

Entrepreneurship Skills Acquisition a Tool for Reduction of Social Vices Among the Unemployed Youths in Nigeria (A Study of Enugu State)

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Abstract: Entrepreneurship Development leads to employment creation, growth of the economy those results to sustainable development. Youths on the other hand represents the working force of every society which can bring about economic growth and development of every nation. In order to achieve economic growth and development it becomes imperative that they must be gainfully employed, otherwise, being unemployed means that their energies will be diverted to negative practices which is crime. Even though it is generally acknowledged that social vices are global issue, however, its rate and incidence of criminality varies among youths, states and nations. It has been established by previous work done in this area that high unemployment rate in Enugu State is responsible for high rate of social vices in the state. It is in the light of this, that the role of Entrepreneurship Development as a tool for the reduction of crimes is examined. The study made use of review of literature, where various published and unpublished documents were visited. It was found out that Entrepreneurship Development does not only help to reduce social vices among youths, but also boosts the economic growth and development of nations. It further shows that, the problem of unemployment can be reduced with youths engaging in entrepreneurship practices as a means of creating employment and in turn lessen the problem of crime. It is recommended that government can also tackle these social ills affecting the country, firstly by investing massively in agriculture and employing the youths who will not only put food on their tables; but contribute their quota to national development. Secondly, youths should be trained in different skills and government should provide soft loans to the trained youths as take-off capital. The school curricula at all levels of our educational system should be reviewed to reflect the current economic situation where students are prepared ahead of time to be self-employed on leaving school. Doing this will also turn the graduates into job-creators and not job-seekers. This will help to curb the trend of graduates seeking the elusive white-collar jobs. Government at all levels should also put in place mechanisms that will encourage financial institutions to grant soft loans to intending youth entrepreneurs to start small scale businesses, that will sustain them and prevent them from indulging in criminal activities.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Skills, Acquisition, Tool, Reduction, Social vices, Unemployed youths.

INTRODUCTION

Youth unemployment has become increasingly worrisome globally, in the third world nations and Nigeria in particular. Ajufo [1], opines that unemployment in Nigeria has become one of the most serious socio-economic problems confronting the nation. Thousands of graduates are turned out yearly from various levels of the nation's educational system without proper plan to engage them. This has led to so many social vices and high rate of crime and criminality in the country and Enugu state in particular. The Federal Bureau of Statistics cannot accurately account for the number of unemployed youths because of for poor recording keeping and lack of data for information and planning. Awogbenle and Iwuamadi [2, 1] posits

that excerpts of statistics obtained from the National Manpower Board and Federal Bureau of Statistics showed that Nigeria has a youth population of about eighty (80) million representing 60 percent of the total population of the country. She asserts that sixty four (64) million of them are unemployed, while one million six hundred thousand (1.6 million) are underemployed.

Even though it is generally acknowledged that social vices are global issue, however, its rate and incidence of criminality varies among youths, states and nations.

It is in the light of this, that the role of entrepreneurship as a means of job creation and youth

empowerment that can help in the reduction or curbing of crime and criminality in the country and Enugu state particularly is examined. Entrepreneurship does not only help to reduce social vices among youths, but also boosts the economic growth and development of nations. Entrepreneurship is based on growing of ventures such as small-scale and medium enterprises with a view of making a profit and satisfying the general public constitute the bedrock of the national economy of any nation.

Bogoro [3], opines that one of the cardinal objectives of every government is job creation. That job creation helps an economy to achieve full employment and economic growth and development, which is one of the four macroeconomic objectives of every nation. He notes that Nigeria has been bedeviled with high unemployment rate, which has become worrisome to government and other stakeholders.

Bogoro [3], posits that the role of entrepreneurship in job creation, economic growth and development cannot therefore be over emphasised. The current global economic realities of the inability of governments to provide employment for its people continue to bring entrepreneurship to the lime light. Also at the global front the trend is that countries tending towards capitalism makes entrepreneurship an important issue of in the world, because at the heart of capitalism is 'the private enterprise', which stresses entrepreneurship and ownership of private property. The causality factor is clear to all that it is the entrepreneurship that brings the needed economic development and not the other way round. He further stressed that globally today; Entrepreneurship education remains the missing link in our quest for a rapid and sustainable economic development of a nation. Global development is entering a phase where entrepreneurship will increasingly play a more important role. Therefore, it becomes imperative that promoting youth entrepreneurship here has become a vital policy objective of many development organizations and donors. It is expected that entrepreneurship will, in the light of the above, contribute to growth and employment creation in advanced, emerging and least developed economies which will to a great extent reduce crime rate in the society.

Concept of Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is more than simply "starting a business." It is a process through which individuals identify opportunities, allocate resources, and create value. This creation of value is often through the identification of unmet needs or through the identification of opportunities for change. It is the act of being an entrepreneur which is seen as "one who undertakes innovations with finance and business acumen in an effort to transform innovations into economic goods hence Entrepreneurs see "problems" as

"opportunities," and then take action to identify the solutions to these problems and the customers who will pay to have those problems solved.

Entrepreneurial success is simply a function of the ability of an entrepreneur to see opportunities in the marketplace, initiate change (or take advantage of change) and creates value through solutions.

Entrepreneurship is the process of designing, launching and running a new business, which is often initially a small business, and the people who create these businesses are called entrepreneurs [4]. Entrepreneurship has been described as the "capacity and willingness to develop, organize and manage a business venture along with any of its risks in order to make a profit" ("Business Dictionary definition").

Ile [5], defines entrepreneurship as the willingness and ability of person to start a business venture and run it successfully.

Binks, and Vale [6], define entrepreneurship as 'an unrehearsed combination of economic resources instigated by the uncertain prospect of temporary monopoly profit'. Kanothi [7] defines Entrepreneur as the 'instigator of entrepreneurial events for so long as they occur'. Tijani-Alawiye [8] defines entrepreneurship as the process of increasing the supply of entrepreneurs or adding to the stock of existing small, medium and big enterprises available to a country by creating and promoting many capable entrepreneurs, who can successfully run innovative enterprises, nurture them to growth and sustain them, with a view to achieving broad socio-economic developmental goals. One of these goals is sustaining employment.

Acs and Story [9], note that entrepreneurship revolves around the realization of existence of opportunities in combination with decision to commercialize them by starting a new firm. It then manifests itself in creative strategies, innovative tactics, uncanny perception of trends and market mood changes and courageous leadership. To the duo, 'entrepreneurship', when treated as 'enterprise-creation' helps develop new skills and experiences that can be applied to many other challenging areas in life.

While definitions of entrepreneurship largely focused on the launching and operating of businesses because of the high risks associated in launching a new venture, less attention is paid other issues that could led to its failure such as "lack of funding, bad business decisions, an economic crisis, lack of market demand—or a combination of all of these [10].

Entrepreneurial success is simply a function of the ability of an entrepreneur to see opportunities in the

marketplace, initiate change (or take advantage of change) and creates value through solutions. Entrepreneurship is known as the capacity and attitude of a person or group of persons to undertake ventures with the probability of success or failures. It demands that the individual should be prepared to assume a reasonable degree of risks, be a good leader in addition to being highly innovative. In business management, Entrepreneurship is regarded as the “prime mover” of a successful enterprise just as a leader in any organization must be the environmental change agents.

Entrepreneurship Development

UNDP [11] defines entrepreneurship development as the process of enhancing entrepreneurial skills and knowledge through structured training and institution building programmes. They espoused that Entrepreneurship Development aims at enlarging the base of entrepreneurs in order to hasten the pace at which new ventures are created which accelerates employment generation and economic development. Therefore, Entrepreneurship development focuses on the person who wishes to start or expand a business. Entrepreneurship development also emphasis more on growth potential and innovation.

More importantly, Schnurr and Newing [12] justified the need for promoting entrepreneurship culture on the ground that youth in all societies have sterling qualities such as resourcefulness, initiative, drive, imagination, enthusiasm, zest, dash, ambition, energy, boldness, audacity and courage which are all valuable traits for entrepreneurship development. Supporting this assertion, Bennell [13] maintained that governments, NGOs and international bodies seeking to improve youth livelihoods could best pursue their empowerment objective by tapping into the dynamism of young people and build on their strong spirit of risk taking through entrepreneurship development. Entrepreneurship development has also led to employment generation, growth of the economy and sustainable development.

Stevenson, and Gumpert [14], observed that the essence of entrepreneurship development is the ability to envision and chart a course for a new business venture by combining information from the functional disciplines and from the external environment in the context of the extraordinary uncertainty and ambiguity which faces a new business venture.

Supporting this view, Baumol [15] maintained that governments, NGOs and international bodies seeking to improve youth livelihoods could best pursue their empowerment objective by tapping into the dynamism of young people and build on their strong spirit of risk-taking through entrepreneurship development.

Concept of unemployment

Every economy is characterized by both active and inactive populations. The economically active ones are referred to as the population willing and able to work, and include those actively engaged in the production of goods and services and those who are unemployed. Unemployment is a global trend but it occurs mostly in the developing countries of the world, with social, economic, political and psychological attendants. Okafor [16], posits that unemployment is the condition of people who are without jobs. The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines the unemployed as the number of the economically active population who is without work, but available and seeking work, including people who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work [17]. National Bureau of Statistics [18], opines the labour force of a country is a set of people or citizens who are willing and are able to make available at any given point in time their efforts for gainful employment, while the unemployed are the individuals with no work, but are looking for work at the time of any study.

Fajana [19], opines that unemployment refers to a situation where people who are willing and capable of working are unable to find suitable paid employment. It is one of the macro-economic problems which every responsible government is expected to monitor and regulate. The higher the unemployment rate in an economy the higher would be the poverty level and associated welfare challenges such as crime. These various unemployment had be identified as seasonal, frictional, cyclical, and structural unemployment [20-23, 19, 24]. Structural unemployment occurs when there is a change in the structure of an industry or the economic activities of the country. This may be due to use of outdated technology, deficiency of capital resources in relation to their demand and the product or service is no longer in demand.

Frictional Unemployment is caused by industrial friction in which jobs may exist, yet the workers may be unable to fill them either because they do not possess the necessary skill, or because they are not aware of the existence of such jobs. The employable may remain unemployed on account of shortage of raw materials, or mechanical defects in the working of plants. Therefore, the better the economy is doing, the lower this type of unemployment is likely to occur. Seasonal Unemployment is due to seasonal variations in the activities of particular industries caused by climatic changes, changes in fashions or by the inherent nature of such industries. In the tropical region, ice factories are less active in rainy season because demand for ice is low. Seasonal oriented industries are bound to give rise to seasonal unemployment Cyclical or Keynesian unemployment is due to the operation of the business cycle. This is a situation whereby the demand for labour becomes deficient to supply. In other words, when the

aggregate demand falls below the full employment level, it is not sufficient to purchase the full employment level of output. It is characterized by an economy wide shortage of jobs and last as long as the cyclical depression lasts.

Technological Unemployment is caused by changes in the techniques of production. Hence a situation whereby man is replaced by machines. Technological changes are taking place constantly, leading to the increased mechanization of the production process. This naturally results in the displacement of labour and finally causing unemployment due to top globalization [25].

Residual Unemployment is caused by personal factors such as old age, physical or mental disability, poor work attitudes and inadequate training. Whatever the type and cause of unemployment, entrepreneurship is its answer. Thus massive youth's unemployment in any country is an indication of far more complex problems [16]. The ILO [26] report showed that the proportion of world unemployment is steadily increasing and that the number of those without jobs remained at an all time high of more than 195 million or 6.3 percent in 2007. For example, an overview of some countries with unemployment rates in 2007, the Middle East and North Africa were the regions with the highest unemployment rate in the world at 12.2 percent, followed by Sub-Saharan Africa at nearly 10 percent. East Asia unemployment rate of 3.6 percent remained the lowest. The report affirmed that population growth especially in South Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa was putting pressure on job creation.

Unemployment as a global concern is of more dire consequence for youth's employment. Global youth's unemployment rate was projected at 12.7 percent in 2012. This portends immense dangers when understood from the point of view that young people are the next generation of potentially productive economic and social actors. Ajufo [1], argues that in Africa, youth's unemployment has been a major problem giving rise to criminal tendencies in the youths and threatens the social-economic peace and stability of the continent.

Concept of Crime (Social Vices)

The Oxford Dictionary of Sociology [27] defines crime as an offence, which goes beyond the personal but, into the public sphere, breaking prohibiting rules or laws, to which legitimate punishments or sanctions are attached, and which requires the intervention of a public authority. For a crime to be known as such, it must come to the notice of the authority, and be processed through, an administrative system or an enforcement agency'. Crimes fall into three major categories: Firstly crimes

against persons where victims are always individuals. These include practices such as murder, rape, assault, manslaughter, kidnapping, robbery, forcible sodomy and sexual assault, to mention a few. Secondly, crimes against property; like robbery, bribery, burglary, fraud offences, embezzlement, Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) Card, blackmail, pocket picking, purse-snatching, theft from buildings, theft of motor vehicle parts or accessories, and motor vehicle theft. Thirdly are crimes against society. The practices include gambling, prostitution, drug violations, assisting gambling, and pornography, assisting or promoting prostitution, weapon law violation, drunkenness, family offences, and trespassing on real property. In this study, crime is taken to mean an activity considered illegal in accordance with the laws and the culture of a society that affects individuals and their property, the society, and the nation at large.

Theoretical Framework

There are many theories that explain the relationship between unemployment and crime practices. Each of the theories validates the problem from a different angle, but the theories complement one another.

Social Strain Theory

The strain theory argues that a person's personal likelihood of committing a crime increase when he/she receives only negative stimuli from social interactions, that is; when the person is not treated in the way he/she wishes to be treated and is unable to achieve desired goals such as earning money and gaining labour status, to mention a few [27]. Basing on the theory, Agnew [27] observed that, unemployment, may, therefore, increase crime because it puts the individual in a situation where he/she is unable to achieve certain desired goals.

Social Control Theory

This theory argues that, a person's likelihood of committing a crime increases when no person or social institution monitors that person's actions. This means, that people are inclined towards deviant behaviour when they no longer feel the pressure of society's norms. Unemployment may thus increase criminal activity because it frees the person from the conventional control applied to workplace routines and association with colleagues. This can make one more likely to follow any person with bad behaviour and engage in deviant activities, including crimes [27]. The Strain and Social Control theories explain the relationship between unemployment and crime practice.

Causes of Youth Unemployment in Nigeria

Like many other African countries, youth unemployment is also extensive in [28-32, 2], identified the main issues of youth unemployment in Nigeria. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS),

the rate of unemployment in Nigeria stood at 23.9 per cent in 2011, while urban unemployment was estimated at 29.5 per cent in 2013. In addition, the FDC report also forecast that the misery index would likely increase further in 2014, from the 38 per cent it stood in 2013. It also predicted that the nation's currency would fall by about three per cent this year, even as it anticipated a correction in the stock market. The first is the rapidly growing urban labour force arising from rural urban migration. Rural-urban migration is usually explained in terms of push-pull factors. The push factors include the pressure resulting from man-land ratio in the rural areas and the existence of serious underemployment arising from the seasonal cycle of climate. The factors are further aggravated in Nigeria and most African countries due to the increase of war and epidemic in most of these countries (Liberia (ebola), Mali, Sudan, and Sierra etc), likewise the lack of infrastructural facilities, which makes the rural life unattractive. Youths move to urban areas with the probability of securing lucrative employment in the industries. In addition to this, there is the concentration of social amenities in the urban centers. This meant that the rural areas are neglected in the allocation of social and economic opportunities.

The second issue is the rapid population growth. National Population Commission and ICF Macro [33], 2006 census in Nigeria, reports put the nation's population at 140,431,790 and projections for the future indicate that the population could be over 180 million by the year 2020, given the annual growth rate of 4.5 percent, with this population, Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa. It is argued that the high population growth rate has resulted in the rapid growth of the labour force, without corresponding job provision. The high growth rate of population in Nigeria unemployment is multi-dimensional. The National Bureau of Statistics states that Nigeria's unemployment rate stood at 23.09% as at 2012. This affects the supply side through a high and rapid increase in the labour force relative to the absorptive capacity of the economy.

The third is the outdated school curricula and lack of employable skills. Some scholars and commentators have argued that as far as the formal sector is concerned, the average Nigeria graduate is not employable and, therefore, does not possess the skills needed by the employers of labor for a formal employment. After all employers do not need people to pay or spend their money on but people that will help their organization grow and make more profit as the primary goal of every enterprise is to make profit. Often, this is attributed to the Nigeria's education system, with its liberal bias. The course contents of most tertiary education in Nigeria lack entrepreneurial contents that would have enabled graduates to become job creators rather than job seekers [34].

The fourth is the rapid expansion of the educational system which directly leads to increase in the supply of educated manpower above the corresponding demand for them. With the creation of six new universities in the countries by the President Goodluck Administration more youths graduate without jobs. This contributes to the problem of the youth unemployment in Nigeria. Presently, with over 97 universities in Nigeria (both federal, state, and private) and the increasing demand for higher education there has been the problem of suitable employment for the varieties of graduates who are turned out by these higher institutions every year, Okoye-Nebo, Iloanya, and Udunze [34].

Fifthly, lack of political will by the ruling class to establish industries: Utomi [35], argues that the reality is that the Nigerian economy is too weak to absorb the bloated number of graduates that are turned out every year. More so, when there is no viable manufacturing sector which has the capacity to absorb these unemployed youths in Nigeria, as there are over 800 collapsed industries in Nigeria and over 37 factories have closed up in 2009. Onwubiko [36], opines that Nigeria is a country with numerous business and investment potentials due to the abundant, dynamic human and natural resources it possesses. As good as the foregoing sounds, Nigeria continues to experience its share of social, economic and political upheavals which have often stunted its growth and development into the regional economic power that it strives to attain. Nigeria has a relative high rate of violent crimes.

Sixthly, lack of sustainable infrastructural facilities: Nigeria is not investment friendly due to lack of steady and sustainable power supply/energy crisis in spite of the various attempts at reviving this sector leading to firms depending on alternative energy for their operation which to a great extent is not economical as it pushes the cost operation to a high level in Nigeria. Besides, multiple taxation levies and taxations being paid by these companies have combined to make the cost of doing business in Nigeria to be very high. When the industries and factories closed down or relocated to a friendlier economic environment, workers were laid off and prospects of recruiting new ones were dashed. All these aggravated the crisis of youth unemployment in the labour market [37].

Seventhly, Corruption, which has permeated the entire social structure of Nigeria, has robbed the country of developing a vibrant economic base. Funds meant for development projects were either misappropriated, diverted, or embezzled and stockpiled in foreign banks, while some incompetent and corrupt bureaucrats and administrators in the public enterprises and parastatals have liquidated these organizations [17]. The point being made here is that the collaboration of the political elites, local and foreign contractors in the

inflation of contract fees have robbed Nigeria of the chances of using more than \$500 billion estimated revenue from the oil sale in the last 50 years to develop a vibrant economy that would have created jobs for the youths in various sectors of the economy. The ruling (political) class failed because they replaced the vision, policy, and strategy, which should be the thrust of every leadership with transactions (contract award and other mundane money-related activities), as each successive government took turns to prey on the nation's wealth, by using public power, resources, good will, utilities, instrument of abuse, and personal gains [38]. Thus crippling the economy and engendering and increasing unemployment which creates abject poverty, hunger and frustration; killing the zeal and means for entrepreneurship development in the Nigerian youths.

Crimes in Nigeria

Crime rate in Nigeria has assumed an alarming proportion in the recent past. In the light of the worsening crime situation, and the ineffectiveness of the crime control apparatuses, Nigerian's crime rate has been on the increase. Nigeria is one of the developing countries of the world, and is having a prevalence of rising crime waves, and varying degrees of

delinquencies. Nigeria has been on the global crime map since 1980s [39]. The nature of these crimes includes armed robbery, murder, rape, car theft, burglary, fraud, bribery and corruption, food and drug adulteration, gambling, smuggling, human trafficking, kidnapping, drug trafficking, money laundering, internet scam, advanced fee fraud (419) and other illegal activities. A report revealed a "training school" for jobless youths as armed robbers at Ajegunle area of Lagos [21]. The said training school according to him includes planning strategies of co-operation, launching an attack and escaping with loots. Their age ranges between eighteen and twenty – eight years. The „training school“ also conducts interview for the recruitment. It was also revealed that the training school is where the bandits prepare programmes on which area to raid and plan how to operate different types of fire arms and ammunition. Suspects were nabbed during their morning training session where they were working out modalities on a number of houses to be raided for the week [40, 41]. Sadly, there are reports of crimes committed mostly by the youths at virtually every corner of the country which are traceable to unemployment. Criminality has become an integral part of the nation's daily life.

Table-1: Summary of reported cases of crime in Nigeria between 1994–2003

Offences	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Murder	1629	1585	1561	1730	1670	1645	1255	2120	2117	2136
Attempted Murder	259	321	307	250	248	220	76	253	267	233
Manslaughter	20	25	21	18	27	14	101	14	13	6
Suicide	200	238	272	318	323	146	241	152	191	
Attempted Suicide	291	120	77	58	43	30	41	27	29	38
Grievous harm	17167	16300	1760	14720	14362	1593	9753	15241	17580	17666
Assault	46924	46543	52747	42815	40764	33881	17909	37531	29329	29125
Child stealing	131	175	146	303	107	147	101	116	55	39
Slave dealing	33	16	7	17	11	21	11	45	17	18
Rape/ Indecent	2364	2364	2198	2585	2249	2241	1529	2284	2084	2253
Kidnapping	461	415	373	377	282	342	243	349	337	410
Aberration offence	685	462	419	435	516	456	376	434	277	306
Armed robbery	2044	2109	2419	2181	2286	2291	1877	2809	3889	3497
Demand with menace	777	243	88	128	112	63	133	122	88	80
Theft/Stealing	69341	70542	71338	58095	54506	32974	29127	40796	35231	33124
Burglary	7858	7690	6390	7706	5548	4928	3768	5523	2683	2769
House breaking	10532	10568	9237	8562	7847	5979	3636	6059	5448	4706
Store breaking	6137	5646	4235	4729	4036	3643	2446	3089	2973	2990
False pretence	13546	13524	13057	11950	12037	9996	7927	10234	9134	9508
Coining offence	100	8	10	14	14	7	4	32	6	15
Gambling	1308	319	250	203	158	264	189	263	228	148
Breach of public peace	8052	7926	7097	7100	7519	6765	5395	7532	7324	7298
Perjury	61	22	153	97	20	12	16	455	17	50
Bribery and corruption	224	390	579	100	138	75	48	57	43	36
Escape from custody	672	629	712	543	484	552	294	312	229	272
Total	19081	18817	91264	16498	25529	22800	86404	13593	11955	11691

Source: The Nigeria Police Command, Zone Eleven, Osun State, Nigeria. (Adapted from Adebayo, 2013) [21].

Relationship between unemployment and crime

Unemployment has become a major challenge taunting the lives of Nigerian youths and this poses a serious risk to the Nigerian society. The issue of youth unemployment is devastating to both the individual and the society at large both psychologically and economically. The magnitude of the danger which youth unemployment poses to the society is better understood when, according to Awogbenle and Iwuamadi [2], that over 64 million youths are unemployed and 1.6 million are under-employed. Unemployment leads to frustration, dejection, desperation, depression and even continuous dependence on family members and friends who have their own problems to contend with. This precarious situation has left the youths in a vicious cycle of poverty that daily erodes their confidence and bright future.

The frustration and desperation that daily challenges the unemployed creates a fertile ground for crime to thrive. In recent times, there have been notable adverse social, economic and political developments in Nigeria, a consequence of youth unemployment and under-employment, particularly exemplified by increasing militancy, violent crimes, kidnapping, restiveness and political instability [1]. The scariest undertone of Nigeria's socio-economic underachievement, by far, is the steady rise in youth crime, nurtured in a climate of increasing national income and the simultaneous failure of employment-generation and poverty alleviation programmes. Armed insurgencies ravaging the oil-rich and volatile Niger Delta region and wanton destruction of lives and property by Boko Haram in the Northern part of the country are now competing for space in international headlines. The season of discontent has special ramifications for a nation with unemployed millions, and the net effect has been a tragic precipitation of violent crimes: assault, burglary, extortion and kidnapping etc. Decades of social and political turmoil has helped turn the strategically located African nation into an established junction for international drug smugglers [42]. Other highlights of Nigeria's prolific crime syndicates are economic fraud usually in the form of innovative internet schemes, money laundering and racketeering. Furthermore, Adejumola and Tayo-Olajubulu [43] contended that unemployment has been identified as the major cause of social vices like armed robbery, destitution, prostitution, political thuggery, kidnapping and many more. What holds true for Nigeria and most other nations of equivalent human development indicators is the fact that crime is often a means of survival.

The youths are one of the greatest assets a nation could possibly possess. The National Youth Development Policy 2001 asserts that the youths are the foundation of a society; their energies, inventiveness,

character and orientation define the pattern of development and security of a nation. Through their creative talents and labour power, a nation makes giant strides. The youths are a particular segment of the national population that is sensitive, energetic, active and the most productive phase of life of citizens. The youths are also the most volatile when their energies are misdirected or channeled into wrong endeavours.

Consequently, youth unemployment poses a great threat to the country's stability and development, and if not checkmated on time, it may lead to disastrous consequences for the nation. Desperation can drive the unemployed youths into living outside the law in order to survive and as a means of expressing dissatisfaction at the apparent neglect of their very existence. Crime as a result of unemployment has adverse effect on the economy. It increases the cost of doing business for the private sector and providing public services. Resources that would have otherwise been invested in increasing output, fund education, health and other welfare programmes are diverted to crime control and prevention. According to the Nigeria's Finance Minister, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, key allocation of funds in the 2013 budget include: Critical infrastructure (including power, works, transport, aviation, gas pipelines, and Federal Capital Territory) – N497 billion; human capital development (i.e. education and health) – N705 billion; and agriculture/water resources – N175 billion. Also over N950 billion for was allocated for national security purposes, comprised of N320 billion for the Police, N364 billion for the Armed Forces, N115 billion for the Office of the NSA, and N154 billion for the Ministry of the Interior This Day 2013. A situation where the funds allocated to security alone is almost equal to funds allocated to education, health and critical infrastructure combined in a fiscal year, as is the case with Nigeria, is detrimental to national development. The development of a society largely depends on the rate of crime. If the crime rate is high, it could scare away or discourage investors.

The Extent to which Youth Unemployment Alleviates Social Crime

Entrepreneurship according to Alawiye [9] is a process of increasing the supply of entrepreneurs or adding to the stock of existing small, medium and big enterprises available to a country by creating and promoting many capable entrepreneurs, who can successfully run innovative enterprises, nurture them to grow and sustain them, with a view to achieving broad socioeconomic developmental goals. One of these goals is sustaining employment.

An entrepreneur is a person who earns money using the available resources so as to cater for his or her financial needs, while also creating opportunities for other people to get employed highlighting the relation of entrepreneurship with economic development and the

reduction of unemployment [44]. Similarly, Meredith [45] defines an entrepreneur as a person who possesses the ability to recognize and evaluate business opportunities, assemble the necessary resources to take advantage of them and take appropriate action to ensure success.

Entrepreneurs are people who constantly discover new markets and try to figure out how to supply those markets efficiently and make profit. They are also persons that search for change, respond to change, and exploit change by converting change into opportunities. In this study, an entrepreneur is viewed as a person who is capable of recognizing and evaluating business opportunities, assembles all the factors of production to take advantage of them and exert action to ensure success for him, the unemployed and the nation in general.

The entrepreneurs referred in this paper are the youth. Youth Entrepreneurship is defined as the practical application of enterprising qualities, such as initiative, innovation, creativity and risk-taking in the work environment (either in self-employment or employment in small start-up firms), using the appropriate skills necessary for success in that environment and culture [13].

Curtain [48] observed that, youth entrepreneurship has a number of potential benefits, the most significant one among many, being that of employment creation for the young who own businesses. In this case, experts bring back the alienated and marginalized youth into the economic mainstream [46, 47], and especially if they hire fellow youths from the 'dole' queues [46]. Thus, entrepreneurship helps to address some of the social-psychological problems and delinquency that arise from joblessness, frustrations, depressions, drug abuse and poverty, to mention a few.

Youth-run enterprises (YREs) also provide valuable goods and services to society, especially to the local communities [48, 49]. This leads to the development of local communities. In the views of Curtain [46], new small firms tend to raise the degree of competition in the product market, thereby bringing gains to consumers. In addition, the enterprises may create linkages between youth entrepreneurs and other economic actors, through sub-contracting, franchising, and so on [47]. This will help the youth to learn from each other.

Youth Run Entrepreneurs promote innovation and resilience as they encourage young people to find new solutions, ideas and ways of doing things through experience-based learning [48, 47]. This results in the youth becoming confident and innovative. In certain circumstances, young entrepreneurs may be particularly responsive to new economic opportunities and trends.

This is especially important given the ongoing globalization process. It is increasingly accepted that young entrepreneurs can present alternatives to the organization of work, the transfer of technology, and a new perspective to the market [47].

White and Kenyon [49] further noted that social and cultural identities are partly promoted through youth enterprises, as there is a stronger sense of community whereby young women and men are valued and better connected to society as they are no more excluded. White and Kenyon (*Ibid*) also add that youth enterprises give young people, especially marginalized youth, a sense of 'meaning' and 'belonging'. This plays a role in shaping the identity of the youth and encourages others to treat them as equal members of the society. A popularization and democratisation of entrepreneurship will allow the disadvantaged in the society to succeed regardless of social or family background [48].

On the same point, Maslow [50] as cited in Naz, Munir, Khalid, and Ahmed [51], observes that, "100 people to bring into a deteriorating society would not be economists, politicians or engineers, but rather 100 entrepreneurs". This means that entrepreneurs are very important for the revival and development of a society.

Referring to development and full employment, President Ferdinand Marcos of Philippines in 1973, as cited in Nelson stated that [52]:

"The small entrepreneur holds the key to rapid technological development and full employment. He offers a means whereby new employment opportunities can be created in rural areas. The small entrepreneur would not only provide himself with livelihood, but would create employment for others, thereby easing up social tension growing in an atmosphere where so many are deprived" Nelson [52].

The capacity of an economy to successfully compete and grow, especially in this globalised world, depends on balancing the stock of enterprises through encouraging more startups and managing business transfers. Therefore, sustainable growth based on innovation and excellence requires an increasing number of startups, which are likely to provide more and better jobs. As a result, countries exhibiting a greater increase in entrepreneurship rates tend to show greater subsequent decreases in unemployment rates. Moreover, entrepreneurship practices develop creativity and self-confidence among young people, which is not only limited to starting up a new business or creating a new job, but also is a key competence in social life, helping the youth to act in a responsible way that is lost through unemployment.

Entrepreneurs lead to the development of small, medium and sometimes large scale business, based on creativity and innovation. The success of these businesses in turn helps in developing the nation's economy. It equally reduces the poverty rate with visible increment in employment rate among the youth. Entrepreneurship shifts young people from being jobless to being job creators and also from being socially dependent to being self-sufficient individuals. High rate of unemployment has been associated with low level of entrepreneurial development in any country. This justifies the need to increase entrepreneurial activities to reduce the high rate of youth unemployment and in turn reducing crime rates. While reducing unemployment and crime rates, creating an entrepreneurship, culture to youth is important. Entrepreneurial attitudes need to be developed with the help of nurturing qualities such as creativity and a spirit of initiative and problem solving. This can best be done through active learning based on children's natural curiosity and at all stages of a child's development through competence based curriculum. Gibb [55] suggests that nothing can be achieved unless people are educated to think and act in a particular way to achieve the goal of what it means to be enterprising. An enterprising culture is one which is characterized by a set of attitudes, values and beliefs operating within a particular community or environment leading to enterprising behavior [53].

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

Youth's unemployment is traceable to high crime rate which is one of major social problems affecting the growth and development of this country. However, this challenge can be addressed through engaging the youth in entrepreneurial activities, and this will inspire other youths to be engaged in similar entrepreneurial activities, that can attract more investments leading to more employment, especially among the youths. Youth Run Enterprises (YRE) will employ fellow youths and pull them from the streets and suburbs and this will also contribute to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Government can also tackle these social ills affecting the country, firstly by investing massively in agriculture and employing the youths who will not only put food on their table; but contribute their quota to national development. Secondly, youths should be trained in different skills acquisitions and government should provide soft loans to the trained youths as take-off capital.

The school curricula at all levels of our educational system should be reviewed to reflect the current economic situation where students are prepared ahead of time to be self-employed on leaving school. Doing this will also turn the graduates into job-creators and not job-seekers. This will help to curb the trend of graduates seeking the elusive white-collar jobs. Government at all levels should put in place

mechanisms that will encourage financial institutions to grant soft loans to intending youth entrepreneurs to start small scale businesses, that will sustain them and prevent them from indulging in criminal activities.

To combat soaring youth unemployment, government should establish manufacturing industries which will employ these jobless youths. Government should make rural areas to be attractive as to reduce the high rate of migrates to urban cities that have no jobs which most of these youths end up becoming criminals in order to survive. Government must be committed to the eradication of corruption in the system in order to effective deploy funds to employment generating ventures and reduce crime rate in the country.

Population growth should be controlled since the nation does not have equal job provisions to match this over bloated population growth. Since there is correlation between youth employment and crime it is imperative that the reduction of youth's unemployment will translate into reduction in crime, and engender sustainable national development. The youths are an important part of the society, who should be encouraged to channel their energies to national development by being positively engaged in the system, and discouraged from activities that could be detrimental to the growth of the country. Therefore, every action taking towards youth's employment is an action towards crime reduction as well as promoting national development.

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