the request of a leader who usually sits in an area designated to be their hideout<sup>30</sup>. The civil war in Nigeria which led to a marked increase in hardship among the populace of the eastern and Midwestern regions of Nigerian led to the birth of retail crime business. During this period, relief

materials for civilian casualties were stolen and sold by corrupt soldiers and politicians. From 1970 to 1990, organised retail crime increased as a result of greed. Around the late 1990s and early 2000s, the spate of organised retail crime in the form of film piracy increased drastically as a result of the technological equipment that made it possible<sup>30</sup>. From the late 2000s till date, organised retail crime seems to have increased especially in the last five years when the economic situation of the country becomes unbearable for so many youths in the area.

A confidence trick or confidence game (also known as hustle, scam, scheme, swindle, gbajue, abracadabra, in Nigeria) is an attempt to defraud a person or group by gaining their confidence. The victim is known as the *mark* (mugun or maga), the trickster is called a *confidence man*, or *con artist*, and any accomplices are known as shills. Confidence men exploit human characteristics such as greed compassion, credulity and naïveté and dishonesty, and have victimised<sup>30</sup>. The confidence trickster often works with one or more accomplices called shills, who help manipulate the mark or mugun or maga into accepting the con man's plan.

The economics of crime highlights that criminals, like any other individuals, are rational people who respond to incentives and maximise utility. When deciding whether or not to be involved in criminal activities, they compare the expected costs and the expected benefits. If the former is lower than the latter, the individual will decide to engage in criminal activities. The costs of committing a crime include: likelihood of getting caught and penalised, the expected sentence length, the opportunity cost of the foregone wage/employment in the legal labour market and the opportunity cost of

education. Whereas, the benefit of committing a crime (especially a property crime) corresponds to the expected returns of crime (the loot).

Many studies suggest that it is not only the unemployed individuals who decide to commit a crime, but also those who are employed. Therefore, I cannot say unemployment alone is the primary cause of crime. To analyse the role of the labour market on crime, economists need to consider the “wage rate and employment opportunities to analyse the role of the labour market on crime”. This is because an individual who is employed on low wages could commit a property crime. Thus, the wage of an individual is also an important element to consider when analysing the factors that contribute to crime<sup>17,22</sup>. Furthermore, white collar crimes are mostly committed by individuals who are employed in high ranking professions such as bankers and government officials. Despite earning a relatively high wage already, certain professions such as bankers are susceptible to engaging in money laundering and fraud given the access to resources they have as part of their role. With no direct financial need to do so, one could argue these white-collar crimes are driven by greed.

In a study of the U.S used state-level panel data over the period from 1971 to 1997 and found significant positive effect of the rates of unemployment on property crime. The reduction in unemployment in the 1990s and the greater opportunities of legal employment led to a substantial decline in property crime. To isolate the causal effect, they implemented a 2SLS strategy where a measure of oil price shocks at state level and the awards of annual prime contracts were used as instrumental variables for unemployment<sup>32</sup>. Especially when looking at property crime, the models consistently

suggest that an individual's propensity to commit crime increases with unemployment. They looked at three first stage regressions of unemployment on oil costs, military spending and property crime. Through this analysis they established a significant positive relationship between unemployment and property crime. As high unemployment explicitly raises the propensity for property crime, it is not the same for violent crimes. In fact, the estimated effects of unemployment against violent crime is strictly negative<sup>33</sup>.

Similarly, panel data on 352 counties from 1979 to 1995 in the U.S. They measured the rate of unemployment and the log wage of non-college men to see whether this impacted crime rates<sup>22</sup>. The results show that *ceteris paribus*, a one-point increase in unemployment led to a 2.2% increase in property crime rates. However, a reduction in non-college men's wages had a significant impact to a rise in property crime rates where the elasticities for auto-theft was -2.282 and -0.875. The 13.7% fall in wages caused the total property crime rate to increase by 13.9% over the 10-year period which seems to suggest an elasticity close to 1 in the long run<sup>4,11,18</sup>. The wages and unemployment variables had a substantial effect on property crime rates among non-college educated men where unemployment and crime were significantly positive. However, it is unlikely for such a close elasticity to exist between wages and property crime thus other factors may not have been accounted for.

Furthermore, a pooled time-series data in the U.S during the 1990s and found that when unemployment fell in 1991 from 6.8% to 4.8% in 2001, property crime rates fell by an estimated 2% during this period showing both unemployment and crime are positively correlated. In addition to this, a panel data on 95 Departments in France and found that

unemployment amongst the young positively affects crime<sup>28</sup>. In particular, unemployed students aged 15-24 years old are more likely to commit a crime. The study found that high youth unemployment contributed to the rise in most property crimes such as car thefts. Similarly, research on the level of crime rates in the U.S and found that falling unemployment contributed to a lower crime rate. Findings suggested that the reduction unemployment in the U.S from 1975 to 1980 caused the crime rate in 1980 to fall by 9% in the same period indicating a positive relationship<sup>41</sup>.

Another study analysed 288 Swedish Municipalities from 1996 to 2000 to evaluate the effects of unemployment on crime. They computed OLS estimates on the coefficients of unemployment and five crime categories showing crime increased by 1% when unemployment rate rose by one percentage-point<sup>4</sup>. The coefficient of unemployment was significant especially for property crime but had a relatively small impact on violent crimes. Results showed a one percentage-point decrease in unemployment caused auto theft rate to fall by 3.8% and a decline of 2.8% in the burglary rate further proving that unemployment has a direct effect on criminal activity<sup>4,11</sup>. This state-level data and found a one percentage-point decrease in unemployment led to a reduction of 1% for auto theft and 2.1% in burglary. A county-level data echoed this by finding a reduction in the auto theft rate of 0.85% and 3.1% for burglary when unemployment fell by one percentage-point. Scholars established that general unemployment had a significant positive impact on the main categories of property crime but could not establish a clear association between youth unemployment and youth crime.

The regression results from Mocan study who used a sample of 16,478 high school

children during 1995 in the U.S showed a 1% increase in unemployment led to a 3% increase in the probability of committing a robbery crime. Moreover, a 2% decrease in unemployment reduced robbery rates by 0.6%<sup>11</sup>. Evidence supporting Becker's model implied that unemployed individuals have more time for crime since their income is low, thus they have greater incentive to commit crimes. On the other hand, the argument that there is a positive correlation between youth unemployment and crime. They argued that young individuals experience volatile employment for many reasons finding no association with crime. Another author also disagrees with the link between unemployment and crime as it identified that the employed also commit crime<sup>17</sup>. It was found that introducing control variables in methodology led to an insignificant relationship between crime and unemployment.

Additionally, the model predicts that only 21% of crimes are committed by those unemployed with the remainder coming from criminals with employment. A time series data computed from 1946 to 1982 based in the U.S, found a negative relationship between unemployment and its effect on property crime such as burglary, larceny and robbery<sup>10</sup>. The relationship between unemployment and crime is somewhat ambiguous with conflicting results and no complete consensus. Therefore, additional research may need to be carried out to get more precise (and robust) estimates that clearly identifies and measures a causal effect. As many studies discovered both a positive and negative relationship<sup>20</sup>.

Crime and criminal activities originated from the desire of human to greedily acquire or enjoy opportunities that are not theirs. After all, it is often said that behind

every great fortune, there is invariably a crime. No nation can achieve growth or any form of stability that will enhance socio-economic development in an atmosphere of chronic youth unemployment<sup>42</sup>. The role of Nigerian government must include the formulation of policies and laws that could help improve the economic and social wellbeing of its citizens and wealth creation. There is a need to increase jobs through small enterprises and poverty alleviation schemes. Economic growth in Nigeria is not the only solution to curb unemployment as the official statistics illustrate that previous unemployment did not decline economic growth<sup>42</sup>. Other solutions such as the provision of right skills to youth should be given an importance. If factors that are responsible for youth unemployment in Nigeria are addressed, youths' criminality would be reduced.

situation. The lack of opportunity for advancement and challenge to the lives of the unemployed and underemployed may also lead to the expression of more negative perceptions of their abilities to make good career decisions in the future and about their prospects for realizing their dreams<sup>45</sup>.

In many ways, part of what contribute to unemployment also is retrenchment of workers. This seems to represent a violation of the psychological contract between workers and the organization involved. When laid off workers are forced to look for other employments in the work force, it is unlikely they will have the same level of career investment or excitement about careers as they had previously<sup>46</sup>. For many young graduates too, unemployment and underemployment may represent a violation of expectations. University graduates expect, perhaps naively, to find challenging work upon completion of their degrees. As a result of their unfulfilled expectations, graduates

are likely to become psychologically unhealthy which may lead to decrease in their commitment to the nation at large<sup>46</sup>. Unemployment has been correlated with higher crime rates and alcoholism with a host of its associated social problems: medical neglect, eviction and family desertion even mental illness and hospitalization.

On the other hand a job or gainful employment seem to be considered as the single most reliable 'medicine' or reliable means of obtaining the fundamental benefits, privileges and satisfaction in the society<sup>37</sup>. These benefits include: economic security, social status, family and social prerogatives, medical benefits (at home and abroad) recreational and educational opportunities and especially in the Nigerian context, opportunity to social limelight<sup>47</sup>. Thus, the importance of employment seems not to be only in its value towards countering poverty, hardship and dependency but also in dignity, social contact and self-aggrandizement<sup>44</sup>. Underemployment among citizens may lead to individuals growing cynical about the relationship between hard work and employment success and turn instead to non-performance based behaviour. This may lead many workers to become eye-service and men-pleasers in their places of work while they internally suffer the pain of guilt of such behaviours<sup>32</sup>.

Underemployment may also be linked to absenteeism. Workers who are dissatisfied with their jobs are more likely to take 'mortal health days' or day off not due to physical illness. Underemployed workers frequently channel their desires for challenges and excitement through activities outside of the workplace. According to him, they are less likely to engage in loyalty behaviours, obedience and even following rules and regulations<sup>31,32,33</sup>. There are mounting evidences in our various communities that

unemployment and underemployment is associated with decreased quality of marital relationships. Study also found that unemployed husbands and wives were significantly more depressed and significantly less satisfied with their marriages than a control group. Unemployment and underemployment may have immediate negative consequences for the children in the family<sup>33</sup>.

Children (particularly adolescents) may feel uncomfortable about the increasingly visible material differences between themselves and their peers, a problem exacerbated by their embarrassment over their parents lack or low status jobs. The authority of the unemployed and underemployed parent within the family may also be undermined<sup>17,31</sup>. If unemployment or underemployment forces the family to relocate to a less conducive environment, children may resent their parents for tearing them away from their friends and neighbours and for bringing them 'low' in their social status. Generally, unemployment and underemployment may have long-term implication for the psychological development of the unemployed and underemployed loved ones<sup>48</sup>. Adolescents and young ones often have to go to work to help support the family. This had led to incidences of child abuse, trafficking, prostitution and street begging among young ones.

Teenagers may have less time to spend in valued interactions with peers while some may have to lower or shelve their aspiration to go for further studies. Unemployment and underemployment on the part of parents prematurely force teenage children into adult roles, making them feel responsible for providing emotional support for their parents instead of receiving it<sup>39</sup>. Moreover, these children may develop low self-

esteem and anxiety about their own abilities to become financially secure adults<sup>30</sup>. The effects of unemployment and underemployment radiate out and may negatively influence social relations outside the family. One of the most frequently noted responses of the unemployed and underemployment is social isolation<sup>9</sup>. Many laid-off workers and unemployed youths may feel they have drained their friends and loved ones' patience and support and begin to turn inward instead.

Workers reemployed at lower wages and unemployed youths frequently cannot afford the same types of social activities with old friends and increasingly find excuses to decline invitation to join these events. They may turn down invitations to dinners even when they have no food to eat because they cannot afford to reciprocate or are embarrassed by their new circumstances<sup>11,19</sup>. The consequences of unemployment are not simply short- term. The negative spin-off effects last much longer than the period of unemployment or underemployment themselves. The longer the effects, the more injurious their effects on family members, friends and the nation at large. Therefore, the need to advert the negative effects of unemployment and underemployment should feature very prominently in the development objective of developing countries likes ours so that this issue can be properly addressed<sup>39</sup>.

#### **2.3.4 Governmental Interventions against youth unemployment**

Government has tried everything from “force-for-force”, to carrot-and-stick approach to diplomacy. There has also been strong advocacy for a multi-stakeholder intervention to address insecurity rather than lean on military options alone<sup>30,31</sup>. The federal government's attempts to contain armed groups in the North have largely

depended on the security forces primarily through military and police operations. The federal government has adopted banning of the use of motorcycles within the hinterland and forests and suspension of all mining activities to deal with illicit gold mining. The government has also sought closer security cooperation with neighbouring countries and with the assistance of Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, has successfully reclaimed the territory taken by Boko Haram<sup>31</sup>.

The State Governments in the Northern Zones have responded to increasing violence mostly by supporting federal security agencies with funds and logistics to fight the armed groups. They sought counter-attacks by herder-allied groups and criminal gangs by forming and empowering vigilantes to protect communities<sup>47</sup>. They later changed tactics in curbing the violence to negotiating peace agreements with herder-allied armed groups and criminal gangs through such strategies as amnesty, arms-for-cash programs and promises of spending for local communities, in return for disarmament, pledge to disarm and disband vigilante groups, rehabilitation and reintegration of herder-allies and other armed groups willing to lay down their arms, and promises to establish rural grazing areas including settlements with social amenities<sup>32</sup>.

The reasons for the unemployment and crime situation in the country were the faulty educational system which lacks technical and vocational contents with entrepreneurial skills development and job creation as the catalyst for an industrialized and technological based economy<sup>3</sup>. Studies have given an impressive statistical account of the contributions of Small-and-Medium Industries (SMIs) sector in the South-East Asian countries known as the Asian Tigers, such as Indonesia, India, Malaysia, South

Korea, Japan, China, etc, to be about 70 percent of the workforce of the respective countries contributing between 60 and 70 percent to the gross domestic products (GDP), while also contributing about 70 percent of exports. The sector employs about 90 percent of the workforce who are mostly of the youth population<sup>3,31</sup>. In the Asian countries in particular, young people are encouraged to set up their own small companies and see how they could improve on them instead of seeking paid employment elsewhere.

With funds and other requirements supplied through government-support programmes, it is not difficult for young people to set up their own businesses in Europe, Asia and North America; and this development has produced good results with many under the ages of between 30 and 40 years coming up with bright and great ideas that have changed the way they live<sup>21</sup>. However, in Nigeria, regrettably, the reverse is the case. Although young people are urged (by government) to set up their own businesses, the environment is so stifling (due to unfriendly business environment) that many of such enterprises do not last for more than 2 years before collapsing (business failure), and the promoters thrown back to the streets of the labor market. It is not surprising that after 64 years of independence (1960 to 2024), the unemployment challenge is so bad in the country that even if 2 million jobs were created on quarterly basis, it would still not salvage the deteriorating situation of the youth unemployment in Nigeria. Therefore, empowering Small-and-Medium Enterprises (SMEs) subsector is the way to go<sup>45-46</sup>.

Another cause of unemployment syndrome in Nigeria is the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) foreign exchange, industrial and economic policy, which have made it extremely difficult for a number of manufacturing companies to source raw materials

and other inputs of production with the result that many of the SMIs have either scaled down operations, or shut down completely, or divested to neighboring countries in the West African sub-region. The manufacturing products still find their way into Nigeria through massive smuggling, with the multiplier effects on the economy<sup>48</sup>. The economy suffers from hyperinflation, thus, further under-developing and stifling the country's development agenda. There is the neglect of agriculture and this attitude has seriously impoverished the country and its people. Agriculture ought to be the largest employer of labor in the country with about 70% of the people (Nigerians) engaged in it<sup>48</sup>.

However, the worsening security situation in the country has made such hope and expectations a mirage. Insecurity in the form of banditry, cattle rustling, kidnapping, insurgency and terrorism have pursued the enterprising farmers out of their business and vocation with many of them (the farmers) either killed or taking refuge in neighboring countries of Niger Republic, Chad, Cameroon, Benin Republic, Togo, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, etc. as lives and properties are not secured in Nigeria. There is security threat to lives and properties in Nigeria<sup>48-49</sup>.

Africa faces employment challenges on both the supply and demand sides, which negatively impact youth's prospects. On the supply side, longer life expectancy combined with a slow decline in fertility has raised labor force growth to 3 percent per annum in the last decade. Youth are entering the labor market with more education, but fewer skills than their years of education would indicate. They are also missing some key skills owing to weaknesses in educational systems<sup>47,49</sup>. Meanwhile, slow growth in labor demand in the construction and manufacturing sectors has hindered the creation of the

formal wage jobs Africa's youth desire, and what they expect their education to prepare them for. Demand for labor in formal private firms and the public sector below the fast-growing labor supply is causing informality to persist. These factors combined with an "aspirations gap" between youth's expectations and the employment opportunities available have led to unemployment and underemployment<sup>49</sup>.

Opportunities and outcomes are best when it provides a base for some optimism. If African countries can keep growing and transforming, opportunities will continue to improve. The only way to improve youth's income-earning prospects significantly and sustainably is to improve all employment and earnings opportunities through economic transformation<sup>50</sup>. Economic growth without transformation as in resource rich economies is much less effective, as the outcomes in Africa's RR LMIC countries shows. Transformation, through the creation of modern, higher-productivity firms, can gradually replace informal employment with formal employment in Africa. Developing IWSS sector growth is an approach that shows promise<sup>50</sup>.

The best way to increase good jobs is to encourage the entrance and growth of large firms. Large firms play an outsized role in economic transformation and employment creation since they tend to use newer technology, pay higher wages, and are more likely to export. They push transformation forward and support resiliency because they are better able to weather economic storms<sup>51</sup>. They often structure the market for medium and smaller firms operating in related sectors who will be their suppliers and retailers, thus helping to ensure their survival as well (for example, the large automakers in the U.S., Europe, Japan, and Korea structure the auto parts supply market). Most large

firms (those employing over 100) start off large, although a few start as medium-sized firms (20-50 employees) and grow. Small firms do not grow large; a firm that starts with fewer than 20 employees has a less than 1 percent chance of growing to over 100 employees, even if it survives its first five years<sup>50,51</sup>.

Large firms can be created through FDI or through domestic investment. But for firm creation, domestic business regulation must encourage entry. Too often this does not happen in Africa, mostly because existing large firms exercise political power to obtain regulatory hurdles that reduce competition from new entrants. For example, in Kenya, an economy with a shortage of wage employment opportunities that should have significant firm entry, only 21 percent of firms are under five years old<sup>52</sup>. Meanwhile, the correlation between productivity and employment growth is negative in Africa.

Firms face other constraints in Africa as well, which raise costs relative to imports and increase risk for investors, reducing the creation of new formal sector wage jobs. The financial system is not performing its intermediation role effectively, as Africa has the lowest net credit to the private sector as a share of GDP of any region in the world. It is expensive to operate in Africa's urban areas, and, as a result, they are not fulfilling their agglomeration potential. One issue is high land prices and land transaction costs owing to poorly functioning land tenure systems<sup>51</sup>. Transportation and other logistics services prices are high in both time and money. Energy prices are among the highest in the world. While this partly reflects a major infrastructure deficit in Africa which can be traced back to colonial times, it also reflects poor management of publicly-owned service providers, an issue which could be addressed more quickly than building

more infrastructure<sup>52</sup>. The importance of constraints varies by country and sector, but the range argues for a comprehensive and long term private sector development strategy if youth employment goals are to be achieved.

Raising productivity in the informal sector, both on the farm and off the farm, should be a priority for employment policy. Informal will be normal for decades even under the best transformation scenarios given expected growth of the labor force relative to available and expected future wage-earning opportunities. African agriculture is characterized by low labor and land productivity, but also wide variance, showing that there is widespread scope for improvements through public investment in research<sup>52</sup>. To develop more resilient and productive crop and livestock varieties and in infrastructure construction and maintenance to reduce the cost of the long supply chains that get crops to urban and overseas markets and reduce post-harvest wastage, government policies must be favourable to farmers<sup>53</sup>. Investment in reforms and institutions that make it easier for youth to get access to land (through land sales or rentals) would also help raise productivity, as youth, with more education, can more easily adopt new technology. These investments should be an employment priority<sup>53</sup>.

Enhancing rural-urban infrastructure will also increase productivity and earnings of non-farm household businesses in rural areas and small cities or towns<sup>50</sup>. In urban areas, policies supportive of informal business could increase incomes but urban planning in SSA rarely includes supporting this activity. Supportive policies would include, for example, providing access to convenient work spaces with adequate infrastructure where customers can easily reach vendors. Policies should support

informal cross border traders as well<sup>52</sup>. Improving access to digital services and increasing e-commerce opportunities by, for example, developing efficient e-commerce payment systems, would also support informal businesses through access to banking services, customers, and suppliers.

Businesses started by youth could easily adopt this technology if it is affordable, as could women, who have been shown to benefit more proportionately from such technological adoption. However, this adoption has not been widespread, in part because SSA has some of the highest costs in the world for mobile cellular and broadband service<sup>36,39</sup>. As a percent of GNI per capita, the world average monthly mobile cellular services cost is 5.7, but the African-wide average is 13. In part, this reflects a lower GNI per capita, but it also reflects some of the highest prices in the world, especially for countries in West and Central Africa. On the other hand, other African countries, such as Kenya, Nigeria, Guinea, and the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) countries, have demonstrated the path to lower cost services<sup>37</sup>. Youth-targeted interventions are tempting for donors and governments alike after all, if youth are not getting the outcomes they want and need, why not help them?

For the most part, this logic is faulty, as it ignores the source of the problem the economy and the pace of economic transformation while by attempting to help youth, it in effect blames the victim for the difficulties. As a result, youth-targeted interventions, especially those focused on post-education technical skill building, do not have a good track record in developing countries, and are rarely cost effective<sup>31</sup>. African labor markets, especially in LMICs, have displayed limited absorptive capacity for skilled

labor more jobs are needed. Education and training programs do not create jobs. If a training program does manage to place youth in a wage job in an enterprise, most likely this outcome is because someone else was displaced from that job<sup>55</sup>.

Few current employers cite lack of education as a major constraint to expanding employment, but they do complain about youth lacking the employability skills (non-cognitive skills and information) employers want. And youth who will not be able to get a wage job and need to run a farm or a nonfarm business as their livelihood need non cognitive skills such as negotiation, business mindset, etc. as well<sup>56</sup>. Several programs in SSA have been successful at teaching these skills and are now starting to scale up. The programs are supplementary to formal education systems, held either in the community after school or held at schools, after normal classroom instruction ceases for the day, and seem to be cost-effective models for remedying the socio-economic skill-building deficit in general education programs. Programs are aimed at helping youth start a business have achieved these outcomes, but there is no medium-term evidence on the success of these ventures<sup>55</sup>. That these programs have been structured separately from formal educational curricula is a testament to the difficulty of achieving major change in public education systems.

Evidence suggests that women in particular benefit from developing socio-emotional skills. Socio-emotional skills help women overcome barriers to improved employment, and to broader economic and social outcomes. Employment related outcomes from socio-emotional skill development programs include higher self-employment earnings through better negotiations with supplies and customers, and better

access to wage jobs, perhaps through an increase in confidence as well as knowledge of opportunities<sup>58</sup>. Other outcomes include later marriage and childbirth, and more economic empowerment within the household and community. These results suggest a productive avenue for closing the gap between women's employment outcomes and men's.

Over the medium to long term, Africa's employment challenges could diminish if a more rapid fertility decline reduces the growth of the labor force. Although steps taken today will not pay off immediately, countries should still make investments as they can have social benefits earlier. Many countries in SSA have a high, unmet demand for contraception, indicating a fruitful area for government expenditures<sup>32, 44</sup>. Another important policy goal should be to reduce child marriage and births to mothers under the age of 18. Achieving this goal would have payoffs in less than 20 years by reducing maternal mortality and reducing dropouts among teenage girls.

In the book titled "Crime and Punishment: An Economic Approach." While no empirical analysis was offered, Becker suggested that the decision to engage in crime should be modeled like any other career decision. This approach, expounded on by Ehrlich who proposed that individuals make decisions concerning illegitimate and legitimate employment opportunities based on the relative attractiveness of their options<sup>27</sup>. If legitimate opportunities become more attractive (the availability of better paid or more enjoyable jobs) and or illegitimate opportunities become less attractive (lower profits, increased risk, more severe punishments, etc), or the other way around, an individual may shift their focus from one to the other.

This theoretical approach to the causal mechanism explaining how employment influences crime has dominated much of the econometric research in the area of work and crime<sup>12</sup>. While the focus of economic choice theories is primarily on the individual actor and the decisions that they make, economic and industrial context at the macro level can play a role in the theory by framing the potential choices and opportunities from which an individual may choose. These provide indicators both of what an individual could earn legitimately, as well as opportunity costs if the actor chooses illicit employment<sup>14,18</sup>. While intuitively appealing for its simplicity, this model's basis in economic rationality limits its explanatory value to understanding decisions to participate in income generating crimes. This leaves out the large percentage of criminal behavior in the U.S. that may be viewed as more expressive rather than instrumental<sup>21</sup>.

However, this type of rational choice model in which an individual balances their time and energy based on the available opportunities allows for both movement back and forth between legitimate and illicit work and for the simultaneous participation in both activities. This type of adaptation involving somewhat fluid movement between the spheres of work and crime is consistent with prior empirical research<sup>28</sup>. Age-graded social control theory suggests that rewards from employment, and the investment in conventional lines of behavior that such rewards encourage, may create "stakes to conformity" that deter individuals from committing crimes. If employment offers few rewards, then investment in conventional lines of behavior will be limited and bonds to conforming behavior will be weak or non-existent. If this is the case, employment will not serve as a deterrent to criminal behavior<sup>37</sup>. Social control theory, as outlined was primarily interested in the deterrent effect of opportunity costs or what might be lost by

participating in crime. Drawing from the economic models of rational choice, it may also be useful to consider what might be gained from criminal activity.

Adding this to social control models allows for the consideration of both opportunity costs and opportunity profits. With this addition, and allowing psychic returns and emotional currency to be included in the model, a social control model of how employment influences criminal behavior would certainly fall within the realm of rational choice theory<sup>19</sup>. By including both different indicators of employment and different types of crime, my dissertation examines the degree to which any individual-level relationship between employment and crime can be explained by strictly economic factors. This will hopefully offer some insight into the debate between strict economic choice theories and less bounded versions of rational choice<sup>11</sup>.

Like traditional economic choice theories, social control theory focuses on the individual level process by which one makes a decision whether to participate in criminal behavior. Also like economic choice theories, by allowing context to frame the opportunity and reward structure in which this individual-level process occurs, we are able to connect macro-economic factors with individual behavior. In sum, those who have fewer opportunities to participate in rewarding employment (the result of macro-level opportunity structures) will be less likely to develop stakes or investments in career related lines of activity<sup>16</sup>. The opportunities that influence the development of investments may be based on accurate or inaccurate perceptions of labor market prospects. It is worth noting that while macro-economic factors may create the framework for the decision making process, rational choice models, both the traditional

economic models and a less restrictive social control perspective are based entirely on individual-level causal processes<sup>15,22,27</sup>.

From what is happening around the world today, crime and criminal activities especially among the youths appear to be permanent features of our modern society. Although, crime has been with mankind from creation, there are increasing categories of criminal deeds that are really baffling, senseless, often shocking and vicious. Ever since the biblical Cain killed Abel his younger brother in a classic case of homicide in the Garden of Eden, the world has not known peace and has been oscillating from one horrendous crime to another. The task of protection continues to be increasingly complex one at a time when technology is creating new products at explosive rate<sup>34</sup>.

A criminal does not need to have developed the systems of thinking that built the technology in order to use it against humanity (victims). "The spread of knowledge and education had taught mankind little in the way of self-control, and less in the act of living peacefully with other men. Security problems remain universal phenomena and continue to take frightening dimension as governments develop different strategies to tackle it. Security weakness in itself could be provocative<sup>22</sup>. For many years, man has been pre-occupied with the arduous task of finding the most effective means of countering the menace of crime and criminals. Security implies a stable, relatively predictable environment in which an individual or group may pursue legitimate ends without obstruction or harm and without fear of disturbance or injury.

The continually changing face and nature of work today require adaptive coping strategies that allow for easier and expected transition from one type of work to another

or complete joblessness. The traditional practice of obtaining one job for life is gradually disappearing and it is increasingly the pattern of employment for one person to have a sequence of jobs, which may differ in skill requirement<sup>6,12</sup>. There is, therefore, need for young people to learn work-related skills, but these are increasingly likely to be generic skills rather than preparation for a particular job. These skills would require young people, especially to view change as an inevitable part of life. This would entail seeing 'job security' as a readiness and an ability to adapt rather than expecting to learn a certain set of skills that will guarantee life-long employment<sup>7</sup>. However, the development of such an optimistic attitude requires some opportunity to experience a sense of mastery through counselling. In the face of recent global economic recession, it is imperative for government to ensure growth and development of rural and urban small scale sectors. This should consider, very seriously, encouraging people to establish more labour-intensive small scale enterprises with the propensity to empower the citizens.

As a corollary to this, industrial policies should be made in such a way that it would go a long way in providing job opportunities and invariably positive mental health among citizens<sup>18</sup>. Appropriate incentives and structures may be designed for investors to encourage other capable individuals to invest while the government at all levels ensure a conducive environment through the provision of security and appropriate policies. The systematic development programmes such as the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategies (NEEDS), the State Economic Empowerment Development Strategies (SEEDS) and the National Poverty Eradication programmes (NAPEP) should be properly implemented. Effective implementation can be carried out in collaboration with the Public-Private Sectors (PPS) and the National Orientation Agency (NOA)<sup>13,17</sup>.

Aggressive grassroots mobilization and sensitization should be put in place to create more awareness of the different development programs. This can be done through the mass media and the organization of seminars and workshops on skill acquisition opportunities. In the interim, the government can assist the unemployed and underemployed with subsidy such as rent and food subsidies to cope with the cost of living. This might go a long way to reduce the rate of crimes in the society and ameliorate the psychological effects of unemployment and underemployment on concerned individuals. In Nigeria today, there seems to be no good programme to accommodate the unemployed youths, talk less of the underemployed<sup>27</sup>. The government must however realise that the problem of unemployment is not a problem that the nation can run away from, the nation has to cope with it, just as it is done in the western world<sup>23,25</sup>. There is an urgent need to have a data base about the details and extent of the unemployed so that programmes to cater for them at various levels of the society can be developed.

The government at all levels should implement the industrial policy objectives by promoting development and fair distribution of industries in all parts of the country rather than closing down the existing ones. Schemes designed to promote indigenous manpower development in the industrial section by raising the proportion of indigenous ownership of industries for the youths should be put in place<sup>23</sup>. In the same vein, the concentration of industrial activities in only few areas of the country should be discontinued. Raising agricultural productivity is central to accelerating broad-based economic growth, reducing poverty, improving food security and positive mental health. Improving agricultural productivity goes hand in hand with employment-generating

industrial structural change<sup>25</sup>.

Agriculture is the largest employer of labour in Africa and responsible for over half of export earnings and has potential to play the major role in the continents development. However, agricultural productivity especially in sub-Saharan Africa has been stagnating for many years<sup>25</sup>. Moreover according to scholars, opportunities to embark on intensive agriculture are no longer available given to the poor economic status of farmers and the land tenure system in Nigeria which of hinder access of farmers to farm land.

In the same vein, in the recent times, Nigeria agricultural policies and programme have undergone changes. These changes however seem to be a mere reflecting of changes in government or administration<sup>26</sup>. These policies and programmes vary only in nomenclature and organizational network. Despite all the policies and laudable programmes Nigeria seems not to have been able to achieve remarkable progress in agricultural production and productivity. Agricultural revolution is an unprecedented increase in agricultural production due to increase in labour and land productivity<sup>33</sup>. Nigeria has a vase of virgin fertile land that is calling for cultivation. It is generally endowed with numerous all-season rivers and a favourable tropical climate. Rainfall is generally adequate and fairly well distributed throughout the country.

Cursory observations show that majority of farmers are rural dwellers and ensuring that farmers have adequate access to financial resources is a key tenet of successful agricultural rural development strategies. Policy-maker has long understood that rural producers who cannot meet their needs for capital must settle for suboptimal

production strategies<sup>15</sup>. When producers are unable to make the necessary upfront investments or cannot bear additional risk, they have to forgo opportunities to boost their productivity, enhance their income and improve their well-being. A situation that would hinder national agricultural development to reduce unemployment. Furthermore, without adequate access to loans, producers who face negative shocks such as drought, illness or a significant drop in the prices they receive can lose some of the few assets they do have<sup>10</sup>.

Conversely producers who have access to well-designed credit and saving can avail themselves of capital to finance the input, labour and equipment they need to generate income; can afford to invest in riskier but more profitable enterprises and asset portfolios; can reach markets more effectively; and can adopt more efficient strategies to stabilize their food consumption<sup>22</sup>. In the aggregate, broader access to financial services provides opportunities for improving the agricultural output, food security and economic vitality of entire communities and nations.

Nigeria Government needs to take a positive direction in this area while farmers make commitment to pay back their loans Formation and implementation of agricultural policies are critical to the performance of this sector<sup>29</sup>. A review of Nigeria agricultural policies clearly indicates that while a number of good policies have been formulate and implemented over the years, the impact of such policies has not been significant, policy failure, resulting from inconsistency and lack of political will seem to have characterised most of the policies implementation in the last decades<sup>29</sup>. Government at all levels need to have a change of attitude to aids this and be more committed to policy continuity and

implementation.

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## **Chapter Three**

### **Methodology**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

Research design is regarded as the blue print for collection and analysis of data. In any empirical research, research design is indispensable and it specifies the steps to be taken in the collection and analysis of data in order to ensure generalization. This study employed a descriptive survey approach. A sample of a given population was selected and studied through the use of a structured questionnaire and interview, while the data collected were used in generalising for the entire population of this study.

#### **3.2 Study Area**

Alimosho is a Local Government Area in the former Ikeja Division, Lagos State, Nigeria. It is the largest Local Government in Lagos with 1,288,714 inhabitants, according to the official 2006 Census. However, the Lagos State Government disputed the official Census figures claiming a population within the Local Government Area (LGA) to be more than 2 million residents. In the year 2000, the Ahmed Bola Tinubu (now President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria) administration in Lagos State created more Local Community Development Areas, now known as Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) in order to bring democratic dividends nearer to the populace and fast-track development. Consequent upon the enabling Act, the Alimosho Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) kicked off after the administration of Bola Ilori, who was the last Chairman of the old single Alimosho Local Government.

Six sub-divisions were created out of the old Alimosho, and include the following namely: Agbado Oke-Odo LCDA, Ayobo-Ipaja LCDA, Alimosho Local Government Council LGC), (the main Local Government, Egbe/Idimu LCDA, Ikotun/Igando LCDA and Mosan-Okumola LCDA. The Alimosho Local Government Council (LGC) contains the Urban areas of Egbeda/Akowonjo with many residential estates including Santos and Williams Estates (to mention but a few). This is where the Marriage Registry and Customary Court are located.

The revenue allocation from the “Federation Account” to Lagos State is shared between Alimosho Local Government Council (the main Local Government Council) and the five Local Council Development Areas (as earlier discussed). The Lagos Neighborhood Safety Corps (LNSC) is located in every LCDA to maintain surveillance on lives and properties in every Local Government Council (LGC) and Local Council Development Area (LCDA) in Lagos State. Its equivalent institution is the Metropolitan Police in the United States of America (USA).

### **3.3 Population of the study**

The population for this study was drawn from unemployed youths living in the local government area. So also, the population for this study included political appointees, especially, the chairman/representative of the Local Government, head of LCDAs, traditional leaders, and landlords/community leaders resident in this study area.

### **3.4 Sample Size**

The sample size for this study was justified by the work of Krejcie and Morga

(1970) which developed a standard scale for determination of sample size of a study from the entire population under study. Determining the sample size of this study was based on the following Cochran's (1977) formula:

$$z^2 p(1 - p)$$

$$n = d^2$$

where:

n = Total Population

z = Confidence Level = 1.96

P = estimate of the proportion of the population which has the attribute in question which in most cases could be maximum variability of the population at 50%. That is (0.5)

d = sampling error (0.05)

$$1.96^2 [(0.5)(1 - 0.5)]$$

$$0.05^2 = \frac{3.8416[(0.5)(0.5)]}{0.0025} = \frac{3.8416[0.25]}{0.0025} = \frac{0.9604}{0.0025} = 384.16 \text{ (approximately 384).}$$

$$0.0025 \quad 0.0025 \quad 0.0025$$

However, an additional 10% was added to take care of the possible attrition. Hence, the total sample size was summed up to four hundred and twenty-two (422).

For the qualitative part, 6 IDIs were conducted in each of the six Local Government/Local Council Development Areas. Participants for the IDIs included community members and leaders/representatives of the LG/LCDAs, making a total of 36 IDIs. So also, 8 FGDs were done with a minimum of one in each of the

LCDAs. Participants were leaders/executives of the communities at the monthly meetings of the association.

### **3.5 Sampling Technique**

Sampling arises in research because of the need to avoid bias and also because neither time nor other resources would permit a complete census. The local government was purposively selected because it is the largest and most populous. It also has the largest number of LCDAs. The same purposive method was used to select political, and community leaders and executives that were interviewed in the study.

For the quantitative part of the study, a simple random sampling method was used in selecting respondents for the study. This was done to eliminate all forms of bias that may want to arise. The system of sample selection in this study catered for the peculiarities and features of the population such as degree of homogeneity, degree of heterogeneity, and degree of clustering of the population. The above-mentioned features helped the researcher to draw systematic conclusion from the data that was collected from the field.

### **3.6 Method of data collection**

The method of data collection was primary because the researcher collected the data himself. The quantitative method was questionnaire and was administered to respondents. In the same vain, qualitative data was collected using both IDIs and FGDs. The chairman and other political appointees, were interviewed while eight focus group discussions was organized for the landlords and landladies, executives of the association

in the areas.

### **3.6.1 Questionnaire**

The questionnaire used for this study was structured to gather quantitative data from a large group of respondents that are youth within the age bracket that was defined in this study. The questionnaire was a closed-ended one that was based on a 5point likert. The questionnaire assessed the objectives of the study and was divided into 5 sections. Section A is about the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents, Section B deals with the causes of youth unemployment, Section C is on the links between youth unemployment and criminal behaviors, Section D is on patterns of criminality among unemployed youths forms, while Section E which is the last takes care of effect of government interventions in solving youth unemployment in Alimosho local government areas, of Lagos state. Standardized response options facilitated statistical analysis, making it easier to compare data across different demographics. The anonymity of the questionnaires encouraged honest and candid responses, while data collected helped inform recommendations in the study.

### **3.6.2 In-depth Interview**

This is another type of qualitative research method that involves one-on-one interactions between the researcher and a participant at once. For a study on youth unemployment and criminal behavior in Alimosho Local Government, the interviewer uses open-ended questions to encourage participants to share their thoughts. This method allowed for deep exploration of complex issues, such as the factors contributing to may not surface in group settings. The approach enriches the study's findings and allowed for recommendations.

### **3.6.3 Focused Group Discussion**

Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) are qualitative research methods that involve guided conversations among a selected group of participants. In the context of studying youth unemployment and criminal behavior in Alimosho Local Government, FGDs provided in-depth insights into participants' experiences and perceptions. Each discussion includes 6 to 8 participants, in order to foster a dynamic exchange of ideas. Overall, a total of 8 FGDs were conducted with a minimum of one in each of the LCDAs. The facilitator asked open-ended questions to encourage dialogue and explored various themes related to unemployment and crime. Participants shared personal stories, community observations, and potential solutions, enriching the data collected from other sources. The FGDs allowed for the exploration of underlying social issues and contextual factors influencing youth behavior. The interactions also revealed community attitudes towards employment opportunities and crime prevention mechanisms in the areas visited.

### **3.7 Validity of the Research Instruments**

In order to ensure its face and content validity, the research instruments were subjected to the scrutiny of experts in the field of criminology and security studies and also development experts in economy matters. The modified sample was given to the supervisor who vetted all the items for face validity and onward approval given. The instrument was considered reliable because it was able to measure what it was intended to measure.

### **3.8 Method of Data Analysis**

The data collected for this study was divided into two namely quantitative and qualitative.

#### **3.8.1 Quantitative method**

The researcher used Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 24 to

analyse data from the questionnaire. The descriptive statistics of simple percentages and frequency counts were employed for explaining and describing the research questions and responses. More so, the use of inferential statistics of crosstab (chi-square) and correlation was used to test the relationship and association between the variables.

### **3.8.2 Qualitative method**

The data generated through the IDIs and FGDs were subjected to content analysis. Verbatim quotations were also used to describe the responses from the participants. The instrument was used to complement the information generated from the quantitative data.

### **3.9 Ethical Consideration**

The study process gave respect to the parties involved. The researcher ensured professional conduct in dealing with the rights and confidentiality of respondents and participants by ensuring that the document were not pre-numbered. The respondents were told that they had the right to withdraw at any time if they felt uncomfortable with the questions that were being asked. In other words, it gave adequate considerations to the ethics of research in terms of benefit, risk, justice, and non-maleficence.

## **Chapter Four**

### **Analysis and Interpretation of Data**

#### **4.0 Chapter overview**

This chapter presents the findings of the study. The research study generally find the relationship that exists between unemployment and criminal behavior among the youth population in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State, Nigeria given the worsening situation of Violence, Cultism, Gangsterism, Armed robbery, prostitution, and drug abuse activities in the area and the implication for national stability and cohesion. A total of 450 copies of the questionnaire were distributed, and 420 were duly completed and returned. This is 93.3 percent success in questionnaire administration. The sample size of 420 respondents was used for data analysis, hypothesis testing and discussion of findings. The survey was limited to stakeholders resident in Alimosho Lagos Government Area of Lagos State due to logistics constraints. The following sections are the results gotten from the responses of the population engaged.

#### **4.1 Analysis of socio-demographic characteristics of respondents**

Table 4.1.1: Socio-demographic distribution of respondents' age range

Items	Alimosho	Agbado/Oke-odo	Ayobo/Ipaja	Ikotun/Igando	Egbe/Idimu	Mosan Okunola
Age Range						
15-17	67/15.9 %	40/9.5 %	70/(17)%	67 (16)%	70(17)%	70 (17)% 92.4
18-20	40/9.5 %	67/15.9%	43 (11) %	40 (12)%	43 (11)%	66 (18)%
21-23	40/9.5 %	40/9.5 %	66 (18)%	40 (12)%	66 (18)%	43 (11)%
24-26	30/7.1 %	25/5.9 %	40 (10)%	30 (7)%	40 (10)%	50 (12)%
27-29	25/5.9 %	66/15.7%	50 (12)%	20 (5)%	50 (12)%	40 (10)%
30-32	20/4.7%	30/7.1%	35 (9)%	25 (6)%	71 (17)%	25 (6)%
33-35	15/3.6%	20/4.7%	25 (6)%	15 (4)%	25 (6)%	35 (9)%
36-38	15/3.6%	30/7.1%	20 (5) %	66 (34)%	20 (5)%	30 (7)%
39 above	66/15.7%	60/14.3 %	71 (17)%	15 (4)%	35 (5)%	27 (10)%

**Source: field note, 2023**

The above table presents the age distribution the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. From the table, 40% of respondents in the Alimosho local government, who were within the age range of 15 through to 23 years were the majority followed by those between 24 through to 32 years which accounted for 17.7%. In Agbado/Oke-Odo LCDA, the category of youth between the ages of 15 through to 23 years accounted for 40% of the respondents, followed by those within the age of 24 through to 32 years which accounted for 28.7% of the youth. The last category of the age of respondents in Alimosho is the one between 33 through to 39 years of age and they accounted for 23.9%. In Alimosho, Agbado/Oke- Odo and Ayobo/Ipaja LCDAs, this age range accounted for the lowest percentage of respondents.

The age distribution of participants from Ikotun and Igando, a distinct trend emerges, particularly highlighting the younger demography. The age range of 15-17 is notably represented, comprising 16% of the participants. This suggests a vibrant engagement from young adults, potentially reflecting their interest in community activities or initiatives relevant to their stage of life. Following this, the 18-20 and 21-23 age groups each account for 12% of the participants, indicating that the early to mid-twenties are also well-represented. This may suggest that individuals in these age ranges are similarly engaged, possibly due to shared interests or life circumstances, such as education or career beginnings.

The participation diminishes among older age groups, with the 24-26 range at 7%, and the 27-29 group at 5%. This decline could reflect a variety of factors, including increased responsibilities or priorities that might limit engagement in community activities. The 30-32 age bracket sees a slight uptick to 6%, indicating that while this group is less involved than their younger counterparts, there remains a modest interest.

Interestingly, the 33-35 age group stands out with a substantial 34%, revealing a significant representation of older adults. This might suggest a renewed interest or a commitment to community involvement as individuals reach this stage in life, possibly driven by a desire to share experiences or engage in social issues. Finally, the 39 and above category drops to 4%, reinforcing the idea that while older adults can be active, their numbers diminish significantly in comparison to the vibrant participation seen in younger age groups.

In the vibrant community of Egbe/Idimu, the age distribution of participants paints a diverse picture of youth and experience. The largest segment of participants, aged 15 to 17, constitutes 17% of the total. This youthful cohort is indicative of a dynamic energy, suggesting that many individuals in this age range are eager to engage with their community, bring fresh ideas, and participate in various activities that could shape their future. Following closely are participants aged 21 to 23, who represent 18%. This group, perhaps in the early stages of their careers or personal development, likely contributes a mix of ambition and established perspectives. Their presence indicates a bridge between the spirited youth and the more seasoned members of the community, fostering mentorship and collaboration.

Participants in the 24 to 26 age range make up 11%, highlighting a transition period for many as they move from educational pursuits into the workforce or further studies. This age group often embodies the challenges and aspirations of young adulthood, seeking opportunities for growth and stability. The 24 to 26 age bracket accounts for 10% of participants, marking a phase where many might be solidifying their careers or families, balancing responsibilities while still seeking personal fulfillment. Meanwhile, the 27 to 29 age group, at 12%, indicates a time of reflection and possibly a reevaluation of life goals, as these individuals often possess a wealth of experience to share.

A noticeable 17% of participants fall between 30 to 32 years old, representing a generation rich in wisdom and life lessons, ready to contribute to community initiatives and support younger members. Conversely, the 33 to 35 age range is smaller, at 6%, potentially suggesting a decline in active participation or a

shift in focus towards retirement and legacy-building. Those aged 36 to 38 and 39 and above each constitute 5% of the community. These age groups often bring invaluable insights, having lived through significant societal changes. Their participation, though limited in number, is crucial in maintaining the continuity of traditions and knowledge within Egbe/Idimu. The age distribution reflects life stages, with each contributing uniquely to the community's identity and vitality. The blend of youth and experience fosters an environment ripe for innovation, collaboration, and shared growth.

**Table 4.1.2: Socio-demographic distribution of respondents' gender**

Items	Alimosho		Agbado Oke-odo		Ayobo/Ipa ja		Ikotun/Igan do		Egbe/Idimu		Mosan okunola	
	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per %
Male	330	78.9	284	67.7	240	61.9	350	82.3	300	71.4	340	80.9
Female	90	21.1	136	32.3	160	38.1	70	16.7	120	28.6	80	19.1
Total	420	100%	420	100%	420	100%	420	100%	420	100%	420	100%

Source: field note. 2023

The gender of respondents indicated that there were more male than female respondents. For instance in Alimosho local government male accounted for 78.9%, while female was 21.1%. In the Agbado-Oke-Odo LCDA, males accounted for 67.7% of respondent while 32.3% were females. Ayobo-Ipaja data showed that male were 61.9% of respondent while female were 32.3%. In the Ikotun/Igando Local Council Development Area (LCDA), the population is heavily skewed towards males, who represent 82.3% of the total population. In contrast, females

constitute only 16.7%, indicating a significant gender imbalance in the area. This suggests that for every female, there are approximately five males, highlighting a pronounced disparity in gender distribution within the LCDA. For Idimu/Egba LCDA and Mosan/Okunola LCDA male accounted for 80.9% and 71.4% respectively while female were 19.1% and 28.6%. So the researcher engaged more male than female in the study.

**Table 4.1.3: Socio-demographic distribution of respondents' marital status**

Items	Alimosho		Agbado/ Oke-odo		Ayobo/Ipaja		Ikotun/Igando		Egbe/Idimu		Mosan/Okunola	
	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per.%	Freq	Per%	Freq.	Per%	Freq.	Per%
Married	144	34.2	120	30.9	70	16.7	140	33.3	130	30.9	100	23.8
Single	252	60%	238	56.6	298	17.9	256	60.9	250	59.5	276	65.7
Others	22	5.8	52	12.4	52	12.4	24	55.7	40	9.6	44	10.5
Total	420	100%	420	100%	420	100%	420	100%	420	100%	420	100%

**Source: field note, 2023**

Data about marital status reveals that among unemployed youth that were respondents, there were more single than married youth. For instance, single respondents among the youths in Alimosho accounted for 60%, in Agbado-Oke-Odo LCDA that are 56.6%, while 17.9% accounted for those that are single in Ayobo/Ipaja LCDA,. Ikotun/Igando has 60.9% single while Egbe/Idimu LCDA and Mosan/Okunola LCDA had 59.5% and 65.7% in Mosan/Okunola. Despite being unemployed, a sizeable proportion of the respondents were married, and living with their spouse. For instance, in Alimosho LCDA, 34.2% were married, in Agbado-

Oke-Odo LCDA, 30.9% were married while in Ayobo- Ipaja LCDA 16.7% were married. In Ikotun/Igando LCDA 33.3% were married, while 30.9% and 23.8% were married in Egbe/Idimu LCDA and Mosan/Okunola LCDA respectively. Those in the categories that have been grouped as (others) were those that have either had a child or more out of wedlock, or have divorced or separated from their wife or girlfriends.

**Table 4.1.4: Socio-demographic distribution of respondents' educational**

Items	Alimosho		Agbado Oke-odo		Ayobo/Ipaja		Ikotun/Igando		Egbe/Idimu		Mosan okunota	
	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per.%	Freq	Per%	Freq.	Per%	Freq.	Per%
Non formal	156	37.1	126	30.1	144	34.2	150	35.7	160	38%	157	37.3
Primary	108	25.7	108	25.7	100	23.8	114	27.1	104	24.7	104	24.4
Secondary	114	27.1	126	30%	94	22.3	114	27.1	114	27.1	117	27.8
Tertiary	42	10%	60	14.2	82	19.5	42	10%	42	10%	42	10%
Total	420	100%	420	100%	420	100%	420	100%	420	100%	420	100%

**Source: field note, 2023**

The role of education in employment opportunity cannot be overemphasized. This is what the researcher found about the educational qualification of respondents. It was discovered that Alimosho has the highest number of respondents without primary school education. Data revealed that Alimosho has 37.1%, Agbado/Oke-Odo has 30.1% and Ayobo/Ipaja has 34.2%. For those that have tertiary education, Ayobo/Ipaja has 10%, followed by Agbado/Oke-Odo with 14.2% then Alimosho with 9.9%. For secondary school education, Alimosho respondents gathered 27.1%,

followed by Agbado/Oke-Odo with 30%, while Ayobo/Ipaja accounted for 22.3%.

In the case of primary education, those from Agbado/Oke-Odo has the highest rate with 26.7%, those from Alimosho came second with 25.5%, while Ayobo/Ipaja respondents have the lowest rate with 23.2%.

**Table 4.1.5: Socio-demographic distribution of respondents' ethnicity**

Items	Alimosho		Agbado/Oke-odo		Ayobo/Ipaja		Ikotun/Igan do		Egbe/Idimu		Mosan okunola	
	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per.%	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per %
South West	168	40%	172	40.9	204	14.8	240	57.1	260	61.9	220	52.3
South East	84	20%	82	19.5	70	16.6	60	14.3	60	15.3	60	14.3
South South	78	18.5	58	13.8	70	16.6	60	14.3	50	11.9	60	14.4
North East	12	2.8	18	4.2	10	2.3	20	4.7	20	4.7	30	7.1
North West	19	2.4	30	7.1	12	2.8	20	4.7	20	4.7	30	7.1
North Centre	60	14.2	60	14.2	54	12.8	10	2.3	10	4.3	10	2.3
Total	420	100 %	420	100%	420	100%	420	100 %	420	100 %	420	100%

**Source: field note, 2023**

The ethnicity of the respondents was also considered in this study. Data revealed that 40% of respondents in Alimosho are of the Yoruba origin, 20% from the Southeastern part of the country, those from the south region are 18.5%. From followed by those from the Northwest with 2.4%, while those from the northeast have a total of 2.8% of respondents. The same goes for Agbado/Oke-Odo with the highest rate of respondents among the Yoruba youths, which is those from the southwest are with 40.9% while those that have the lowest are among the Northwest origin that is 2.4%. In the Ayobo/Ipaja LCDA, youth from the Southwest accounted for 57.1%, while

respondents from the Northeast extraction accounted for the lowest population which is 16.6%. The reason for the number of Yoruba youth being the highest is simply because the study area, is a traditional home to the Yoruba people of southwest Nigeria.

**Table 4.1.6: Socio-demographic distribution of respondents' religion**

Items	Alimosho		Agbado Oke-odo		Ayobo/Ipaja		Ikotun/Igando		Egbe/Idimu		Mosan okunola	
	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per.%	Freq	Per %	Freq.	Per %	Freq.	Per%
Christianity	168	40	208	49.5	164	39%	188	44.7	170	40.5	160	38.1
Islam	204	48.6	200	47.6	194	46.1	194	46.1	202	48.1	230	51.2
Others	48	11.4	12	2.8	62	14.7	38	8.0	48	11.4	28	6.7
Total	420	100 %	420	100%	420	100%	420	100%	420	100%	420	10%

**Source: Field note 2023**

In Alimosho Local Government, the majority of the population practices Islam, comprising 48.6% of the community. Christians represent 40% of the population, while the remaining 11.4% follow other religious beliefs or are not categorized within the two main groups. This shows a religious landscape where Islam and Christianity are the dominant faiths, with a smaller proportion of people adhering to different or unspecified religious

affiliations. In Agbado/Oke-Odo LCDA, Christianity and Islam are nearly evenly distributed, with Christians making up 49.5% of the population and Muslims comprising 47.6%. The remaining 2.8% of the population practice other religions or do not belong to either of the two major faiths. This indicates a religiously diverse community where Christianity and Islam are almost equally represented, while other religious groups form a smaller portion of the population.

In the case of Ayobo/Ipaja LCDA, the majority of the population follows either Christianity or Islam, with Christians making up 49% and Muslims accounting for 46.1%. However, there is also a notable portion, 14.7%, that adheres to other religious beliefs or does not identify with either of the two dominant religions. In Ikotun/Igando, Christianity (44.7%), nearly half of the population identifies as Christian. This suggests a significant presence of Christian communities, making it the second-largest religious group in the area. Islam is the largest religion in Ikotun/Igando, with a slightly higher percentage than Christianity. This indicates a predominantly Muslim population, reflecting a cultural and religious landscape where Islam is the primary faith. Others (8.0%)

The "Others" category, which encompasses all religions outside of Christianity and Islam, constitutes a small minority. This suggests that the majority of the population adheres to either Christianity or Islam, with fewer individuals practicing other religions. The percentages show a closely balanced religious landscape, with Islam (46.1%) slightly outnumbering Christianity (44.7%). The relatively low percentage of "Others" (8.0%) indicates that the area is predominantly characterized by these two major religions, with limited diversity in terms of other faiths. In Ikotun/Igando, the religious affiliation is primarily between Islam and Christianity, with both groups nearly equal in size. This reflects a diverse yet predominantly Islamic community, with a small presence of other religious beliefs. The close percentages suggest a dynamic interplay between these two faiths in the region.

The Egbeda/Idimu community has Christianity (40.5%), Christianity represents a substantial portion of the population, making it a significant faith in this area. At 40.5%, it is a notable presence but is not the majority. Islam is the predominant religion in

Egbe/Idimu, accounting for 48.1% of the population. This indicates a strong Muslim community, making Islam the largest faith in the area. 11.4% was for others category, which includes various religions outside of Christianity and Islam, represents 11.4% of the population. This suggests some religious diversity, although it is still a minority compared to the two main religions. Islam (48.1%) is the largest religious group, followed closely by Christianity (40.5%), showing a competitive religious landscape. The "Others" category (11.4%) indicates that while the majority identifies as either Christian or Muslim, there is a small but significant group of individuals practicing other faiths. In Egbe/Idimu, the religious affiliation is primarily between Islam and Christianity, with Islam being the dominant faith. The presence of other religions, while less significant, adds to the diversity of the area. The statistics illustrate a community where Islam and Christianity coexist, with a notable percentage of individuals adhering to other belief systems.

In the Mosan Okunola area, the religious distribution is as follows. Christianity constitutes 38.1% of the population. While this represents a significant portion, it indicates that Christians are not the majority in this area. Islam is the predominant religion, making up 51.2% of the population. This shows a strong Muslim presence and suggests that Islam is the most practiced faith in Mosan Okunola. The "Others" category, which includes religions outside of Christianity and Islam, represents 6.7% of the population. This indicates limited diversity in terms of other religious affiliations. With Islam at 51.2% and Christianity at 38.1%, the data highlights a clear majority for Islam in Mosan Okunola. The relatively low percentage of "Others" 6.7% reinforces the idea that the area is predominantly divided between these two major religions, with little representation from other faiths. Mosan Okunola has a religious landscape where Islam is the dominant

faith, followed by a significant Christian minority. The low percentage of individuals identifying with other religions indicates a community primarily shaped by these two major religious traditions, with Islam being the clear majority.

#### 4.2 Objective one: Causes of unemployment among youth

Youth unemployment is a significant global issue that affects millions of young people, particularly in developing countries. The causes of this phenomenon is essential for policymakers and educators aiming to create effective interventions. Various factors contribute to youth unemployment, including economic instability, educational mismatches, and a lack of work experience. Social and demographic influences can exacerbate the challenges faced by young job seekers. As labor markets evolve, it becomes increasingly important to address these underlying causes to ensure a prosperous future for the younger generation. By examining the complexities of youth unemployment, we can identify actionable strategies to enhance employment opportunities and economic participation. It is from this background that the following statistics was gotten as a result of the field research conducted.

**Table 4.2.1: showing frequency distribution of responses on causes of youth unemployment**

S/N	Statements	SA	A	D	SD
1	Population of people in my area has increased the rate of unemployment	243 (62.8%)	40 (10.3%)	70 (18.1)	34 (8.8%)
2	Youth unemployment was caused as a result of Nigeria economy plunging into recession	255 (65.9%)	18 (4.7%)	10 (2.5%)	104 (26.9%)
3	The educational system and curriculum do not support industry practice	192 (49.6%)	14 (3.6%)	11 (2.8%)	170(43.9 %)

4	Corruption governance is a major factor that is causing youth Unemployment	369 (95.3%)	5 (1.3%)	-	13 (3.4%)
5	Government regulations such as ban on foreign goods such as rice etc, usually lead to unemployment in some cases	173 (44.7%)	27 (6.9%)	71 (18.5%)	116 (29.9%)
6	Rural-Urban migration has made youth unemployment increase drastically	201 (51.9%)	23 (5.9%)	53 (13.8%)	110 (28.4%)
7	There are too many expatriates in the country competing for the same job as Nigerians therefore reducing the chance of Nigerians getting the job	101 (26.1%)	32 (8.3%)	42 (10.9%)	212 (54.8%)
8	Because of insecurity in the country those working on the farms could not work there again and are moving to the cities	269 (69.5%)	11 (2.8%)	6 (1.6%)	101 (26.1%)
9	Advancement in technology is capable of rendering an already working person to be unemployed	192 (49.6%)	22 (5.7%)	16 (4.2%)	157 (40.6%)
10	The economy is not diversified therefore so many people are only focusing on a particular type of job or businesses making it more difficult	203 (52.5%)	1 (0.3%)		183 (47.3%)
11	Erratic power supply has rendered many business people jobless	251 (64.9%)	27 (6.9%)	11 (2.8%)	98 (25.3%)

**Source: Field note, 2023**

The rate of unemployment causing criminality was made prominent in the study due to the confirmation of the situation by respondents. This was also in line with what many literature have said concerning the causes. For instance, respondents were asked if the rate of increase in the population had in anyway contributed to increase in the rate of unemployment. It was discovered that 62.8% of respondents strongly believe that population increase has jeopardized the chance of getting job as a youth in this part of the world while 10.3% also agreed. In the same vein, 8.8% strongly disagreed and 18.1%

believing that population growth should be a plus for any nation rather than causing additional problem such as unemployment. This assumption was negated by the opinion of members of the focused group as many of them believe that if government has a well thought out plans for its citizens the situations of unemployment wouldn't have been this severe. An excerpt from the group;

Population is meant to be a plus for us and not the sorrow it has brought to us as a nation. How many are we in this country that the government finds it difficult to provide jobs for our children. There are some countries that are more than us in number, they do not have these gamut of problems that we are having about employment in Nigeria. I am sure you know that the United States of America, China, India, even Brazil are far more than us. They don't have this amount of problem. So I am usually angry with people and even the government when they say we are many. I believe if government has a plan for us, we won't be in the mess of joblessness that we finds our self.

**(FGD, Landlord Association/20/04/2023/Okunola-Musan)**

Respondents were also asked of their opinion concerning the fluctuating nature of the Nigeria economy as a contributing factor to youth unemployment most especially during economic recession. 66% of them strongly agree, 4.7% agree, 2.5% disagree while 26.9% strongly disagreed. From the responses, the researcher believes that when the economy of a country is not stable and when it continues to plunge into recession at every glance of a global economic downturn, such economy will continually throw its citizens out of job, thereby increasing the rate of unemployment. This in many situations do affect youths been the most vulnerable group in this regard.

Respondents' opinions on the effect of the educational system that is not changing over the year was also reflected in the course of the study. 49.6% of

respondents strongly agreed that the curriculum that has being in use in the education sector must change to reflect current realities of industry based education. It is in line of this that 49.6% of respondents strongly agree, 3.6%, ordinarily agreed, 2.8% disagreed, while 43.9 % of them strongly disagree. The overall response under education seems to be close since 53.5% of respondents believe the curriculum of our education has effect on the rate of unemployment, 46.7% did not believe so. The rate discovered here is believed to have been influenced by the educational background of respondents since many of them have had a bit of education even before majority of them dropped out of the school the system.

Corrupt governance is another major factor that was considered in this study as causing youth unemployment. Respondents' opinion showed that 95.3% of them strongly believe that corrupt government is the major reason for them not having job to do. Another 1.3% agreed, while only 3.4% are those that strongly disagree to corruption been the reason for unemployment of youth in the country. Corruption been the major reason for many youth not getting employment has usually been attached to leaders stealing funds that are meant for developmental programmes that would help the economy to grow, hence produce opportunities for employments across all levels and ages. The high percentage of those that agreed that corruption is a factor that causes youth unemployment was supported in the focus group discussion had in one of the communities in the Ikotun area. Excerpt;

Corruption in governance is a significant factor causing youth unemployment in Nigeria because it diverts resources away from essential programs that could create jobs. For instance, funds allocated for youth empowerment initiatives often end up mismanaged or embezzled, leaving young people without the support

they need to start businesses or gain skills. Additionally, corruption fosters an environment where favoritism and nepotism thrive, meaning that qualified candidates often miss out on job opportunities to those who have connections or can pay bribes. This not only leads to frustration among youth but also stifles overall economic growth, making it even harder for young people to find employment in a competitive job market

**(FGD, Landlord Association/20/03/2023/Aribidesi Street/Ikotun)**

On the impact of rural-urban migration on youth unemployment 51.9%, indicates that just over half of the respondents believe that rural-urban migration has significantly contributed to the increase in youth unemployment. This majority suggests a strong consensus that the movement of young people from rural areas to urban centers like Lagos is a key factor in the rising unemployment rates among youth in the cities. 5.9% of respondents feel that rural-urban migration has had little to no effect on youth unemployment. This indicates that there is a minority view that does not align with the majority opinion, suggesting that some believe other factors may be more influential, while 13.8%, group represents a moderate percentage of respondents who may think that rural-urban migration has a minimal effect on youth unemployment. This perspective may indicate a recognition of other contributing factors, but not to the extent that they dismiss migration entirely. Nearly a third of the respondents 28.4%, are likely in agreement that while rural-urban migration is a factor, it is not the primary cause of the increase in youth unemployment. This suggests that many respondents acknowledge a relationship between migration and unemployment but believe other factors also play a significant role.

Since the ban on the importation of goods from neighbouring countries into Nigeria, such political decision has rendered some youth in this locality jobless since they were unable to go to those countries and bringing in foods and other items. For instance, those that strongly agree to this opinion are 44.7% and those that agree are 6.9%. However, many other respondents were not in agreement as 18.5% disagree and 29.9% strongly disagree. Perhaps, those that disagreed are of the opinion that banning some good from entering the country concerns only those that are into import and export and not just any youth that does not have work at all. However, it should be noted that this singular act of the government can throw anyone, including the youth that had a job before out of job, then becoming unemployed again.

The statistics related to the statement on if there are too many expatriates in the country competing for the same job as Nigerians, therefore reducing the chances of Nigerians getting the job reveal that 26.1% of respondents which is about a quarter of the respondents believe that the presence of expatriates significantly hampers job opportunities for Nigerians. This indicates a notable concern regarding competition from foreign workers. Those that agree 8.3%, a small percentage of respondents also agree with the statement, suggesting that they see some validity in the concern, but not as strongly as those who strongly agree. A minority 10.9%, disagrees with the assertion, indicating that there are some who do not believe that expatriates pose a major threat to job availability for Nigerians, while more than half of the respondents 54.8% strongly disagree with the statement, suggesting that they do not see expatriates as a significant factor in reducing job opportunities for

Nigerians.

This majority indicates a belief that other factors might play a larger role in employment dynamics. The data reflects a divided opinion on the impact of expatriates in the job market. While a combined total of 34.4% (strongly agree and agree) expresses concern over the competition posed by expatriates, a substantial majority (54.8%) strongly disagrees, indicating that they do not view expatriates as a major barrier to employment for Nigerians. This suggests a perception that other factors may be more influential in shaping job availability, or that expatriates may bring skills that complement rather than compete with the local workforce.

On the issue of erratic power supply, 64.9% of respondents believe that irregular electricity is enough to render many youth unemployed. So also, 6.9% agree to the same idea of electricity throwing people out of job and rendering them unemployed again, while 2.8% disagree and 25.3% strongly disagree. The data revealed that less than half of those that strongly agreed are those that strongly disagree, but they accounted for a quarter of the entire population. This is an indication that electricity is essential to reduce the rate of unemployment especially among youths that have learnt a vocation or the other. The data shows that fewer than half of those who strongly agreed also strongly disagreed, representing about a quarter of the entire population. This suggests that electricity plays a crucial role in addressing youth unemployment. It is particularly vital for young people who have acquired vocational skills that require electrical power.

On whether the advancement in technology is capable of rendering an

already working person unemployed, statistics showed that 49.6%, Strongly Agree, that is almost half of the respondents believe that technological advancements can lead to job loss for those currently employed. This indicates a significant concern about the impact of technology on job security. 5.7% agrees with the statement, suggesting that while they see some potential for job loss, they may not view it as a widespread issue. 4.2% respondents disagree with the notion, indicating that there is minimal support for the idea that technology will not affect employment negatively, while 40.6% which is a substantial portion of respondents strongly disagrees, reflecting a belief that technological advancement does not necessarily lead to unemployment. This group may see technology as a means to create new opportunities rather than eliminate jobs. The data indicates a divided opinion on the impact of technology on employment. While nearly half of the respondents are concerned about job loss due to technological advancements, a significant portion firmly believes that such changes won't result in unemployment. This suggests a complex relationship between technology and the labor market, where perceptions of risk and opportunity coexist.

#### **4.3 Objective Two: Link between youth unemployment and criminality**

The link between youth unemployment and criminality is a pressing issue that warrants urgent attention. As economic opportunities dwindle, many young people find themselves increasingly vulnerable to engaging in illegal activities. Unemployment can lead to feelings of hopelessness and frustration, which may drive some youths to seek alternative means of survival. Furthermore, the lack of job prospects often results in increased exposure to negative influences and peer

pressure. Understanding this connection is crucial for developing effective interventions that can prevent crime and promote positive pathways for young individuals. In this interview, we will explore the factors contributing to this relationship and discuss potential solutions. Addressing the root causes of youth unemployment, we can work towards reducing crime rates and fostering a safer and more productive society. This is why the researcher asked

**Table 4.3.1: Showing frequency distribution of responses on Link between youth unemployment and criminality**

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD
1	Any youth that has no job can think of committing crime in order to sustain life	321 (82.9%)	119 (4.9%)	2 (0.5%)	45 (11.6%)
2	Any youth that has no job can conspire with criminals to rob anyone	234 (60.5%)	67 (17.3%)	17 (4.4%)	69 (17.8%)
3	Any youth that has no job can aid and abet criminal elements within their neighbourhood	277 (71.6%)	41 (10.6%)	12 (3.1%)	57 (14.7%)
4	Any youth that has no job can be easily influenced by peer pressure to be deviant in the society	269 (69.5%)	32 (8.3%)	15 (3.9%)	71 (18.3%)
5	Any youth that has no job is prone to substance abuse and other related deviant behaviour	232 (59.9%)	44 (11.4%)	09 (2.3%)	102 (26.4%)

**Source: field note, 2023**

On the questions concerning the link between criminality and youth unemployment, respondents were asked series of questions and their opinions were reflected in the number of percentages in the table. For instance, they were asked that any youth that has no job can think of committing crime in order to sustain life. The statement reflects a deeply concerning view about the socio-economic

challenges facing unemployed youth. A large majority of respondents, 82.9%, strongly agree with the assertion that young people who are jobless might resort to criminal activities as a means of survival. This indicates a widespread belief that unemployment can push individuals, particularly the youth, towards illegal or harmful behaviors in their desperation to make ends meet. The high percentage suggests that a large portion of the community sees a direct link between the lack of job opportunities and the likelihood of crime.

An additional 4.9% of respondents agree with the statement, albeit to a lesser extent. This group acknowledges that while unemployment is a serious factor, perhaps there are other mitigating circumstances or reasons that could influence the likelihood of crime. However, even this smaller percentage indicates a broader recognition that the absence of employment can drive individuals towards negative behaviors. On the other hand, only 0.5% of respondents disagree with the statement, suggesting that a very small portion of the population believes that unemployment does not necessarily lead to crime or that other solutions or factors can prevent such behavior. This could be interpreted as a minority who may feel that there are alternative pathways, such as community support, education, or personal resilience, which can help youth avoid resorting to crime despite the hardships of unemployment.

The most striking figure comes from the 11.6% who strongly disagree with the statement. These individuals may believe that, even in the absence of jobs, youth can find alternative ways to sustain themselves, such as through social programs,

entrepreneurial ventures, or other non-criminal means. Their perspective suggests that the situation of unemployment does not automatically or necessarily lead to criminal behavior, and they may feel that there are other factors, such as personal values, community engagement, or social safety nets, that can prevent youth from turning to crime. The overwhelming majority that strongly agrees (82.9%) with the statement points to a pressing concern about youth unemployment and its potential social consequences. It reflects the widely held view that without meaningful employment opportunities, many young people may feel excluded from the economic mainstream and might seek survival through illicit means. This raises alarms about the importance of job creation, economic inclusion, and youth empowerment in society. The small percentage that disagrees, particularly the 11.6% who strongly disagree, may highlight a belief that despite the challenges, there are intrinsic factors, such as moral values, family support, or other protective mechanisms that can prevent youth from succumbing to crime, even when faced with unemployment.

Respondents were again asked if any youth that has no job can conspire with criminals to rob anyone. Opinions reveal a concerning view regarding the potential risks associated with unemployment among young people. A majority of 60.5% of respondents strongly agree with this statement, suggesting that they believe a significant number of jobless youth may be vulnerable to involvement in criminal activities, including robbery, as a means of survival or out of desperation. An additional 17.3% agree with the statement to a lesser extent, further indicating that many see unemployment as a factor that can lead youth into criminal associations.

On the other hand, 4.4% of respondents disagree, indicating that they do not believe unemployment directly leads to such criminal behavior. This smaller group may feel that other factors, such as personal integrity, family support, or alternative opportunities, can prevent youth from engaging in crime, even in the face of unemployment. Meanwhile, 17.8% strongly disagree with the statement, suggesting that this portion of the population believes there are other ways for youth to cope with unemployment without resorting to criminal activities. The data shows a strong perception that unemployment can be a driving factor behind youth involvement in crime, but it also highlights a minority who remain hopeful that moral values, community structures, or other factors can keep young people from falling into criminal behavior.

Respondents were again asked if any youth that has no job can aid and abet criminal elements within their neighbourhood. Responses shows the possibility that is very strong about the relationship between unemployment and involvement in criminal activities. For instance, a significant majority of 71.6% strongly agree with the statement, suggesting that many people believe unemployed youth are particularly vulnerable to being drawn into crime, either by actively aiding or associating with criminal elements in their communities. An additional 10.6% agree with the statement, indicating that they also see unemployment as a key factor that may lead youth into criminal behavior, though perhaps to a lesser degree.

On the other hand, 3.1% of respondents disagree with the statement, suggesting a small portion of the population believes that unemployed youth can

resist criminal influence, despite the lack of employment opportunities. Lastly, 14.7% strongly disagree, indicating that they feel there are sufficient moral, social, or community structures that can prevent youth from aiding or abetting criminals, regardless of their job status. The data paints a picture of widespread concern about the potential for unemployed youth to become involved in criminal activities, but also highlights that some members of the community studied still believe that some factors could still prevent such behaviours.

Respondents were further asked if any youth that has no job can be easily influenced by peer pressure to be deviant in the society. A majority, 69.5%, strongly agree with this view, suggesting that many people believe that jobless youth are particularly vulnerable to peer pressure, which may lead them to engage in deviant or antisocial behavior. This perception highlights the idea that without employment, young people may lack positive outlets and structure, making them more prone to being influenced by peers who may encourage harmful or unlawful activities.

An additional 8.3% agree with the statement, indicating that they acknowledge the potential for peer pressure to lead to deviant behavior, though perhaps not as strongly as those who strongly agree. Conversely, 3.9% of respondents disagree, suggesting that a small portion believes unemployed youth can resist peer pressure and avoid deviant behavior despite their circumstances. Lastly, 18.3% strongly disagree, signaling that this group feels there are other protective factors such as personal values, family support, or community programs that can prevent youth from falling into deviance, even in the absence of

employment.

Lastly, respondents were asked if any youth that has no job is prone to substance abuse and other related deviant behavior. Responses show a prevalent concern about the consequences of unemployment among young people. A majority of 59.9% strongly agree with this view, suggesting that many believe unemployed youth are particularly susceptible to engaging in substance abuse and other forms of deviant behavior due to a lack of structured activities or economic opportunities. This perception highlights the idea that unemployment can lead to frustration, boredom, and a sense of disillusionment, making some young people more vulnerable to negative influences.

An additional 11.4% agree with the statement, acknowledging the connection between unemployment and the likelihood of substance abuse and deviance, though perhaps to a lesser degree than those who strongly agree. On the other hand, 2.3% disagree, suggesting that a small portion of respondents believe that unemployment does not necessarily lead to such behaviors, possibly viewing other factors—like personal resilience, social support, or community engagement—as protective against substance abuse and deviance. Interestingly, a significant 26.4% strongly disagree with the statement, indicating that nearly a quarter of the population feels that unemployed youth are not necessarily prone to substance abuse or deviant behavior. This group likely believes that with the right guidance, education, or alternatives, young people can avoid falling into these negative patterns, regardless of their job status. However, the majority still associate

unemployment with a higher risk of substance abuse and deviant behavior, there is still a notable portion of respondents who hold a more optimistic view, suggesting that other factors can help prevent such outcomes.

#### 4.4 Objective Three: Patterns of criminality among youths

Patterns of criminality among youths is crucial for addressing the underlying issues that lead to such behaviors. Recent trends indicate a worrying rise in youth involvement in various forms of crime, including theft, drug-related offenses, and gang activities. These patterns are often influenced by a combination of socio-economic factors, family dynamics, and peer pressure. Many young individuals may turn to crime as a means of coping with unemployment or a lack of opportunities, seeking a sense of belonging or financial gain.

The role of media and technology in shaping youth behavior cannot be overlooked, as they often provide both inspiration and methods for criminal activity. However, these patterns can better be understood in the motivations behind youth crime and identify effective prevention strategies. It from this point of view that this responses from the field aim to shed light on the complexities of youth criminality and explore potential solutions to reduce its prevalence. The following table shows the frequency of response gathered from the field

**Table 4.4.1: Showing frequency distribution of responses on patterns of criminality among youths.**

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD
1	Crime committed by unemployed youths are usually minor in nature	241 (62.3%)	14 (3.6%)	19 (4.9%)	113 (29.2%)

2	Crime committed by unemployed youths are usually well planned	156 (40.3%)	51 (13.2%)	44 (11.4%)	136 (35.1%)
3	Unemployment can lead some youths into committing armed	147 (38%)	47 (12.1%)	32 (8.3%)	161 (41.6%)
4	Unemployment has led some youths into committing burglary	167 (43.2%)	44 (11.4%)	35 (9.0%)	141 (36.4%)
5	Unemployment has led some youths into committing internet fraud	252 (65.1%)	51 (13.2%)	39 (10.1%)	45 (11.6%)
6	Unemployment has led some youths into committing rape	91 (23.5%)	6 (1.6%)	62 (16.0%)	228 (58.9%)
7	Unemployment can lead some youths into kidnapping as business	113 (29.2%)	28 (7.2%)	47 (12.1%)	199 (51.4%)
8	Unemployment can lead some youths into blackmailing people for monetary gains	109 (28.2%)	17 (4.4%)	51 (13.2%)	210 (54.3%)
9	Unemployment can lead some youths into trafficking drug for barons and other forms of trafficking	185 (47.8%)	13 (3.4%)	16 (4.1%)	173 (44.7%)

**Source: Field note, 2023**

Criminality in Alimosho takes different patterns on daily bases. The rate of criminality is so high that many people try as much as possible to avoid some areas in the entire local government of Alimosho, because of the possibility of victimization. It is on this premise that respondents were asked if crime committed by unemployed youths is of any difference from normal crime, thus investigating the nature of such crime whether it is usually major or minor. A larger percentage, which is 62.3% of respondents strongly agree to this statement. Those that agree are just 3.4%, rate of those that disagree are 4.9% while those that strongly disagree are 29.2%. Minor crime that were categorized here include picking pockets, runaway with change, buying without paying etc. The same experience was confirmed by members of the communities visited and political officer holders that were

contacted. For instance, in a focused group discussion with community member, in the Pleasure community, participants said;

In most situations, the nature of crime that is been committed especially by unemployed youth in the area include buying some small goods and not paying for it. In some situations they will just runaway. Some are into picking peoples pocket, some have advanced into burglary, especially during the day when people are not in their homes. We have seen situations where people put cloths on lines outside their house and before you know it, the cloths have disappeared. When we discovered who packed the cloths, it was another neighbour that we have been suspecting before now.

**(FGD, Landlord Association Pleasure/Alimosho LG, 17/March/2023)**

Respondents were also asked if such crime that is been committed by unemployed youth in the area are usually well planned. There were divergent opinions which are very close. For instance, 40.3% of respondents strongly agree to the statement, while 35.1% strongly disagree. So also 13.2% of them just agree and another 11.4% also disagree. Therefore, a total of 53.5% were on the side of agreement to the statement, while those at the side of disagreement accounted 46.5% of the total respondent. The difference of 7% between the respondents on this statement could not make any significant change as far as decision on the thoughtfulness of crime by unemployment youth is concerned. A criminal is believed to have at any point, weigh the consequences of his/her social action before taken it. Most times, he would have seen the benefits been better than the consequences, either an unemployed youth who ventured into crime or as a professional criminal.

The researcher further asked respondents if unemployment as a status is

possible to lead some youths into committing armed robbery. Responses also varied and it showed that 38% and 12.1% were in agreement with the statement at different degree of strongly and ordinarily agreeing to the statement respectively. On the degree of disagreement, 8.3% and 41.6% respectively disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. This is an indication that majority were of the opinion that armed robbery been a violent crime required been more brutal to carry out and anyone going into it cannot lay claim to unemployment.

The scourge of internet fraud among youth made the researcher to ask respondents about their opinion on unemployment causing internet fraud among youth of the area. Response to the statement on whether unemployment has led some youths into committing internet fraud was well responded to by the majority of respondents as indication revealed that 65.1% strongly agree, 13.2% agree, 10.1% disagree while 11.6% strongly disagree to the statement. The scourge of internet fraud seems to be the major concern of all the population of this study. The claim of the respondents were affirmed in the interviews conducted with community leaders and chairmen of the LCDAs. In a focused group discussion, members said;

Internet fraud is what we are dealing with now as a community. Almost all youths have gone into internet fraud and they flaunt the proceeds to our faces. There are some areas in our communities where that you cannot send your children to now, especially your females, because you will be afraid of them been enticed by these guys that are into internet fraud. Many of them actually got into this fraud act as a result of unemployment. We have even had parents supporting their wards that are into internet fraud. We have had situations where parents had disagreements with their children that are unemployed, asking them to go and learn how their mates are making it through internet fraud. This is

the situation that we find ourselves in this community.

**(FGD, Ayetedo Landlord Association, Ipaja/Ayobo LCDA, 17/March/2023)**

The opinion of the leaders of the community was again re-echoed in the interview with the LCDAs chairmen. One chairman said,

Well, internet fraud in our communities in the LCDA has sky-rocketed now. Out of every 10 youth that you see now, 1 of them is into internet fraud. The most frustrating part of it is that parents have started supporting their children who are into this fraud now. So the law enforcement agencies are even having it difficult to tackle. You know as politicians, we have many people that come to us for one thing or the other, some of our people whose children are arrested and detained will come and asked us to go get them released. Many of them will even claim that it is because the boy does not have job that he is doing internet fraud. So it is a terrible thing we are facing about the fraud now.

**(IDI, Chairman, Okunola/Mosan LCDA, 02/May/2023)**

Different types and nature of crime have been seen in this local government. A number of blackmail and drug trafficking have been witnessed even by the researcher. This contributed to one of the reasons the theme was chosen to be researched by the researcher. Respondents were asked if unemployment has been one of the reasons some youths ventured into blackmailing other people for monetary gains. Respondent that strongly agree to this statement are 8.2%, those that agree are 4.4%, and those that disagree are 13.2% while 54.3% are those that strongly disagree to the statement.

Respondents were also asked if they thinking unemployment can lead some youths into committing rape. Responses revealed perception among respondents regarding the link between unemployment and this serious crime. It was gathered that 23.5%, of respondents strongly believe that unemployment contributes to youth involvement in committing rape. This is an indication that there is a connection between economic

hardship and certain criminal behaviors. So also, 1.6% agrees with the statement, suggesting that only a handful of respondents see unemployment as a significant factor in this context. Main while, 16.0%, which is a modest portion of respondents disagrees, indicating that they do not believe unemployment is a primary driver of rape among youths, although they may acknowledge other contributing factors. However, a large proportion, that is a significant majority, 58.9% strongly disagree with the statement, indicating that they do not see unemployment as a relevant factor in youth perpetration of rape. This suggests a prevalent belief that other influences, such as social, cultural, or psychological factors, play a more critical role. The data indicates a strong skepticism about the relationship between unemployment and youth involvement in rape. While 25.1% of respondents acknowledge a potential connection, a substantial majority (58.9%) firmly dismisses the idea that unemployment is a significant contributing factor. This suggests that perceptions of the causes of such violent crimes are complex, highlighting the need for further exploration of the social dynamics and individual circumstances that lead to such behavior among youths.

The respondents were also asked of their opinion on if unemployment can lead some youths into the kidnapping as business, and statistics reveal a complex perspective among respondents as we have that a 29.2% of them strongly disagree that unemployment is a significant factor that can drive some youths to engage in kidnapping for financial gain. This indicates a recognition of the connection between lack of opportunities and criminal behavior. On those that agree 7.2%, a small percentage agrees with the statement, suggesting that while they see some validity in the argument, they may not view it as a widespread issue. On those that disagreed that is, 12.1%, a modest number of respondents

disagree, reflecting a belief that there are other reasons for youth involvement in kidnapping beyond unemployment. However, 51.4%, more than half of the respondents strongly disagree with the statement, indicating that they do not believe unemployment is a primary factor driving youths to kidnapping. This suggests a significant skepticism about the idea that economic hardship directly leads to such criminal activities. Therefore, the data presents a divided opinion on the relationship between unemployment and youth involvement in kidnapping. While a combined total of 36.4% (strongly agree and agree) acknowledges a connection, a substantial majority (51.4%) strongly disagrees, indicating that many respondents do not see unemployment as a driving force behind such criminal behavior. This highlights a complex issue where perceptions of the root causes of kidnapping may vary, suggesting the need for further investigation into the various factors that influence youth criminality.

Lastly on the patterns of criminality in the local government, respondents were again asked if there had been any form of drug trafficking as a pattern of crime which are been carried out by youth of the area. Indication revealed that a lot of youth have engaged drugs even to the point of trafficking it across borders. For instance, 47.8% strongly agree, while 3.4% also agree. In the other way round, 44.7% of the same respondent strongly disagree and 4.1% only disagree. From the point of drug abuse, to trafficking of drugs, youths especially in the local government under this study have been seen to be parking in the business of drug according to data generated from the field.

#### **4.5. Objective Four: Effect of government interventions**

The effectiveness of government interventions in various sectors is a critical topic for discussion. These interventions are often designed to address social issues,

stimulate economic growth, and improve the quality of life for citizens. From job creation programs to healthcare initiatives, government actions can significantly impact communities. However, the success of these interventions is not always guaranteed, and their outcomes can vary widely. The effects of government interventions helps in assessing whether policies are achieving their intended goals. Moreover, it provides valuable insights into areas that may require reform or reallocation of resources. Evaluating the successes and shortcomings of past interventions can guide future policy decisions. In this discussion, the researcher explored specific examples of government initiatives and analyze their impacts on society. Examining these effects can help us understand the role of government in shaping our lives. This conversation aims to identify best practices for future interventions that can effectively meet the needs of the population.

**Table 4.5: Showing government interventions against youth unemployment**

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD
1	Government is trying her best in reducing youth unemployment in this local government	53 (13.7%)	12 (3.1%)	54 (14%)	272 (70.3%)
2	We have benefitted in various programmes of the government in order to reduce youth unemployment	60 (15.5%)	14 (3.6%)	47 (12.1%)	266 (68.7%)
3	I know of some youths that were given job by the N-Power programme of the federal government	87 (22.5%)	21 (5.4%)	64 (16.5%)	215 (55.6%)

4	The youth center that has just been inaugurated by the Lagos State Government in Abesan will be of tremendous benefit to me.	72 (18.6%)	63 (8.0%)	49 (12.7)	235 (60.7%)
5	There are government intervention policies that are aimed at protecting youth employment in Lagos State	48 (12.4%)	13 (3.4%)	73 (18.9%)	253 (65.4%)

**Source: Field report 2023**

Respondents were again engaged by the researcher to investigate further about the understanding of respondent view of government interventions in their local government areas and LCDAs. Data gathered revealed that when respondents were asked if government is trying her best in reducing youth unemployment in their areas, 13.7% of them strongly agree that government is trying, 3.1% also agree that government is trying, 14% disagree and a lot of respondents, that is 70.3%strongly disagree that government is trying to reduce youth unemployment. This is contradicting to the statement of one of the LCDAs who claimed that government is trying her best but majority of the youth that are affected usually do not know about many of those government intervention. In his words he said;

Our governments both at the state and local council authorities have a lot of programmes for the youth, especially in the area of vocation and skill acquisition. The problem we have is that many of youth will not even come for the programmes once you are not sharing money. I don't know in any saner clime where money is being shared with people and the economy will be alright. The truth is that most of our youth in this local government are lazy and they only want free money.

**(IDI, Chairman, Alimosho Local Government, 20/March/2023)**

Another statement to the respondents concerning various programmes in which

respondents have benefitted from the government in order to reduce unemployment and consequently the rate of poverty in the areas. Indications revealed that 15.5% said they have benefitted from government in one way of the order before, 3.6% also agree to have benefitted from government before, 12.1% were those that disagree while 68.7% were those that strongly disagreed about benefitting from the local council before. This notion was in the mind of the researcher when he asked the members of one of the communities in Ayobo/Ipaja LCDA if they know of any programme some of their children have benefitted from since the government in power came on board. Someone said,

Laughs (sarcastically). The whole of the money is not enough for them to share now. How will they remember any youth that does not have job. Instead of creating employment opportunities or make the environment good enough for business to thrive, they will rather prefer to share their allocation with the politicians and continue to keep youths unemployed so that they will be able to use them for hooligans during elections.

**(FGD, Landlord Association/Ayobo/Ipaja LCDA,10/May/2023)**

Respondents were again asked if they know any youths that were given job by the N-Power programme of the federal government. Majority of the responses were picked the strongly disagree which amounted to 55.6% of them, and those that disagree were 16.5%. Those that strongly agree were 22.5% in number while those that agree were 5.4% in al. It was against this backdrop that chairmen were asked of the programmes that are in the category of the N-Power programme of the federal government. Participants said;

Well we have many programmes to empower the youth but many of them are also ignorant of it. Even when we call for people to apply for a

particular programme, especially in skill acquisition, they won't apply. There was a particular time that it was only the same set of people that applied for the previous programme that still applied for the new one that was publicized. We have add situations where some youths even come to stop the programme we were doing, asking us that we need to pay them before we can continue the skill acquisition that we were doing. In fact that were ready to destroy the sowing machines that we are to distribute for those we have trained. I tell you it that bad.

**(IDI, Chairman, Agbado/Oke-Odo LCDA,**

**27/March/2023)**

Another participant from one of the LCDAs who also double as an adviser to the state governor also added to the claim of his colleague above. He said;

Yes, we have different type of programmes in other to empower and liberate our people from poverty, but many of them will not just come for those programmes. The thing is before we start to distribute equipment we train people on different types of vocation and trade, such as soap making, barbing, bead making, catering, etc. all these programmes are meant to make our youths come out of their poverty, but the problem they have is that they seems not to have that patience to learn through the rope. You advertise they won't come, you sensitize they won't come. In fact I am not sure that they this generation of youth are ready to work. Although not all of them o, but many of them.

**(IDI, Chairman, Ikotun/Igando, LCDA, 02/May/2023)**

Investigation also revealed that the state government through collaboration with some Non-Government Organisations inaugurated a youth center in the Abesan area of the Ipaja/Ayobo LCDA in order to empower youth and create employment around the programmes that are available in the center. Researcher

therefore asked respondents if the youth center will be of any tremendous benefit to them. Only 18.6% and 8.0% of them goes for strongly agree and agree respectively. On the other hand, 12.7% and 60.7% of the respondents disagree and strongly disagree to the statement respectively. In essence, this findings buttressed the claims of one of the chairmen of the LCDAs that many of them actually do not see programmes on skill acquisition and empowerment as something that can help them thus, they usually do not come for such program.

Finally on the effect of government intervention programmes on youth empowerment, respondents were asked if they know of any government intervention policy that are aimed at protecting youth employment in Lagos State. Only 12.4% of respondents strongly agree that there are such policies, 3.4% are those that also agree. A larger proportion 18.9% disagree, while 65.4% strongly disagree. The percentage of those that generally disagree with the statement on government intervention policies was against what the researcher discovered while discussing with the informants on the field. When the same question was posted at the executive of the local government and the local council development authorities, one their responses are;

The government is actually trying for the youths who are actually going into doing business or have been training in one skill or the other. For example, the Lagos State government usually gives the new businesses a tax holiday. This is the situation where such people and businesses are exempted from paying tax for a particular number of years. This is meant to protect the new businesses, especially those that belong to youth.

**(IDI, Chairman, Alimosho Local Government, 20/March/2023)**

In a focus group discussion with members of the communities in the Okunola/Mosan and Egbeda/Idimu LCDAs, they were also asked if they are aware of any of the government intervention that can help youth out of unemployment. A community leader said,

Government is not doing enough. Although they have some programmes in which they claim they want to use to help unemployed youths but most of those programmes are in the area of skill acquisition and vocational training. Please does it make any sense for you to tell a graduate and even in some cases masters holders to go and start learning how to make soap or give them *okada* to be riding. These are some of the reasons many of the unemployed youths do not even want to listen to them whenever they start shouting about empowerment programs.

**(FGD, Abesan Community, Alimosho Local Government, 20/May/2023)**

It from this findings that we are able to infer that although, there are many ways through which the government at both the state and the local government levels are intervening in the course of the youth. A few of the programmes were even in collaboration with many other organisations, but the publicity about such programmes are grossly inadequate and mostly do not reach those that needs it the most, especially the youth that are unemployed. We can also infer that unemployed youth are expected to look out for opportunities and not result to whatever fate brought to them. There are various opportunities either from the governments or from well-meaning individuals in the society that can help them out of unemployment. They should be ready to make use of such opportunities.

#### **4.6 Chi-Square Test of Association**

Table 4.6.1: Pearson Correlation test of relationship between youth unemployment and criminal behaviour

		Unemployment	Criminal behaviour
Unemployment	Pearson correlation	1	-.082
	Sig (2-tailed)		0.04
	N	420	420
Criminal behaviour	Pearson correlation	-.082	1
	Sig (2-tailed)	0.04	
	N	420	420

From the result of Pearson correlation above, it shows that there is a significance relationship between youth unemployment and criminal behaviour of youths in Alimosho local government area of Lagos state. This is because the sig. (2-tailed) value 0.04 is less than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected and we accept the alternative hypothesis.

#### 4.7 Discussion of findings

To reiterate, the study examined the implication of youth unemployment on criminal behaviour in Alimosho Local Government Area, of Lagos State, with four major objectives in mind. On the causes of unemployment affecting the youth population in Alimosho Local Government Area are multifaceted, encompassing economic, educational, social, and governance-related factors. These challenges requires a comprehensive approach that includes enhancing educational curricula, promoting vocational training, improving access to capital, and implementing effective government policies<sup>35</sup>. Unemployment among the youth in Alimosho Local Government Area, Lagos State, is a pressing issue that stems from a combination of structural, economic, and social factors. These causes are crucial for developing effective policies and interventions aimed at

alleviating the problem and improving the prospects for young people in the region<sup>40</sup>.

One of the primary causes of youth unemployment in Alimosho is the economic landscape of Nigeria, which has been characterized by limited job creation. The rapid urbanization of Lagos has led to a population influx, resulting in a saturated job market that cannot absorb the increasing number of job seekers<sup>12,16</sup>. Many businesses struggle to thrive in a competitive environment, leading to stagnant employment opportunities. Another significant factor contributing to youth unemployment in Alimosho is the mismatch between educational qualifications and labor market needs. Many young graduates possess degrees in fields that do not align with the demands of employers<sup>38</sup>, leading to high levels of underemployment or unemployment. Vocational and technical training programs are often insufficient or poorly promoted, leaving youths without the practical skills needed for available jobs. This disconnect between education and industry requirements exacerbates the challenge of youth unemployment<sup>23</sup>.

The connection between youth unemployment and criminality is a pressing concern that can be understood through economic desperation, pushing some young individuals towards crime as a means of survival. With limited job opportunities and rising costs of living, many unemployed youths may resort to theft, robbery, or drug trafficking to meet their financial needs. This shift towards criminal behavior is often seen as a rational response to a lack of legitimate means to achieve economic stability<sup>36</sup>. When young people lack purpose and engagement, they may seek belonging and identity within gangs or criminal networks. These groups often provide a sense of community and support, albeit through illegal activities. The allure of quick financial gain can further entice unemployed youths to participate in crime, perpetuating a cycle of violence and

instability.

Studies have also found that substance use form parts of risk behaviours in which adolescents tend to engage themselves. These demographic variables are important because youths with these characteristics are said to be at risk of substance abuse as reported in previous studies carried. Youths are always curious about how substances will affect their behaviour or thinking, as a result they get involved in substance use which always leads to abuse. This stance was supported by scholars<sup>45</sup> where they also pointed out that curiosity is one of the individuals' factors that lead to substance abuse the most in a study they carried out in Kenya on university students.

Usually, the first experience in drug abuse produces a state of arousal such as happiness and pleasure which in turn motivate youths to continue the act. Very importantly, the fact that this study revealed that more than half of the study participants were from polygamous homes, also suggests that they may have lacked proper parental love and care which is common in polygamous homes and are also predisposing factors to substance use; this usually make the youths to take solace in substance use for succor. This assertion is also supported by the finding of Akinnuoye et al, in a study they carried out in Ibadan among secondary school students where it was also confirmed that students from polygamous homes were more susceptible to substance abuse.

The findings of the study is also in line with findings of scholars who discussed the psychological impact of unemployment, including feelings of hopelessness, frustration, and low self-esteem, can also drive youths towards criminality<sup>37,42,51</sup>. Many young individuals experience a sense of alienation and disenchantment with societal structures, leading to aggressive behaviors and criminal acts as an outlet for their emotions. This

psychological strain is exacerbated by the lack of social support systems, leaving many youths feeling isolated in their struggles. The link between youth unemployment and criminality has significant implications for community safety and cohesion in Alimosho. Increased crime rates contribute to a pervasive sense of insecurity, deterring investment and economic growth<sup>34</sup>. This creates a cycle where unemployment persists, leading to further criminal activity and social disintegration.

The patterns of criminality among youths in Alimosho Local Government Area are of different kinds and nature. The patterns reflect a complex interplay of community dynamics, and individual circumstances. The high rates of youth unemployment and social dislocation in this densely populated area have contributed to the emergence of various forms of criminal behavior such as burglary and theft. Economic desperation often drives unemployed youths to engage in these activities as a means of financial survival. The study also found that illicit drug trade is another significant concern in Alimosho, where many youths become involved in drug trafficking and abuse. This also align with studies in the region<sup>13,26,37</sup>. The high demand for drugs in urban areas, coupled with economic hardship, pushes some young people to engage in drug-related activities, either as dealers or users. This pattern not only contributes to criminality but also exacerbates public health issues within the community. Gang activities have also become a notable pattern among youths in Alimosho. Many young people seek belonging and identity within gangs, which can lead to violent confrontations, extortion, and other criminal acts<sup>22</sup>. Gangs often provide a sense of community and support, but they also perpetuate cycles of violence and crime, making it difficult for youths to break free from these destructive patterns.

With the rise of technology, cybercrime has emerged as a growing trend among Nigerian youths, including those in Alimosho. Many young individuals engage in online scams and fraud, exploiting digital vulnerabilities for financial gain. This pattern reflects both the allure of quick money and the limited opportunities available through traditional employment<sup>29</sup>. While not as prevalent as theft or drug-related offenses, violent crimes, including assault and homicide, have been reported among youths in Alimosho. Factors such as territorial disputes, gang rivalries, and personal grievances often escalate into violence, contributing to a climate of fear and insecurity in the community<sup>17,25</sup>. Governmental interventions aimed at addressing youth unemployment in Alimosho Local Government Area, Lagos State, are essential for tackling the challenges faced by the region's young population.

Various initiatives have been implemented to alleviate unemployment and promote economic empowerment, with mixed effects observed. One of the primary governmental interventions has been the introduction of job creation programs targeting youth. These initiatives aim to generate employment opportunities through public works and infrastructure projects. While some youths have benefited from these programs, the overall impact has been limited due to insufficient scale and inconsistent implementation<sup>12</sup>. Many young people remain unemployed, as job creation efforts often do not meet the high demand for work. Vocational training programs have been established to equip youths with practical skills needed in the job market. These initiatives are crucial in addressing the skills mismatch that contributes to unemployment. However, the effectiveness of these programs has been hindered by inadequate resources, lack of awareness, and insufficient alignment with market needs. While some youths gain

valuable skills, many still struggle to find employment due to the limited availability of jobs in their trained fields<sup>9,16</sup>.

The government has also introduced measures to promote entrepreneurship among youths, including access to funding, mentorship, and training. These interventions aim to empower young people to create their own businesses and become economically independent. While there have been success stories, challenges such as limited access to capital, bureaucratic hurdles, and a lack of comprehensive support systems often impede the effectiveness of these initiatives. Community engagement initiatives have been implemented to foster collaboration between local government and youth organizations<sup>21</sup>. These programs aim to raise awareness about available resources and create a supportive environment for unemployed youths.

While they can enhance community solidarity and provide a platform for voicing concerns, their impact is often limited by low participation rates and insufficient outreach efforts. Governmental policies addressing youth unemployment have included reforms aimed at improving the overall economic environment. These reforms are essential for creating a conducive atmosphere for job creation and investment. However, inconsistent implementation and the prevalence of corruption can undermine these efforts, leading to skepticism among the youth regarding the effectiveness of government interventions.

The effects of governmental interventions on youth unemployment in Alimosho Local Government Area are mixed, reflecting both successes and ongoing challenges. While various initiatives aim to address the issue, their limited impact is often due to inadequate resources, misalignment with market needs, and implementation issues<sup>47</sup>. To enhance the effectiveness of these interventions, a comprehensive approach that includes

stakeholder collaboration, consistent funding, and alignment with local economic realities is essential. By strengthening these efforts, the government can better support the youth population and contribute to reducing unemployment in Alimosho<sup>42</sup>.

The unemployment and criminal behavioural situation existing among the Nigerian youth population do pose serious security challenges to the sovereignty and corporate existence of the Nigerian state. There are feasible strategies that could be adopted in order to resolve the youth unemployment situation and criminal behavioural activities which are taking heavy toll on national unity and cohesion. There is strong and positive relationship existing the variables such as youth unemployment, criminal behavior, national security and stability of the Nigerian state<sup>51</sup>.

This finding supported previous study conducted by Danjuma et al. in the Federal Polytechnic, Bida, where they reported that five in every ten participants in their study opined that most of the nonconventional substance users are aware of the dangers associated with the abuse of substances, yet, nothing deterred them from substance abuse. This finding is also corroborated by the finding of a similar study carried out in Ethiopia on substance abuse among youths in Addis Ababa where it was reported that majority of participants had adequate knowledge about harmful effects of addictive substances, yet they were involved in taking illicit drugs. They further pointed out that the youths had limited information regarding treatment and intervention options. This highlights the need for spreading more awareness about treatment of substance abuse via awareness creations, lectures, media and campaign at larger levels. In the same vein, the situation of substance abuse among the youths in this study is disturbing and warrants the need for urgent action by all stakeholders (parents, teachers, government) to reduce the menace of substance

abuse

## **Chapter Five**

### **Conclusion**

The research study is an empirical survey of the relationship that exists between unemployment and criminal behavior among the youth population in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State, Nigeria, given the worsening situation of banditry, insecurity, insurgency and terrorist activities in the area, and the implication for national stability and cohesion. The study also seeks to test the prospects for conflict resolution and enduring peace in Nigeria.

#### **5.1 Summary of Findings**

The study summarises that youth unemployment is a significant and pressing issue in Alimosho Local Government Area, Lagos State. This is because the local government and its LCDAs are characterized by the volume of the population, being the largest in Nigeria. The study area is also characterized by high rate of criminality that contribute to various social challenges, including an increase in criminal behavior among the youth population<sup>52</sup>. This complex relationship between unemployment and crime can be

attributed to a variety of socio-economic factors, community dynamics, and psychological influences. Alimosho, as one of the most populated areas in Lagos State, faces acute challenges related to youth unemployment.

A combination of rapid urbanization, a growing youth population, and insufficient job creation has led to a high unemployment rate among young people. Many youths, particularly graduates, find themselves without meaningful job opportunities, leading to frustration and disenchantment with their circumstances<sup>42,43,44,45,46</sup>.

This sense of hopelessness is often compounded by a lack of vocational training programs and limited access to resources that could facilitate entrepreneurship. The relationship between youth unemployment and criminal behavior in Alimosho is deeply rooted in economic desperation<sup>13</sup>. When legitimate avenues for financial stability are blocked, some young individuals may resort to crime as a means of survival. Common forms of criminal activity include theft, armed robbery, and drug trafficking. The perception that criminal acts can provide quick financial gain often leads unemployed youths to justify their actions as necessary for survival. This behavior reflects a broader societal issue where crime becomes an acceptable alternative in the absence of viable economic opportunities.

In addition to economic factors, social dynamics play a crucial role in shaping criminal behavior among unemployed youths in Alimosho. Many young individuals seek a sense of belonging and identity, often turning to gangs that can offer camaraderie and support<sup>21</sup>. These gangs may engage in various criminal activities, including extortion and violent confrontations, which can further entrench youths in a cycle of crime. The desire for social acceptance, coupled with the

absence of positive role models and community support, exacerbates this issue, as young people are drawn into criminal networks that offer an alternative to their harsh realities.

The psychological impact of prolonged unemployment can lead to feelings of frustration, hopelessness, and aggression. Frustration-Aggression Theory posits that when individuals experience barriers to achieving their goals, their anger may manifest as aggressive behavior. In Alimosho, many unemployed youths may direct their frustration outward, resulting in criminal acts. This psychological strain, compounded by environmental stressors, creates a fertile ground for criminality, as young people lash out against societal barriers that seem insurmountable.

The increase in criminal behavior linked to youth unemployment poses significant challenges for community safety in Alimosho. Rising crime rates create an atmosphere of fear and insecurity, deterring investment and economic growth. This not only perpetuates the cycle of unemployment but also undermines community cohesion<sup>11</sup>. As residents become more anxious about their safety, the social fabric of the community weakens, further alienating unemployed youths and reducing their chances of reintegration into society.

Addressing the link between youth unemployment and criminal behavior requires a multifaceted approach. Government interventions should focus on job creation, vocational training, and entrepreneurship support to provide young people with legitimate avenues for economic empowerment. Community engagement initiatives that promote positive youth development and social inclusion are crucial. Fostering a sense of belonging and providing mentorship opportunities,

communities can help steer young people away from crime and toward productive pathways. The relationship between youth unemployment and criminal behavior in Alimosho Local Government Area is complex and deeply intertwined with socio-economic, psychological, and social factors<sup>6,14</sup>. To mitigate the criminality, comprehensive strategies that address the root causes of unemployment and promote positive community engagement are essential. This can be done by investing in the future of its youth, Alimosho can work toward reducing crime rates and fostering a safer, more prosperous community.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

The study concluded that the relationship between youth unemployment and criminal behavior is influenced by various interrelated factors. From economic desperation, psychological impacts, social dynamics, and community environments, all of these play significant roles in shaping the behaviors of young people. To effectively combat youth crime, it is essential to address the root causes of unemployment and foster environments that promote positive youth development. Implementing targeted policies and community initiatives, societies can create a framework that not only reduces unemployment but also mitigates the risks of criminal behavior among their youth, paving the way for a safer and more prosperous future. The relationship between youth unemployment and criminal behavior is a multifaceted issue that poses significant challenges for societies worldwide, particularly in regions with high rates of unemployment. This conclusion synthesizes the various aspects of this relationship, emphasizing the socio-economic, psychological, and community dynamics that intertwine to shape

the behaviors of young people.

At its core, youth unemployment creates an environment of economic desperation that can lead to criminal behavior. When legitimate job opportunities are scarce, young individuals often face limited options for financial survival. This desperation can drive them to engage in criminal activities such as theft, robbery, and drug trafficking as alternative means of generating income. The perception of crime as a viable option is particularly prevalent in areas where economic conditions are dire and where the social safety nets are weak or nonexistent. In such contexts, engaging in illegal activities may seem like the only path available to escape poverty, thereby reinforcing the cycle of crime.

The psychological effects of prolonged unemployment significantly contribute to the propensity for criminal behavior among youths. Feelings of frustration, hopelessness, and social alienation often accompany unemployment, leading to a decline in mental well-being. Frustration-Aggression Theory posits that when individuals experience barriers to their goals—such as employment—they may channel their frustration into aggression or criminal acts. For many unemployed youths, the absence of purpose and the emotional toll of their circumstances can result in maladaptive behaviors, including violence and delinquency. As young people grapple with the psychological burdens of unemployment, their likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior increases, highlighting the need for mental health support alongside economic initiatives.

Social dynamics also play a crucial role in linking youth unemployment to

criminal behavior. In communities where unemployment rates are high, young people may turn to peer groups for support and validation. These groups can sometimes promote deviant behaviors, including gang involvement and criminal activity, as a means of gaining respect, identity, or financial gain. The desire for belonging can lead unemployed youths to associate with gangs or criminal networks that provide a sense of community but simultaneously entrench them deeper into cycles of crime. This social dimension underscores the importance of fostering positive peer influences and creating supportive environments that promote constructive engagement over criminal affiliations.

Community factors significantly influence the relationship between youth unemployment and criminal behavior. In areas marked by high unemployment, a lack of social cohesion, and inadequate public services, the likelihood of crime increases. The absence of positive role models, recreational facilities, and educational opportunities can leave young people feeling marginalized and disempowered. In such environments, criminal behavior can become normalized, as young individuals mimic the actions of those around them. Community initiatives that enhance social capital, promote civic engagement, and provide resources for youth development are critical in mitigating these effects. By fostering a sense of belonging and community investment, the risk of criminal behavior can be reduced.

Addressing the link between youth unemployment and criminal behavior requires a comprehensive approach that integrates economic, psychological, and community-focused strategies. Policymakers should prioritize job creation,

vocational training, and entrepreneurship programs to provide young people with viable pathways to economic independence. Additionally, mental health services and counseling should be integrated into these initiatives to address the psychological toll of unemployment. Community engagement programs that foster positive relationships and mentorship opportunities can further help steer youths away from crime.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

The following recommendations have been suggested in order to have a robust policy and which would, if implemented, be of great importance to the development of youth and ending if not eradicate youth unemployment in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos and Nigeria at large. Based on the study findings the following template or conditions can be adopted to address the unemployment and criminal behavior in Alimosho local government area of Lagos state Nigeria.

1. The country's educational system be overhauled. Every aspect of the Nigerian school curriculum are either outdated or out of reach with global economic reality. Most of the subjects taught do not address socio -economic issues nor do they contribute to mental growth.
2. The educational system is most designed to glorify grades rather than knowledge and skills. It is little wondered therefore that few Nigerian graduated lack the skills needed to thrive in the 21st century economy hence many of those that try to find work must be retrained and reoriented to fit into the world of work. The new curriculum should replace irrelevant subjects with those that teaches contemporary skills such as

critical thinking, information technology and leadership concepts.

3. Another recommendation is to subsidize capacity building trainings for the youth.

Nigeria boast of world class capacity builders committed to helping younger people fulfilled their potentials, but at a very high cost, hence extremely difficult to be undertaken by most of the younger Nigerians.

4. The government at all tiers must subsidized greatly this trainings and help more younger generation to partake and benefit from this notable service and phenomenon.

5. Funding of entrepreneurship is another very important factor that could help reduce very drastically the problem of unemployment and criminal behavior amongst youth in Alimosho local government area and by extension Nigeria. According to Sulaimon Olarenwaju (2023). "I have seen enough of many fellow young Nigerians to know that many will succeed as entrepreneur if supported financially.

6. Many young Nigerians have very viable business ideas but are faced with financial challenges. Thanks to host of non-governmental organizations who have funded business proposals. This laudable initiative from this foundation, younger people have been able to create more job opportunities for their peer groups. The various tiers of government are therefore enjoined and encouraged to follow suit by providing more capital or funds to prospective business owners either as grants or interest free rate.

7. The government should make available more well-equipped skilled acquisition centers where the youth can learn or be trained on skills of their choice and set up structures that can absorb them that has been trained.

8. Lastly, is the need for the government to do everything humanly possible to improve on the power generation production so as reduce cost of production, aid the

establishment of new organization and sustain the existing ones?

#### **5.4 Contribution to Knowledge**

The study on youth unemployment and criminal behavior in Alimosho Local Government contributes significantly to the existing body of knowledge in several ways. The study has provided empirical data on the specific factors linking unemployment to criminal activities among youth in this unique urban context. Focusing on Alimosho, the research highlighted local socio-economic conditions that may differ from other regions based on the population in Alimosho. The findings can also help policymakers identify targeted interventions that address both unemployment and crime prevention. The study has revealed underlying psychological and social factors influencing youth choices, enriching theoretical frameworks like the frustration and aggression that was employed to link criminology and psychology to the context of this work. It has also offered insights into community perceptions and attitudes towards crime and employment, which can inform local governance and community initiatives. The research can serve as a model for similar studies in other local governments facing comparable issues. It has also incorporated qualitative methods such as FGDs and in-depth interviews, the study adds depth to quantitative findings, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the challenges. Finally, this research can contribute to developing evidence-based strategies that empower youth and reduce criminal behavior in Alimosho and beyond.

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## APPENDIX I

**DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY AND SECURITY STUDIES,  
FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES,  
LEAD CITY UNIVERSITY, IBADAN  
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YOUTH RESPONDENTS ON UNEMPLOYMENT**

Dear Respondent,

My name is Ukhureigbe, Alex a student of master students in the Department of Criminology and Security Studies Lead City University, Ibadan, I humbly request you to answer the questions on **Youth Unemployment and Criminal Behaviour in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State, Nigeria**. The answers will be confidential and only for academic purposes.

Tick in the box to select and fill the answers in the lines provided

### SECTION A: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

S/N	Items	Categories	Codes
1	Age range	21 -25 26 -30 31-35 36 -40 41 – 45	1 2 3 4 5
2	Sex	Male Female Others specify	1 2 3
3	Educational level	No formal education Primary Secondary Tertiary	1 2 3 4
4	Religious affiliation	Christianity Islam African Traditional Religion	1 2 3
5	Ethnicity	Yoruba Igbo Hausa Others	1 2 3 4
6	Occupation type	Fill as appropriate	
7			

<b>Section B: Causes of youth unemployment</b>			
	<b>Variables</b>	<b>Categories</b>	<b>Codes</b>
8	Population of people in my area has increased the rate of unemployment	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
9	Youth unemployment was caused as a result of Nigeria economy plunging into recession	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
10	The educational system and curriculum do not support industry practice	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
11	Corruption governance is a major factor that is causing youth unemployment	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
12	Government regulations such ban on foreign rice etc, usually lead to unemployment in some cases	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
13	Rural-Urban migration has made youth unemployment increase drastically	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
14	There are too many expatriates in the country competing for the same job as Nigerians therefore reducing the chance of Nigerians getting the job	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
15	Because of insecurity in the country those working on the farms could not work there again and are moving to the cities	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
16	Advancement in technology is capable of rendering an already working person to be unemployed	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree	1 2 3 4

		Strongly Disagree	5
17	The economy is not diversified therefore so many people are only focusing on a particular type of job or businesses making it more difficult	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
18	Erratic power supply has rendered so many business people	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
<b>Section C: Links between youth unemployment and criminal behaviors</b>			
19	Any youth that has no job can think of committing crime in order to sustain life	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
20	Any youth that has no job can conspire with criminals to rob anyone	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
21	Any youth that has no job can aid and abet criminal elements within their neighbourhood	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
22	Any youth that has no job can be easily influenced by peer pressure to be deviant in the society	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
23	Any youth that has no job is prone to substance abuse and other related deviant behaviour	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
<b>Section D: Patterns of criminality among unemployed youths forms</b>			
24	Crime committed by unemployed youths are usually minor in nature	Strongly Agree Agree Agree Undecided	1 2 3 4

		Disagree Strongly Disagree	5
25	Crime committed by unemployed youths are usually well planned	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
26	Unemployment can lead some youths into committing armed	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
27	Unemployment has led some youths into committing burglary	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
28	Unemployment has led some youths into committing internet fraud	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
29	Unemployment has led some youths into committing rape	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
30	Unemployment can lead some youths into business of kidnapping	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree	1 2 3 4 5

		Strongly Disagree	
31	Unemployment can lead some youths into blackmailing people for monetary gains	Strongly Agree Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
32	Unemployment can lead some youths into trafficking drug for barons and other forms of trafficking	Strongly Agree Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
<b>Section E: Effect of government interventions in solving youth unemployment</b>			
29	Government is trying her best in reducing youth unemployment in this local government	Strongly Agree Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
30	We have benefitted in various programmes of the government in order to reduce youth unemployment	Strongly Agree Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
31	I know of some youths that were given job by the N-Power programme of the federal government	Strongly Agree Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5
32	The youth center that has just been inaugurated by the Lagos State Government in Abesan will be of tremendous benefit to me.	Strongly Agree Agree Agree Undecided Disagree	1 2 3 4 5

		Strongly Disagree	
33	There are government intervention policies that are aimed at protecting youth employment in Lagos State	Strongly Agree Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	1 2 3 4 5

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## APPENDIX II

### DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY AND SECURITY STUDIES, FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, LEAD CITY UNIVERSITY, IBADAN

#### Interview Guide: For Government Officials about Youth Unemployment

Dear Participant,

My name is Ukhureigbe, Alex a student of master students in the Department of Criminology and Security Studies Lead City University, Ibadan, I humbly request you to answer the questions on **Youth Unemployment and Criminal Behaviour in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State, Nigeria**. The answers will be confidential and only for academic purposes.

#### SECTION A: Bio data

1. Age .....
2. Sex: MALE  FEMALE
3. Occupation .....
4. Qualification .....

**Objective One: find out the causes of unemployment that is affecting the youth of**

**Alimosho Local Government Area, of Lagos State; probe for:**

- i. What do you understand by unemployment?
- ii. Are there unemployed youth in your local government?
- iii. What is the rate of unemployment in this local government?
- iv. How can population growth of this local government cause unemployment?
- v. What are the categories of youth that are mostly affected?

- vi. How can government policies lead to unemployment?
- vii. What are the other causes of unemployment that you know?

**Objective Two: investigate the possible links between youth unemployment and criminal behaviors in Alimosho Local Government Area, of Lagos State; Probe for**

- i. What kind of criminal behavior can be seen without unemployed youth?
- ii. How can unemployment make youths vulnerable to crime?
- iii. Was there any time you heard that unemployment was the reason for a youth that commits crime?
- iv. How can unemployment be a motivating factor for youth to venture into internet crime?
- v. When youths are not gainfully employed, how can it increase the rate of insecurity in this local government?

**Objective Three: find out the patterns of criminality among youths in Alimosho Local Government Area, of Lagos State; Probe for;**

- i. What are the patterns of criminality that are thriving in your local government now?
- ii. Who are the major stakeholders in reducing patterns of criminality in this local government?
- iii. What are the measures put in place to reduce criminality in your local government?
- iv. What types of collaboration exist between security agencies and the local government in reducing patterns of criminality?

**Objective Four: examine the effect of government interventions available in solving the challenges of youth unemployment in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State; Probe for;**

- i. How many interventions has government provided in other salvage the rate of unemployment in Nigeria?
- ii. Can you name the various intervention programmes of the government concerning youth unemployment?
- iii. How often do you do the evaluation of the intervention programme?
- iv. What are the challenges of the intervention programmes?
- v. How have you been able to handle these challenges?

## APPENDIX II

### DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY AND SECURITY STUDIES, FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, LEAD CITY UNIVERSITY, IBADAN

#### **Focus Group Discussion: For Community Leaders, Landlord/Landlady's Associations on Youth Unemployment**

Dear Participant,

My name is Ukhureigbe, Alex a student of master students in the Department of Criminology and Security Studies Lead City University, Ibadan, I humbly request you to answer the questions on **Youth Unemployment and Criminal Behaviour in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State, Nigeria**. The answers will be confidential and only for academic purposes.

**Objective One: find out the causes of unemployment that is affecting the youth of Alimosho Local Government Area, of Lagos State; probe for:**

- i. Are there unemployed youth in your local government?
- ii. What is the rate of unemployment in this local government?
- iii. What are the categories of youth that are mostly affected?
- iv. What are the other causes of unemployment that your know?

**Objective Two: investigate the possible links between youth unemployment and criminal behaviors in Alimosho Local Government Area, of Lagos State; Probe for**

- i. What kind of criminal behavior can be seen without unemployed youth?
- ii. How can unemployment be a motivating factor for youth to venture into internet crime?

- iii. When youths are not gainfully employed, how can it increase the rate of insecurity in this local government?

**Objective Three: find out the patterns of criminality among youths in Alimosho Local Government Area, of Lagos State; Probe for;**

- i. What are the patterns of criminality that are thriving in your neighbourhood now?
- ii. Who are the major stakeholders in reducing patterns of criminality in this neighbourhood?
- iii. What are the community measures that are put in place to reduce criminality in your neighbourhood?
- iv. What types of collaboration exist between security agencies and the neighbourhood in reducing patterns of criminality?

**Objective four: examine the effect of government interventions available in solving the challenges of youth unemployment in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State; Probe for;**

- i. How many interventions has government provided in other salvage the rate of unemployment in Nigeria
- ii. What challenges do you face in reducing youth unemployment in this neighbourhood?
- iii. How can the above challenges be solved?

## Bio – data

### A. Personal Data

Full Name: Alexander Ailendesuan UKHUREIGBE  
Gender: Male  
Marital Status: Married  
Address: Plot 33 Oselu Street Igando Alimosho Local Government, Lagos State  
Email: ukhureigbealex@gmail.com  
Phone No: 08023671866  
Date of Birth: October 26, 1971  
State of Origin: Edo State  
Nationality: Nigerian

### B. Educational Background

#### Educational Institution Attended with Dates and Qualifications

Lead City University, Ibadan	MSc (in view) Criminology and Security Studies	2024
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, (PGD)	Criminology and Security Study	2020
Ogun state Polytechnic, Ilaro,	HND Mass Communication	1995
Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi	OND Mass Communication	1992
St Finbars Catholic College Akoka	West Africa Examination	1989
St Domic Catholic Primary School First School	Leaving Certificate	1984

### C. Working Experience:

Mails Newspaper                      **Reporter**  
Nems Insurance Company PLC      Underwriter  
NNPC                      National Youth Service/ Facilitator

Lagos State Government Civil Service	2000
Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA ) Ilupeju- Oshodi,	2000

**D. Publications**

Nil

**E. Referees**

- Mr Joe Odama  
DSS Service  
Abuja
- Mr Oki Bakare Olamilekan  
General Manager  
Lagos State Traffic Management Authority  
Lagos,
- Hon Biodun Orekoya  
Member Lagos State House of Assemble  
Lagos

**Signature**

**Date**

### **The University Compliance Certification**

This is to certify that, this thesis by Alexander Ailendesuan UKHUREIGBE with matriculation number LCU/PG/0020159 in the Department of Criminology and Security Studies, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan is in full compliance with the approved University format and style.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

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