

**IS UNEMPLOYMENT THE ROOT CAUSE OF
INSECURITY IN NIGERIA?**

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Makale Geliş Tarihi-Received: 09.03.2020
Makale Kabul Tarihi-Accepted: 01.11.2020
DOI: 10.37093/ijisi.837697

ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the relationship between unemployment and insecurity in Nigeria using historical and descriptive statistic. Unemployment in Nigeria is a major problem and is further worsened by a spike in the loss of jobs brought on by the current recession. Unemployment is the third biggest problem confronting the Nigeria economy with the exception of power and infrastructure. Over the years Nigeria has also experienced plethora of security challenges ranging from abduction, kidnapping, insurgency, etc. Looking at violent crimes and insecurity in general, it could not be unconnected to the extent of unemployment experienced in the country. It is believed that joblessness triggers frustration, anger and provides individuals with more time to commit crime, thereby fueling insecurity. Hence, the Nigerian government's initiation of various programme to curb unemployment in the country. Some of the most recent youth economic empowerment initiatives such as the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Program (SURE-P) and Youth Enterprise with Innovation in

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Nigeria (YOUWIN), have not abated the rise in the rate of unemployment. This study found a link between unemployment and insecurity in Nigeria, it also found that the problem is exacerbated in an election year due to the thuggery and violence linked to elections.

Keywords: Unemployment, Crime, Statistics, Empowerment, Insurgency.

İŞSİZLİK NİJERYA'DA GÜVENSİZLİĞİN TEMEL NEDENİ MİDİR?

ÖZ

Nijerya'daki işsizlik, mevcut durgunluğun getirdiği iş kaybındaki artışla daha da kötüye giden önemli bir sorundur. İşsizlik, güç ve altyapı dışında ülkemizin karşı karşıya kaldığı üçüncü büyük sorun. Örneğin, işsizlik oranı 2014'ün son çeyreğinde% 6,4'ten 2016'nın ilk çeyreğinde% 12,1'e yükseldi. Nijerya'da yıllar geçtikçe, kaçırma, kaçırma, isyancılık gibi çeşitli güvenlik zorlukları da yaşandı. Bu çeşitli şiddetli tezahürlerin ülkede yaşanan işsizlik oranlarıyla bağlantısı kurulamamıştır. İşsizliğin, hayal kırıklığını tetiklediği, öfkeye yol açtığı ve bireylere suç işlemek için daha fazla zaman sağladığı ve böylece güvensizliği körüklediği düşünülmektedir. Dolayısıyla, Nijerya hükümetinin ülkedeki işsizliği azaltmak için çeşitli programlar başlatması. Süboansiyon Yeniden Yetiştirme ve Güçlendirme Programı (SURE-P) ve Nijerya'da İnovasyonlu Gençlik Girişimi (YOUWIN) gibi en yeni gençlik ekonomik güçlendirme girişimlerinden bazıları, işsizlik oranındaki artışı azaltmadı. Bu nedenle, bu makale Nijerya'daki işsizlik ve güvensizlik arasındaki ilişkiye tarihsel ve betimleyici istatistikler kullanarak bakıyor. Belge, Nijerya'daki işsizlik ve güvensizlik arasında zayıf bir bağlantı buldu.

Anahtar Kelimeler: İşsizlik, Suç, İstatistik, Güçlendirme, İsyan.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is the giant of Africa considering the size of her economy, population and her impact on the continent but also for the enormous size of her population growth. According to the 2006 census, the age demography of the population shows that the labour force (15 - 64 years) represents 50.3% of the population. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed that a staggering 24.5 million persons were either unemployed or underemployed as at the first quarter of 2016. The addition of the yearly graduates from the universities further worsens the unemployment crisis. However, the NBS noted that using its previous methodology unemployment alone in Q1 of 2016 would stand at 31.2% as against 12.1%. Honoré De Mirabeau (1749-1791) once said "I know only of three ways of living in society: one must be a beggar, a thief, or a wage earner" and every individual in society should be able to meet his/her primary needs of shelter, food and clothing at the very least. The assertion is that the high rates of unemployment in an economy is a stimulating factor for unemployed persons to commit crime for monetary gains (Syed *et al*, 2011). The rise in unemployment and unimproved economic situation is considered to be the proximate cause of increased crime rate and insecurity in Nigeria. This has been shown in the countless fatalities, damage to household valuables and infrastructure worth billions when estimated in naira to various criminal activities (Ajibola, 2016). In 2001 alone, more than 6000 lives were lost to violent crimes (The Economist, 2001). The observation is that the variations in the trade cycle lead to higher crime rates. The Nigeria economy has been on a downward spiral for a long time now which has led to massive job losses. This situation frustrates the consumer because of the drop and in some cases a total loss of resources available for spending. The frustration is worsened by the "ratchet effect" introduced by James Dusenberry in the relative income hypothesis. The frustration gives rise to the idea by Becker (1968) that those without a steady income have greater tendency to commit crimes than those with the next meal assured as a result of steady wages.

This study is particularly relevant at this time because of the current economic situation in the country which has been characterized by inflation and diminishing real income, which is further complicated by job losses. Situations like these make people more desperate to feed themselves and their families resulting in many instances in increased

criminal activities. Looking again at the link between unemployment and insecurity in Nigeria will give more insight as to the nexus between criminal activity and unemployment, which will allow for better planning to improve security, as security of a country is key to economic development. The benefits to lower crime rates nationwide will include but not limited to increased domestic and foreign investment which should create more jobs and lead to economic growth and ultimately better standard and quality of life for the citizenry.

Therefore, the main objective of this study is to analyze unemployment and insecurity in Nigeria with a view to conceptualizing the link between them. This will give a better understanding as to how rising unemployment has shaped the security situation in Nigeria and urge that the Nigerian government need to do more in providing meaningful employment to her teeming youths in order to tackle the challenge of insecurity bedeviling the nation.

1. LITERATURE REVIEW: THE ECONOMIC APPROACH

Becker (1968) initially championed the “economic approach” linking unemployment and crime through many assumptions. His assumptions include the relationship between labour markets and unemployment in causing insecurity. According to him, though many people operate under high moral and ethical constraint, lawbreakers believe that the benefits of committing a crime and the opportunities that lie therein is weightier than the cost. Especially given that the probabilities of being caught, convicted or even actually serving a prison sentence or facing any form of punishment is very low (Christopher, 2011).

The economic model of crime is one of decision making. In this model, individuals are faced with the choice between delinquent or legitimate activities based on the expected utility from these actions. Some elements that determines ones action to become involved in unlawful vices are (a) the perceived benefits from social misconduct is more relative to the benefits derived from hard work; (b) the chances of being apprehended and found guilty in a court of law are slim; (c) the severity of the punishment when compared to the gains from

crime; and (d) the chances at success in legal activities seems an uphill task. Another pioneering economist in this field was Hirshleifer (1971) among others. He made influential contributions on the nexus between crime-work decision and time allocation. Becker's model has been developed further by Hirshleifer (1971). Hirshleifer extended Becker's model to individual choices made between conflict and cooperation (Kapstein, 2003). One of Hirshleifer's postulations focused on opportunities, costs, and preferences and according to him, the poor feel they have few alternatives and little to lose from a life of violence and believe they have more to gain than lose from violence. Therefore, the unemployed were more likely to maximize their utility by resorting to violent conflict and extortion. Over the years studies on violence and war in developing countries and beyond have anchored on the 'economic approach' significantly.

1.1. Origin and Sources of Insecurity in Nigeria

The current levels of criminal activities in the country is alarming, and Adagba *et al* (2012) posited that not just insecurity but the fear of it is on the increase and worsened by the rising trend of terrorism, insurgency and kidnapping since our return to democratic rule in 1999. Crime is cancerous to any society as it impairs on a persons' rights. It is a disease spreading through humanity, negatively affecting the socio-economic, lifestyle and development of a nation (Syed *et al*, 2011). Several scholars have classified the causes of crime and insecurity in Nigeria into external and internal causes (Ajibola, 2016). Insecurity is fueled by internal and external factors, which endangers socio-economic development, however internal factors pose greater challenges in Nigeria. This study will limit itself to internal causes as discussed below.

1.1.1. Ethno-religious Conflicts

Since the coming together of the northern and southern regions of Nigeria in 1914, Nigerians have continued to have ethno-religious conflicts threatening the peaceful coexistence in the country (Basil, 2016). Ethnic and religious clashes form a reoccurring phenomenon and a huge security challenge confronting Nigeria's body politics from colonial period (Ajibola, 2016). Nigeria has witnessed many incidences of ethnic, religious and communal conflicts in the past and

in our recent history. Since 2009 to date, several persons have been affected in one way or another. Many have paid the ultimate sacrifice, lost properties, traumatized with several being internally while many have fled the country in search of greener pastures and calmer waters (Basil, 2016).

1.1.2. Politically Based Violence

Nigeria is plagued by politically based violence such as violent conflicts, political thuggery, assassinations, and arson since the 1960s to date. Elections are mostly characterized by violent struggle for political power among politicians because of the gains associated with power (Ajibola, 2016). The desperations of politicians have often led to loss of precious lives, properties and disruption of economic activities in the country.

1.1.3. Systemic and Political Corruption

These two phenomena have bedeviled Nigeria for far too long and has contributed to the breakdown/weakness of our institutions, infrastructural decay and government failure (Ngbea and Ngbea, 2016). In fact, government failure traceable to engrained corruption, is believed to be reason for the current state of insecurity in Nigeria. In 2015, the President of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari said, "If Nigeria does not kill corruption, corruption will kill Nigeria". This was against the back drop of Nigeria sinking further and further in the corruption perception index of the world. Corruption has dire consequences including hampering economic growth, undermining and discouraging potential investments in the country (Iyare, 2008).

1.1.4. Violence Motivated by Economic Benefits

Resource control and revenue sharing has become a constant spring of violent agitations in Nigeria. Niger-Delta crisis committed by Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), Niger Delta Avengers and other groups in Nigeria is an example of such violent agitation that has been on since the 1970s. These struggles have cost the country much needed resources through oil and gas pipeline vandalism, properties worth billions of naira and claimed precious lives (Achumba et al. 2013). Other assets which have also given rise to

such violent struggles include farm lands, water resource and more recently grazing lands giving rise to regular conflicts involving communities across the nation (Ngbea and Ngbea, 2016).

1.1.5. Unemployment/Poverty

Unemployment/poverty among Nigerians, especially youth unemployment which stood at 21.5% (56.1% using old methodology) is believed to contribute significantly to the increase in social vices and therefore insecurity. (Adagba *et al*, 2012). Also, the ineffectiveness of past administration to solve the problems of poverty, unemployment, and inequitable distribution of wealth among the country is believed to have contributed significantly to insecurity in the nation (Ajibola, 2016).

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1.1.6. Weak Security System

The Becker's Economic approach to crime is a pointer that weak security systems encourages crime participation with little chance of being punished. With Nigerian security agencies been poorly funded leading to low morale of security personnel, obsolete equipment and poor training. Estimates put the police to population ratio in Nigeria at 1:450 leading to serious problems of under policing of the Nigerian state (Achumba *et al*. 2013, Olonisakin, 2008). This indirectly encourages morally weak individuals to commit crime believing they will not be caught, which is in line with Christopher (2011) and Becker's economic approach.

1.1.7. Porous Borders

Nigerian borders are largely porous and untracked leading to high levels of insecurity in Nigeria through inflow of all kinds of weaponry into the country (Achumba *et al*. 2013, Hazen and Horner, 2007). A whopping 8 million illegal weapons in West Africa is estimated to be traced to Nigeria (Edeko, 2011). In addition, uncontrollable immigrants from neighboring countries mostly young men coming to look for work in an economy with very high unemployment rates and finding nothing to do, is believed to further aid insecurity in the nation (Adeola and Oluyemi, 2012).

1.1.8. Terrorism

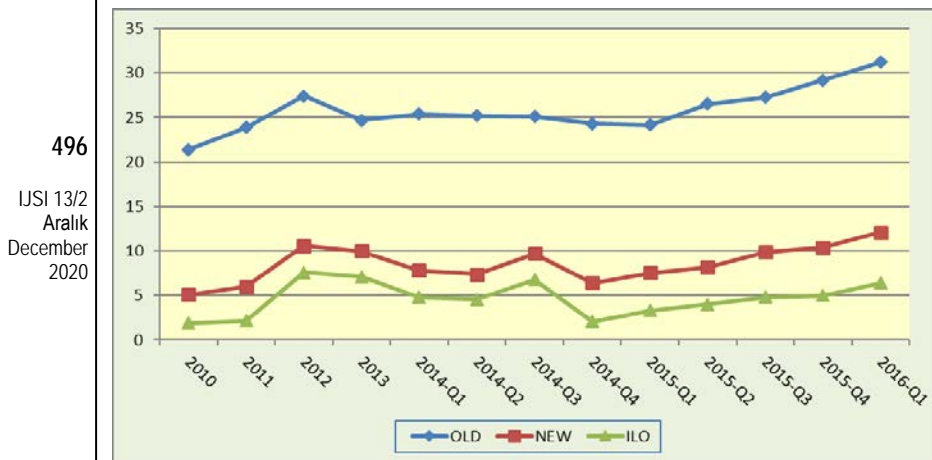
Terrorism is global and Nigeria is no exception to its ravaging effect. Terrorism is seen as “the premeditated use or threat of use of violence by an individual or group to cause fear, destruction or death, especially against unarmed targets, property or infrastructure in a state, intended to compel those in authority to respond to the demands and expectations of the individual or group behind such violent acts” (Sampson and Onuoha, 2011). Terrorist activities started long ago, even in Nigeria. In recent times, it is however believed to be politically motivated by the opposition and used as a bargaining chip during political campaigns in order to be elected. Note must however be taken that this has not been substantiated. The face of terrorism in Nigeria today is Boko Haram. The activities of Boko Haram has cut short thousands of lives since their activities began in 2009. Other factors influencing terrorism in Nigeria includes socio-political, economic, cultural, religious/ethnic distrust, poor governance and corruption (Oluwarotimi, 2012).

1.2. Unemployment in Nigeria

The Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics uses a variant of the ILO definition of unemployment which states that unemployment is the fraction of the population in the work force who are in the constant search for a job but are unable to find a one with at least 20 hours work time during the documented period. The relatively slow growth of labour demand, combined with a rapidly growing labour supply, especially due to enhanced population growth and high level of rural-urban migration is responsible for the high rate of unemployment in Nigeria. Looking at the figure below, we notice there was an old, new and OIL method of calculating unemployment rate in Nigeria. Using the old method, unemployment rates were considerably higher than using the new method of calculation. From the new method unemployment rates rose from 2011 but declined in 2013 raising again in 2014 and has since been on the increase. While from the old method unemployment rose from 2010 until 2012, declined in 2013, and appeared stable until the last quarter of 2014 where it declined slightly and has since been on the rise. Nigeria unemployment rate was 12.1 percent in Q1 of 2016 using the new methodology of calculating, up from 10.4 percent in the Q4 of 2015. The average unemployment rate

in Nigeria stood at 9.04 percent between 2006 and 2016, but reached an all-time high of 19.70 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009 and a record low of 5.10 percent in the fourth quarter of 2010 (National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria).

Figure 1: Unemployment Rate Trend (2010 – Q1, 2016)



Source: National Bureau of Statistics 2016

1.3. Government Efforts to Curb Unemployment in Nigeria

The Nigerian Government has introduced several policies in a bid to curb unemployment in Nigeria. The National Directorate of Employment (NDE) was established in 1986 with the sole purpose of making unemployment a thing of the past. The strategy of the NDE was to provide vocational training for the youth for business start-ups in order to meet its mandate of reducing poverty, increasing wealth generation and providing attitudinal change. (Ekong and Ekong, 2016) However, NDE fell short of achieving its mandate as it did not provide capital for these start-ups nor did it provide or create job placements.

With change in government comes change or refocus in policies in Nigeria, as such the National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP) was birthed in 2001 with a mandate of training youths in the automobile industry, an industry that has been crippled in the

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country for years preceding NAPEP. Little wonder it achieved very little in reducing unemployment. It is important to note here that these two policies were not really suited for the educated youths who more or less wanted white collar jobs (Nwagwu, 2014).

Further down the line the Youth Enterprise With Innovation in Nigeria (YOUWIN) program was born, unlike previous schemes which involved vocational training, YOUWIN required you to sell your business idea to the government, who would then fund this idea in the form of grants given in trenches with close supervision to ensure it succeeds (Aminu *et al*, 2013). The idea behind this was to ensure that these small scale enterprises (SMEs) employ a few people and in the process many people would have been employed by these SMEs which would reduce unemployment in the country. The era of YOUWIN was short lived as it was soon replaced by yet another scheme. Of all the schemes, this seemed the most ambitious and should have been effective in curbing unemployment had the scheme been pursued further (Ekong and Ekong, 2016).

The Subsidy Reinvestment Program (SURE-P) graduate internship scheme was conceived in 2012 in order to curb corruption and ginger accountability, monies previously budgeted to pay for fuel subsidy were budgeted under this scheme to reduce unemployment by placing University Graduates in paid internship. The Federal Government put this together because of the peculiar problem of unemployment in the country and this also fosters public/private partnership in the fight against unemployment (Ekong and Ekong, 2016). Such placements which was for a duration of one year sometimes led to permanent employments in the host establishment however rarely. Hence, SURE-P and other similar schemes are viewed by the Government and citizens as temporary paid employments. The SURE-P was again replaced again in 2016 with N-Power which has the same structure as SURE-P except N-Power is a two-year volunteer program. After this time these youths are back on the streets without a means of income (Aminu *et al*, 2013). However, what Nigeria needs is a scheme that would lead to more permanent employment and this is still far fetched

1.4. Empirical Review

There is no general consensus as to the nexus between unemployment and the incidence of crime from empirical works. Although theory supports that higher levels of unemployment should lead to greater incidences of crime. In the work of Syed *et al* (2011) they examined the nexus between unemployment and property crimes for Pakistan using data from 1975 to 2008. The Johansen cointegration methodology along with Granger causality through Vector Error Correction (VEC) was employed. The study found evidence of a long-run relationship between unemployment and different kinds of property crimes. The results also provide evidence of unidirectional causality with unemployment Granger causing robbery, theft and dacoity. However it did not cause burglary in Pakistan.

Olabanji (2014) in his work titled Insecurity and Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria looked at insecurity in Nigeria and its implication for socio-economic growth. The study found that insecurity in Nigeria has increased over time. This is believed to pose serious threat to lives and properties, undermine businesses and discourage investment leading to poor economic growth and development.

Raphael and Winter-Ember (2001) used Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression to find the relationship between unemployment and crime employing panel data for the period of 1971-97 for each U.S. state. The result showed a positive correlation between the crime rate and unemployment. They also found a relatively significant, positive effect of unemployment on property crime rates but negative for murder and rape and for violent crime rates was not clear.

Ajimotoke *et al* (2015) examined the effects of unemployment on crime rate and adapted their model from that of Raphael and Winter-Ember (2001). Using both simple and multiple regression models, they found unemployment, police officers per 100,000 inhabitants, high school graduation rates, GDP per capita, and poverty rate to have positive correlation and effect on violent and property crimes in the United States.

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In a World Bank Development report, Christopher (2011) looked at the relationship between Unemployment and Participation in Violence. He found that there was no remotely convincing evidence that unemployment and violent conflicts are correlated in developing countries. The evidence on youth unemployment was even weaker.

Nwagwu (2014) studied the link between unemployment, poverty and insecurity of lives and properties in the nation. The study found a direct link between unemployment/poverty and the security challenges faced in Nigeria.

Papps and Winkelmann (1999) in their work titled Unemployment and crime: New evidence for an old question examined the relationship between unemployment and a range of categories of crime in New Zealand. Random and fixed effects models were estimated to investigate the possibility of a causal relationship between unemployment and crime. They found evidence that unemployment has a significant effect on crime, both for total crime and for some subcategories of crime.

Akwara *et al* (2013) examined the bridge linking unemployment, poverty and insecurity in Nigeria in their paper Unemployment and Poverty: Implications for National Security and Good Governance in Nigeria. The paper found a positive correlation between unemployment and poverty and also a link between poverty and insecurity.

In a paper titled Relationship between Crime Level, Unemployment, Poverty, Corruption and Inflation in Nigeria (An Empirical Analysis), Aminu *et al* (2013) investigated the correlation between the variables (poverty rate, crime level, corruption level, unemployment rate, and inflation rate) in Nigeria from 1980 to 2009 using the OLS. The results of the OLS revealed that unemployment, poverty and corruption impacted negatively on crime level, while inflation rate impacted positively on crime level in the Nigeria. There was no causality between unemployment and crime level.

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2. METHODOLOGY AND DISCUSSION

The data used for this study is secondary in nature, it includes annual abstract of Statistics, National Bureau of Statistics (2012, 2016) in Nigeria. The scope of the study is from 2002 to 2015 given the availability of data. The study is historical and the analysis done using descriptive statistics such as the use tables and percentages.

Table 1: Unemployment rate in Nigeria 2002-2011

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Unemployment rate (%)	12.6	14.8	13.4	11.9	12.3	12.7	14.9	19.7	21.1	23.9	27.4	24.7	25.2	29.2

Source: NBS (2011, 2016)

Table 2: First offenders (crime)

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015Q2
Male	78,427	45,114	54,453	73,535	74,233	NA	105,284	91,832	31,853
Female	4,749	2,583	2,528	3,178	4,347	NA	6,203	5,466	2,009
Total	83,176	47,697	56,981	76,713	78,580	NA	111,487	97,298	33,862

Source: NBS Annual Abstract 2012, 2016 (author's computation)

Given that unemployment rate is a percentage of unemployed people within the work force and that within this work force, there is a percentage of people who are under-employed then the situation is one that is troubling for any nation. From Table 1, we see that unemployment has been on the rise since 2002 with the exception of 2004 and 2005 where the unemployment rates declined slightly. Unemployment rates increased by 5.1% between 2007 and 2008; however, the number of first offenders declined from 83,176 to 47,697 in the said period. The fall in crime in 2008 may not be unconnected to the election that took place in 2007 as thuggery and violence now mars the country's political space especially on election year. Unfortunately, data is not available for 2012 to make this comparison as 2011 was also an election year. The unemployment rate rose slightly in 2008 from 14.9% to 19.7% in 2009, this increase reflected in the number of first offenders which increased from 47,697 to 56,981.

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The rate of unemployment then climbed from 21.5% in 2010 to 23.9% in 2011 matching the number of first offenders from 76,713 to 78,580 in the same period. This indicates that as unemployment rose so did the crime rate in Nigeria which is consistent with Becker's economic approach linking unemployment and crime and the work of Aminu *et al*, (2013).

Table 3: Prison admission by type of offence for crime data

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015Q2
Arson	2,911	1,198	2,228	3,259	1,731	NA	699	808	227
Assault	7,654	5,432	6,537	5,491	6,001	NA	1,482	7,657	3,307
Murder	10,467	11,058	11,419	22,689	9,220	NA	7,172	8,560	2,658
Abduction/ Kidnapping	353	591	2,187	3,287	2,325	NA	1,689	1349	347
Smuggling	6,359	1,344	2,164	5,657	3,933	NA	636	544	25
Stealing	46,740	41,496	34,957	23,868	11,504	NA	50,436	45,876	12,991
Robbery	8,594	16,587	16,127	19,298	8,083	NA	13,216	8,505	2,880
Armed robbery	10,774	17,517	14,682	19,507	9,193	NA	11,860	10,249	4,867
Sex offences	3,542	3,562	4,162	2,330	4,008	NA	5,797	4,436	1,621
Currency offences	644	516	1,593	2,695	3,143	NA	2,762	783	252
Unlawful possession of arms	3,525	1,841	3,482	1,915	2,948	NA	2,716	2,613	1,198
Human trafficking	4,939	35	1,890	3,815	3,533	NA	222	315	40
Other crimes	9,987	5,916	14,942	13,475	16,849	NA	33,074	25,725	8,801

Source: NBS Annual Abstract 2016

Also from Table 3 we can see that the number of crime was higher in the year 2007 declining in 2008 for all crimes listed in Table 3 except for robbery, armed robbery, sex offences, kidnapping and murder though unemployment rate rose by 5.1% in the said period. The prison admission by murder and sex offences increased slightly from 10,467 and 3,542 in 2007 to 11,058, and 3,562 in 2008 respectively, while the number of robbery offences almost doubled increasing from 8594 in 2007 to 16587 in 2008 and that for armed robbery increased from 10,774 in 2007 to 17,517 in 2008. Though the unemployment rate remained the same in 2008 and 2009, the number of prison admission by type of crime was on the increase for almost all crimes listed in

Table 3 with the exception of stealing, robbery and armed robbery, which declined to 34,952, 16,127 and 14,682 in 2009 as against 41,496, 16,582 and 17,517 in 2008. The number of prison admission for kidnapping and currency offences more than tripled from 591 and 516 in 2008 to 2,187 and 1,593 in 2009 while that for human trafficking increased 54 times from 2008 to 2009. There was a proportionate increase in the prison admission by type of crime from 2009 to 2010 though there was a decrease in assault, stealing, sex offences, unlawful possession of arms and other offences. While, human trafficking again more than doubled from 1,890 in 2009 to 3,815 in 2010. Finally, there was a decline in all number of prison admission by type of crime in 2011 with the exception of assault, sex and currency offences, unlawful possession of arms and other offences. The overall data show general increase in the number of prison admission by type of crime especially those that have direct financially benefit to the individuals involved like stealing, robbery, armed robbery, sex offences, currency offences and human trafficking. These results again are consistent with Becker's economic approach theory linking unemployment and crime and the work of Aminu *et al*, (2013)

Table 4: Registered unemployed and vacancies declared 2005-2009

Year	Registration			Net registration (author's Computation)	Vacancies declared	Placeme nt
	Old	Fresh	Re-registered			
Lower grade workers						
2005	53,237	458	6,021	47,674	180	128
2006	51,918	193	6,066	46,045	61	79
2007	69,770	625	5,858	64,537	264	167
2008	33,585	272	104	33,753	108	70
2009	180,193	12,412	2,601	190,004	4,694	4,127
Profession and Executive						
2005	139,713	2,108	3,201	138,620	1,128	939
2006	113,378	1,759	2,246	112,891	817	758
2007	159,756	1,852	2,831	158,777	937	340
2008	170,490	2,587	781	172,296	684	269
2009	62,442	10,674	4,686	68,430	2,049	759

Source: NBS Annual Abstract 2012

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A look at the registered unemployed and vacancies declared in Table 4 shows how bad the unemployment crisis is for the period with the worst hit group been the lower grade workers. Vacancies declared and placements was nothing compared to the net registered unemployed. In 2007 for instance there were 64,537 net registered unemployed among lower grade workers but a mere 264 vacancies declared with only 167 placements while in the same year among profession and executive there were 158,777 net registered unemployed with only 937 vacancies declared and 340 placements made. The jump in net registered unemployed among lower grade workers from 46,045 in 2006 to 64,537 in 2007, then among the profession and executive rising from 112,891 to 158,777 in the same period may be responsible for the high crime recorded in Table 3 in 2007. In addition, the decline we see in net registered unemployed by almost half among lower grade workers and just a slight increase among profession and executive workers may be responsible for the subsequent seemingly decline in crime in 2008.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

It is believed that unemployment creates poverty, and poverty leads to insecurity. One of the greatest threats to stability and national security in Nigeria is the large army of poor and unemployed people. The presence of insecurity in any environment leads to destruction of properties, disruption of lives and business activities, and it undermines and discourages investment leading to poor economic growth for any society. This paper found a link between crime level and unemployment, which agrees with the findings of Aminu *et al*, (2013). Higher unemployment will lead to high poverty levels and in turn criminality will be high and in the case of Nigeria can be further compounded when it is an election year because of the thuggery and violence that leads up to, during and immediately after the election. The existence of a ready army of unemployed youths in this case needs to be addressed.

This paper therefore recommends that the Government will need a more holistic approach in tackling insecurity. Policy makers should take steps towards creating permanent employment rather than temporary fix such as the SURE-P programme and make concerted effort in formulating robust monetary and fiscal policies aimed at ensuring price/ exchange rate stability and improving standard of

living. Programmes such as YOU WIN should be encouraged which is geared towards promoting SMEs where people get grants rather than loans, and closely monitored to ensure continuity of businesses set-up using these funds to meet the expectations of job creation. This should in turn reduce poverty in the country thereby reducing social vices, crime rate and insecurity in Nigeria, which has the capacity to ginger economic growth. Secondly, there needs to be a paradigm shift in the bias of our educational system with a view to making Nigerian youths imbibe at an early age, the philosophy of self-employment and entrepreneurship through inclusion of vocational and entrepreneurial training into our school curricula. The desire for mostly white collar jobs by the youths needs to be corrected early in other for this to be effective. In addition, there should be more “hands-on” policing in Nigeria, where the police are regularly, not only seen on the roads but also in the neighbourhoods, interacting with the citizenry (Know Your Neighbours). This will increase the chances of been caught if one commits a crime thereby putting people in check. Increased policing and sensitization of the citizenry especially the youths of benefits of elections that are free of violence and thuggery cannot be over emphasized. Finally, the greatest limitation to this study was the availability of data in the public domain. Therefore, Government should ensure timely collection, collating, analysis and publishing of data to provide up-to-date data for proper research to foster economic growth and development, while also providing policy makers with important tools for decision-making.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors wish to acknowledge the support of the National Bureau of Statistics for providing the data used in this study.

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ÖZET

İşsizliğin yoksulluk yarattığına inanılıyor ve yoksulluk güvensizliğe yol açıyor. Nijerya'daki istikrar ve ulusal güvenliğe yönelik en büyük tehditlerden biri, fakir ve işsizlerin büyük ordusu. Herhangi bir ortamda güvensizliğin varlığı, mülklerin tahrip olmasına, yaşamların ve iş faaliyetlerinin aksamasına neden olur ve herhangi bir toplum için düşük ekonomik büyümeye yol açan yatırımı baltalar ve caydırır. Bu makale, suç seviyesi ile işsizlik arasında, Aminu'nun bulgularına uygun zayıf bir bağlantı buldu. İnsanlar işsiz kalsalar ve sonuçta fakir olsalar bile, suçluluk o kadar yüksek olmayabilir. İşsizlik oranının, yaşam maliyeti, enflasyonla birleştiği gibi diğer faktörlerle birleştiğinde, beklentilerin ötesinde suç düzeylerini artırması ihtimali de yüksektir.

Bu nedenle, yalnızca işsizlikle mücadele, Nijerya bağlamında güvensizliği önemli ölçüde azaltmayabilir. Bu nedenle, bu makale Hükümetin güvensizlikle mücadelede daha bütünsel bir yaklaşıma ihtiyaç duymasını önermektedir; enflasyon oranlarını düşürecek güçlü maliye ve para politikaları sağlayarak, döviz kurunu istikrarlı hale getirecek ve yaşam standardını iyileştirecektir. Politika yapıcılar, SURE-P programı gibi geçici düzeltmelerden ziyade kalıcı istihdam yaratma yönünde adımlar atmalı ve fiyat istikrarını sağlamayı amaçlayan sağlam para ve maliye politikaları formüle etmek için çaba sarf etmelidir. SİZ KAZANMAK gibi programlar, kredi yerine insanların hibe aldıkları KOBİ'lerin tanıtımına yönelik ve bu fonları kullanarak iş yaratma beklentilerini karşılamak için kurulan işletmelerin sürekliliğini sağlamak için yakından izlenen teşvik edilmelidir. Bu da ülkedeki yoksulluğu azaltmalı, böylece Nijerya'da ekonomik büyümeyi zedeleyebilecek sosyal yardım, suç oranı ve güvensizliği azaltmalı. İkincisi, Nijeryalı gençlerin mesleki ve girişimci eğitimin dahil edilmesi ve girişimcilik gelişim programlarının okul müfredatımıza dahil edilmesi yoluyla serbest meslek ve girişimcilik felsefesini benimsemeleri amacıyla eğitim sistemimizin önyargısında bir paradigma değişikliği olması gerekmektedir. . Buna ek olarak, Nijerya'da polis düzenli olarak bulunduğu, sadece yollarda değil mahallelerde, vatandaşlarla etkileşime giren (Komşularınızı Tanıyın) daha fazla "uygulamalı" polislik yapılmalı. Suç işlediğinde yakalanma şansı artar ve bu sayede insanları kontrol altına alır. Son olarak, bu çalışmanın en büyük kısıtlılığı kamuya açık verilerin kullanılabilirliği olmuştur. Bu nedenle, Hükümet, ekonomik büyüme ve gelişmeyi teşvik etmek için uygun araştırmalar için güncel veriler sağlamak üzere verilerin toplanmasını, derlenmesini, analiz edilmesini ve yayınlanmasını sağlamalı, aynı zamanda politika yapıcılara karar vermede önemli araçlar sunmalıdır.

