YOUTH RESTIVENESS IN NIGERIA: AN EVALUATION OF IKORODU LOCAL GOVERNMENT, LAGOS, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Youth Restiveness is an attribute of youthful exuberance which has become a global phenomenon. The increasing rate of youth restiveness is alarming and it is posing serious challenges to developing countries of the world especially Nigeria with large population of youths. Youth restiveness has attracted the attention of policy makers and stakeholders in Nigeria. Youth restiveness and its attendant consequences have greatly contributed to insecurities and Uncertainties in Nigeria. This paper undertakes an examination of youth restiveness in Nigeria. It is anchored on the theory of deprivation for its theoretical framework. The paper adopted survey method as research design. 120 respondents were selected from population through the purposive sampling technique. Data for this paper were drawn from both primary and from questionnaire administered granted by the respondents while secondary sources from library. The paper reveals that drug abuse, illiteracy, unemployment, poverty, and poor child up bringing among others are some of the causes by youth restiveness. The paper recommended among others that the Government should provide basic social amenities such as water, good roads, health care center, electricity etc and also provide more opportunities to create employments for the youth.

***Keywords**: Youth, Restiveness, Ikorodu, Nigeria, Unemployment*

Introduction

Nigeria is one of Africa's most populous countries which boast one of the greatest youth populations in the world. According to United Nations population predictions for 2020, around 43 percent of Nigeria's population is under the age of 14, 19

percent is 15-24 years old, and 62 percent is under the age of 25. In comparison, just around 5% of the population is above the age of 60.

Youth development is supposed to be one of a country's top objectives since they are being groomed to be tomorrow's leaders. Youths are powerful force that may lead to significant development and change if their energies are appropriately channelled. However, if such energy are diverted to acts that are detrimental to national growth, such a country would undoubtedly face a slew of problems (Eze-Micheal, 2020). According to the Centre for Public Policy Alternatives (2016), Nigerian youths are seen as hardworking, sociable/gregarious, tribally influenced, materialistic and consumeristic, religious, and have a delayed transition to maturity. Youth are also described by the Nigerian government as ambitious, passionate, dynamic, and promising.

Restiveness among young people has become a global issue, with levels in Nigeria at an all-time high. Over the last decade, there has been an unprecedented increase in violent crime, including kidnappings, abductions, and indiscriminate damage of important infrastructure, as well as lives and personal property. In numerous examples of youth restiveness in Nigeria, Ojoba, Chima, and Emina (2020) define youth restiveness as the refusal of youngsters to be controlled because they are bored and dissatisfied with the condition of things affecting them especially in the society to which they belong. According to Amadi & Ofuru (2020), there are several types of young restlessness that have existed for a long time and may be influenced by economic, political, or religious factors. These are mostly juvenile behaviours that are socially undesirable and are motivated by the constituted authority's enforced desired goal (Yusufu, 2014). According to Igbo and Ikpa (2013), this bad trend is regrettable and has become one of the security issues that man faces in today's society.

In the case of any political or cultural conflict, these youngsters unleash horror and mayhem, thereby, youth who are seen as tomorrow's leaders, have become society's destroyers, since they have been heavily involved in all of the country's conflicts and bloodshed.

Eze-Micheal (2020) claimed that most Nigerian younths are unable to find work since jobs are few, and that this, along with corruption and bad government, have contributed to and pushed the country's youth to engage in such illegal activities. Most of our national discontents stem from poor leadership and administration, which manifests itself in the form of corruption, insecurity, and poverty. Nigeria's predicted youth unemployment rate in 2020 was almost 14.2 percent.

Characteristic	**Youth unemployment rate**
2019	13.96%
2018	13.72%
2017	13.96%
2016	12.48%

Source: https://www.statista.com≥ statistics ≥ youth unemployment

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria has experienced series of attacks, agitations, restiveness and blest ranging from diverse regions and localities in Nigeria especially from the youths. Hence, youth restiveness prevalence in Nigerian society is on the increase today. The inability of Nigeria youths to adjust to their environment, crave for wealth and lust for recognition are problems they are confronted with. Hence, the youths have become involved in kidnapping, vandalization of oil pipelines, increase rate of armed robbery, bomb attacks, thuggery murder, destruction of properties, increased insecurity and crude oil theft (bunkering) to mention but a few (Nsidibe et al, 2017) stated that restiveness orchestrated by youth has been on the increase in almost all communities in Nigeria, most especially in recent past.

Youth restiveness and its attendant consequences have greatly contributed to insecurities and Uncertainties in Nigeria. Its occurrence and persistence have ostensibly undermined and threatened social security in the country. The spiraling effect of youth restiveness are evident in Nigeria as ethnic militia, kidnapping, cultism, armed robbery, agitations and involvement in social insecurity are gaining ground (Akpokighe and Ejovi, 2021).

It is against this background that this current paper attempts to examine the predisposing and enabling factors responsible for the prevalence of youth restiveness.

Research Questions

1. What are the causes of youth restiveness in Nigeria
2. What are the consequence of youth restiveness in Nigeria
3. What are the remedies to youth restiveness in Nigeria

Conceptual Clarification

Youth

Because it exists and has significance primarily in relation to the idea of maturity, youth is a relational term. Youth is a phase of transition from childhood dependence to adulthood's freedom and awareness of the necessity to collaborate with other members of society to attain the society's goals and objectives (United Nations Youth, 2019). Youth in this context, according to Uriah, Egbezor, and Ololube (2014), may be defined as young men and women who are no longer children but not yet adults. Youths are a force to be reckoned with, and if their energy are correctly channelled, tremendous development and improvement may be achieved (Eze-Micheal, 2020). Youthfulness is highly essential in every community since it contributes positively to a country's growth and progress.

Youth Restiveness

Youth restiveness is a collection of acts, behaviours, and attitudes that create unwholesome, socially undesirable behaviour among teenagers. Adolescents' restiveness has long been a tool employed by youth to achieve what they want from

the appropriate authorities. Restiveness among youth can be defined as a long-term protest aimed at getting a desired result from a legitimate authority (Eze-Micheal, 2020). Youth restiveness is a particularly severe kind of aberrant behaviour among teenagers that is socially undesirable in any community. It is a difficult-to-control incapacity of youngsters to be still or quiet, especially when they are dissatisfied with anything. It is concerned with concerns of deprivation, neglect, marginalisation, and other sentiments of discontent experienced by youth. Elegbeleye (2005) describes it as a "sustain protest launched to compel a desired consequence from a constituted authority by an organised body of adolescents." It's accompanied by lawlessness, strife, and bloodshed. Restlessness, according to Chika and Onyene (2010), is the inability or unwillingness to be controlled, particularly when one is bored or dissatisfied with specific judgments, altered or existing rules deemed unfavourable. We'll use the term "youth" to refer to persons aged 15 to 30 in this article.

Theoretical Framework

Although there are several theories for explaining facts generated in research endeavours, such as relative deprivation theory, Strain Theory of deviance, frustration –Aggressive theory of crime, and the Social disorganisation theory (SDT), Frustration –Aggressive(F.A) theory of crime was chosen for the purposes of this study.

The frustration–aggression hypothesis, often known as the frustration–aggression–displacement theory, was presented by Dollard et al. in 1939 as an explanation of aggressiveness. Miller et al. refined it further in 1941 and Berkowitz in 1969. The frustration-aggressive theory was quickly adopted by the majority of social psychologists, and its essential assumptions were later employed by other social scientists in the creation of the influential deprivation theory of violence and aggression.

Aggression, according to this idea, is the outcome of a person's attempts to achieve a goal being blocked or frustrated. It makes an attempt to explain the origins of violence. "The emergence of violent conduct always requires the existing of frustration," Dollard et al. (1939) said, "and, conversely, the prevalence of frustration always leads to some kind of aggressiveness." Frustration was defined in this context as the failure to achieve a target reaction, as well as a goal response. However, the term 'frustration' is sometimes used to describe not just the process of preventing a person from achieving a goal, but also the reaction to that blocking. As a result, 'being frustrated' implies that one's access to goals is being obstructed by another party (or maybe by specific circumstances), as well as that one's reaction to this thwarting is irritation (Van der Dennen, 2016). Aggression is defined as a violent or non-physical action taken with the purpose to hurt another person (Baron & Richardson 1994). In the context of aggressive signals, frustration may promote aggressiveness. Berkowitz claims that (1994). The Aggressive-Cue hypothesis was revised. ‘Violent cues might

exacerbate the aggressive behaviour arising from a goal achievement obstacle,' he says.

As a result, the updated F-A hypothesis retains the following: (a) Frustration leads to angry or aggressive behaviour, depending on the situation. (a) Frustration is the root of every hostile or violent behaviour. To put it another way, frustration is a necessary but not sufficient prerequisite for animosity and aggressiveness. (Zillmann,1979)

According to Gurr (1970), the severity and scope of relative deprivation among members of a collectivity has a substantial bearing on the propensity for collective violence. There's a good chance they'll revolt if there's a big gap between what they think they deserve and what they think they'll get. Relative impoverishment predicts collective aggression by social groupings, just as dissatisfaction predicts violent conduct on the part of individuals (Maire, 2004).

The Frustration-Aggression Theory is a good fit for explaining why and how young people became violent or restless. One of the probable reasons of adolescent restlessness is frustration. Frustration is a psychological feeling of dissatisfaction caused by the inability to attain certain goals or solve difficulties. For example, most Nigerian young find it difficult to obtain work, the majority are illiterate, and poverty is a major issue for the majority of them. As a result, the majority of the adolescents resorted to violence to express their dissatisfaction.

Methodology

The research approach for this study is a descriptive survey technique, in which data is collected from a sample of respondents using a questionnaire. In quantitative research, survey research designs are processes in which investigators deliver a survey to a sample or the full population of individuals in order to characterise the population's views, opinions, behaviour, or attributes.

Ikorodu local government, which is made up of five Local Development Area Councils, namely Igbogbo-Baiyeku, Ikorodu North, Ikorodu West, Imota, and Ijede, is the study's population. Ikorodu is a major city in Nigeria's Lagos state. It is situated to the north-east of Lagos state and has a border with the state of Ogun state. It is biggest local government in Lagos state with a population of 938,000 people (Macrotrend.net, 2020).

Purposive random sampling was used in this study to identify two local council development regions that have a history of persistent youth unrest. Ikorodu North, Imota, and Ijede are the locations. A total of 120 people were chosen at random from these LCDAs. This is to guarantee that the population in the sampled regions has a proportional representation of the individuals who make up the population.

The questionnaire and the interview were the two main research tools used to gather pertinent data for this study. The questionnaire was designed with structured and closed-ended questions that required the respondent to communicate his or

her thoughts on the issue in a succinct and straightforward manner.

Analysis

Table 1: Sex

S/N	Sex	Frequency	Percentage
1	Male	90	75%
2	Female	30	25%

The above table shows that the majority of respondents interviewed were males with a total of 75% while 25% were females.

Table 2: Marital Status

S/N	Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
1	Single	50	41.6%
2	Married	35	29.2%
3	Divorced	15	12.5%
4	Widow	8	6.7%
5	Separated	12	10%

Table 2 shows that 41.6% were single 29.2% were married, 12.5% of were divorced. 6.7% were widow while10% have separated.

Table 3: Age Distribution

S/N	Age Distribution	Frequency	Percentages
1	15 – 20 years	55	45.8%
2	21 – 25 years	45	37.5%
3	26 – 30 years	20	16.6%

Table 3 shows that 15 – 20 years were 45.8%, 21 – 25 years were 37.5%, 26 – 30 were 16.6 %.

Table4. 4: Educational Qualification

S/N	Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
1	No Education	5	4.1%
2	FLC	25	20.8%
3	GCE/WASC	50	41.6%
4	OND/NCE	20	16.6%
5	HND/DEGREE	14	11.7%
6	Others	6	5%

Table 4 indicates that 4.1 have no education, 20.8% of the respondents have FSLC, 41.6% of the respondents have SSCE, 16.6% of the respondents have OND/NCE while 11.7 of the respondents have BSC/HND and 5% have other higher qualification.

Table 5 : Occupation

S/N	Occupation	Frequency	Percentage

1	Civil Servant	15	12.5%
2	Trader	18	15%
3	Artisan	24	20%
4	Student	18	15%
5	Unemployed	45	37.5%

Table 5 indicates that 12.5% of the respondents were civil servants, 15% of the respondents were traders, 20% of the respondents have Artisan, 15% of the respondents have students while 37.5% of the respondents were unemployed

Table 6: Causes of Youth Restiveness in Ikorodu Local Government

S/N	Causes	SA	A	U	D	SD
1	Unemployment	48	40	1	19	12
2	unceasing economic hardship	32	38	5	25	20
3	Illiteracy	50	43	2	16	9
4	Poor child upbringing and family Background	43	38	3	20	16
5	Poverty	39	36	4	28	13
6	Drugs abuse	40	39	2	20	19

Table 3 above shows that 88 respondents agreed that unemployment causes youth restiveness, 1 undecided while 31 respondents disagreed. 70 respondents agreed that unceasing economic hardship increases youth restiveness, 5 were undecided and 45 respondents disagreed.

85 respondents agreed that illiteracy contributes to youth restiveness while 2 respondents were undecided and 25 respondents disagreed.

81 respondents agreed that Poor child upbringing and family background contribute to youth restiveness while 3 were undecided and 36 respondents disagreed. 76 respondents agreed that poverty leads to youth restiveness while 4 respondents are undecided and 41 respondents disagreed. 79 respondents agreed that drug abuse causes youth restiveness while 2 respondents are undecided and 39 respondents disagreed.

Table 7: The Effects of Youth Restiveness in Ikorodu Local Government

S/N	Effects	SA	A	U	D	SD
1	Insecurity	56	49	2	6	7

2	Destruction of lives and property	60	41	2	12	5
3	Upsurge of social vices and crimes	45	54	4	8	9

The table shows that 105 respondents agreed that insecurity is one of the effects of youth restiveness, 2 respondents were undecided, whereas 13 respondents disagreed . Table 2 also shows that 101 respondents agreed that the effect of youth restiveness is the destruction of lives and property, 2 respondents were undecided, 17 respondents strongly disagreed .99 respondents agreed that upsurge of social vices and crimes are the effect of youth restiveness.

Table 8: The Remedies to Youth Restiveness

S/N	Remedies	SA	A	U	D	SD
1	Good governance	45	39	3	15	18
2	More employment opportunities	50	42	2	14	16
3	Improved and affordable educational system	48	40	2	19	11
4	Improve infrastructural facilities	45	39	4	22	10
5	Adequate information	40	38	5	17	20
6	Scholarships, Entrepreneurship loans and Skill acquisition programs.	45	34	3	26	11

The table above shows that 84 respondents agreed that there are remedies for reduction of youth restiveness in Nigeria, whereas 3 respondents strongly disagreed and 33 respondents disagreed

Table 3 also shows that 92 respondents agreed that creating more employment opportunities among the youths can reduce restiveness in Nigeria, while 30 respondents agreed and 2 respondents were undecided. 88 respondent agreed that improved and affordable educational system can be remedy to youth restiveness and 2 respondents were undecided while 31 disagreed.

Table 3 revealed that 84 respondents agreed that improved infrastructural facilities could influence the reduction of the youth restiveness in Nigeria, 4 respondents were undecided while 32 respondents disagreed. 78 respondents agreed that adequate information dissemination is a panacea to youth

restiveness in Nigeria, 5 respondents undecided and 37 respondents disagreed. Finally, it also revealed that 79 respondents agreed provision of scholarships, entrepreneurship loans and skill acquisition programs are remedies to youth restiveness, 3 respondents were undecided while 37 respondents disagreed.

Discussion of the Findings

The outcomes of this research demonstrate that there are several causes of young unrest in Nigeria, particularly in the local government of the focu. Drug addiction, illiteracy, unemployment, poverty, and poor child raising are among them. Several studies have found variables that contribute to adolescent restlessness. Lack of humanitarian and social welfare, lack of good governance, corrupt practises of government officials, inadequate training programmes, unemployment, inadequate recreational facilities, and lack of quality education were identified as reasons for incessant youth restiveness in a study conducted by Ofem and Ajayi (2005) (cited in Anasi, 2010). This suggests that young restlessness is caused by a slew of interconnected variables. According to the Centre for Public Policy Alternatives (2016), many undergraduates are unable to find “appropriate” attire for internships or industrial attachments, and graduates are underemployed or unemployed, leading to crime, prostitution, hooliganism, and the potential to be used as terror agents. The findings support Zakaria's (2006) assertion that a lack of employment prospects in developing nations is to blame for young restlessness, which has devastating repercussions. As shown by the frequent violent protests against the state, Aworawo (2000) and Zakaria (2006) concurred that there is a relationship between poverty, loss of livelihood, inequality, and young restiveness. Portable water, health facilities, power, communication facilities, industries, and commercial amenities are all unavailable in most rural villages and urban slums (Sani, Garba and Karfe, 2019). Lack of humanitarian and social welfare, lack of effective governance, corrupt practises of government officials, poor training programmes, inadequate recreational facilities, and lack of quality education are all factors that contribute to young restiveness, according to Ofem & Ajayi (2008). Furthermore, Mutiba (2011) found that lack of effective governance, unemployment, corrupt practises, and poverty are all painful elements that contribute to youth restiveness.

Table 2 shows that the negative impacts of restlessness on society are severe, including insecurity, destruction of lives and property, and an increase in social vices and crimes. Elegbeleye [2005] observed that young restlessness shows itself in criminal behaviours such as looting, robbery attacks, violent protests, and tribal disputes. According to Ajiboye, Adebayo, and Adegboyega (2016), young restiveness has become one of Nigeria's most serious security issues in the twenty-first century. The danger has presented major risks to human development in many regions of the nation, with significant implications for life, property, and the country's corporate survival. Savagery and young restiveness, according to Muogbo, Eze, and Obananya (2012), are major concerns

now damaging lives, property, and investment in Nigeria. Hostage snatching, violent demonstrations, wanton pulverisation of lives and property, making life in the country unsafe and unpleasant, and ongoing confrontations in many regions of Nigeria appear to be increasingly appealing to young people.

Good governance, increased employment possibilities, an improved and cheaper educational system, enhanced infrastructural facilities, enough information, availability of scholarships, entrepreneurial loans, and skill development programmes are among the treatments identified in

Table 3. In support of the facts above, Ogundare (2020) highlighted why the government must spend heavily in functional education, which would lead to the establishment of employment for the economy's development and other life-enhancing possibilities, since this will go a long way toward reducing young restlessness. This is consistent with Ogunseye's (2020) conclusions that the future of Nigeria's youth is jeopardised as a result of the ruling class's enormous exploitation of the country's common resources without contributing to production. Sokari (2006) feels that information is essential for individuals to be free of ignorance, misunderstandings, economic stagnation, social discontent, and political instability. Without timely, accurate, and relevant information, social cohesiveness cannot be achieved.

Conclusion

The youths are a group of persons aged 15 to 35 who are full of energy and eager to channel it into beneficial activities for community development. Youth play an important role in every community. They outnumber the middle-aged and the elderly, in addition to being the owners and leaders of future (Onyekpe, 2007). Aside from numerical dominance, youngsters have energy and ideas that have enormous promise for society (Onyekpe, 2007). According to Onyegbulen and Agwadu (2020), young people throughout the world are ready to give their fair share by investing their time and energy in society's socio-economic growth. When Elegbeleye (2005) claimed that young people all over the globe are a crucial and essential component of the society in which they reside, he was referring to the presence and impact of youth restiveness in Nigeria. A nation's future can be brightened by a disciplined, motivated, and law-abiding young.

When certain things are not in place to help them dissipate their energy productively, such as proper socialisation or child raising, political stability and good government, educational possibilities, economic prospects, social amenities, and so on, youngsters develop restless. According to Elegbeleye (2012), juvenile restiveness is a type of social behaviour characterised by aggression and disruption of legitimate activity in society. Young restiveness, according to Alaibe (2008), is the uncontrolled, aggressive, and unpleasant manner in which youth express their displeasure with the government or those in

positions of power over what they perceive to be a failure to meet their demands and expectations.

It's impossible to overestimate the harmful consequences of adolescent restlessness. The prevalence and durability of young restiveness, according to Abdullahi and Issah (2016), has purportedly weakened and jeopardised social stability in the country. According to Bayo (2016), cult members' activities on universities have serious implications for national unity and growth.

Provision of social infrastructure, provision of employment opportunities, rural-urban development programme, proper security measures, adequate socialisation, and an enlightenment campaign against youth restiveness have all been suggested as ways to address the problem of youth restiveness in Nigeria.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are suggested:

1. The need to engage the youths in gainful employment and empowering youth effectively should be necessitated.
2. Government should provide basic social amenities such as water, good roads, health care center, electricity etc.
3. Parents, guardians and teachers also should play significant roles in educating, enlightening, guiding and protecting our youths.
4. Corruption and bad governance by the leadership should be checked.
5. The federal government should take positive steps toward addressing poverty in the country,
6. Efforts should be made by the communities and government to provide recreation facilities in all the communities.
7. Government should provide adequate security measures for her citizens. This will help to combat any criminal activities that may arise as a result of youth restiveness such as political thugery, banditry, arson amongst others.

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