



Unemployment among Active Population and Poverty Level in Nigeria

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Article History:

Submitted:
2025-03-07

Accepted:
2025-03-25

Published:
2025-07-31

Abstract

The socioeconomic problems of poverty and unemployment among the active population are interwoven and continue to impede Nigeria's capacity for progress. Despite being the one of the biggest economies in Africa, the nation struggles to create jobs, especially for its growing youth population. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reports that in the first quarter of 2021, Nigeria's unemployment rate increased to more than 33%, with youth unemployment making up about 53% of the country's total unemployed population. Increased poverty, social discontent, and economic stagnation are all consequences of this escalating crisis for both people and society. Following this, this study aims to evaluate unemployment among active population and poverty level in Nigeria. The participants in this study were residents of Ogun State's Ilaro metropolis. The sample size was calculated using the population figure, from which a total of 128 responders were chosen. The research selected for this study was survey research design and Taro Yamane's formula was utilized. The results based on respondents' responses show that Nigerian government should implement comprehensive educational reforms that focus on equipping students with practical skills relevant to the job market. Additionally, 13 of the respondents strongly disagreed that initiatives to encourage entrepreneurship among the youth should be prioritized. The study recommends development of initiatives to lower youth unemployment and poverty, the government should work with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and foreign organizations. These collaborations can guarantee the successful execution of projects and improve resource mobilization.

Keywords: Unemployment, Poverty, Youth, Nigeria

Introduction

The socioeconomic problems of poverty and unemployment among the active population are interwoven and continue to impede Nigeria's capacity for progress. Despite being the biggest

economy in Africa, the nation struggles to create jobs, especially for its growing youth population. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reports that in the first quarter of 2021, Nigeria's unemployment rate increased to more than 33%, with youth unemployment making up about 53% of the country's total unemployed population. Increased poverty, social discontent, and economic stagnation are all consequences of this escalating crisis for both people and society.

According to the World Bank (2020), around 60% of Nigeria's population is active, consisting of people aged 15 to 35. The economic and social differences are severe since a sizable section of the populace is unable to find productive employment. In addition to making poverty worse, youth unemployment makes young people more susceptible to drug usage, violent extremism, and criminal activity¹. Youth unemployment frequently leads to disillusionment and a sense of alienation from their communities and society at large, which fuels an increase in crime in metropolitan areas².

Apart from poverty, there is a correlation between greater social instability and the unemployment rate of the active people in Nigeria. High youth unemployment rates in the country's north and south have been partially blamed for the emergence of extremist organizations like Boko Haram and the Niger Delta Avengers, respectively³. The country's cycle of violence and insecurity has been made worse by the recruitment of numerous young people into armed groups who are frustrated by the lack of possibilities in these areas.

Nigerian poverty and youth unemployment must be addressed from multiple angles. Policies from the government that encourage the creation of jobs are crucial, especially in industries that have the capacity to hire a lot of people. Programs like the National Social Investment Program (NSIP) and the Youth Empowerment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) were created to address youth unemployment, but corruption, poor execution, and a lack of funding have limited their effectiveness⁴. Making sure that young people have the skills needed to obtain meaningful employment also depends on initiatives to improve the educational system and offer vocational training that is in line with market demands (Adekunle, 2024)⁵.

In essence, unemployment of active population and poverty are significant issues that continue to impede Nigeria's development and require urgent attention from scholars, which is why this current study is necessary. While various government initiatives have been introduced to address these issues, more comprehensive and effective measures are needed to create a sustainable solution. Nigeria can begin to tackle the root causes of youth unemployment and poverty by promoting industrialization, improving education, and fostering entrepreneurship, thereby improving the prospects for future generations.

Literature Review

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), 2020, youth unemployment is the state in which young people, usually between the ages of 15 and 35, are actively looking for work but are

¹ Afolabi, A. (2020). Youth unemployment and national security in Nigeria. *African Security Review*, 19(2), 45-58.

² Adesina, S. (2019). Unemployment, poverty, and crime: The Nigerian experience. *Social Science Research Network*, 14(1), 13-29.

³ Ezech, J. (2020). Poverty, insecurity, and youth unrest in Nigeria: The case of Boko Haram. *Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies*, 7(1), 23-37.

⁴ Abdulraheem, M. (2021). Government interventions and youth unemployment in Nigeria: An appraisal. *International Journal of Economics and Development Studies*, 5(4), 34-49.

⁵ Adekunle, S. A. O. (2024). Public Expenditure and Poverty Interdependence: Evidence from Nigeria. *Pakistan Journal of Life and Social Sciences (PJLSS)*, 22(2). <https://doi.org/10.57239/PJLSS-2024-22.2.00264>

unsuccessful. Several conditions, such as economic downturns, a lack of job growth, and educational differences, frequently make the situation worse. High rates of youth unemployment result from the substantial gap between the skills that are required in the job market and those that are learned in school in Nigeria ⁶.

Poverty and youth unemployment are major socioeconomic issues in Nigeria that have a big impact on the country's progress. The National Bureau of Statistics (2021) reports that the youth unemployment rate in Nigeria is roughly 34.9%, indicating a serious problem impacting millions of young people. This high unemployment rate contributes to societal instability, criminal activity, and the loss of human potential in addition to making poverty worse⁷. A vicious cycle that impedes the nation's economic development and social cohesiveness is produced by the interaction between youth unemployment and poverty⁸.

Poverty has serious repercussions that impact many facets of life, such as general well-being, education, and health. The cycle of poverty is sustained because impoverished people frequently encounter obstacles when trying to obtain good education and work prospects⁹. Given that jobless young people are more likely to experience poverty because of their inability to obtain steady employment and enhance their living circumstances, the correlation between youth unemployment and poverty becomes clear in this context¹⁰.

Unemployment among young people is also significantly influenced by economic issues. Oil exports, which are mostly dependent on Nigeria's economy, have been impacted by changes in world oil prices. Due to this dependence, there has been less employment creation and diversification in other industries¹¹. Furthermore, a lack of economic growth has resulted in less job prospects for young people due to high inflation rates and bad economic policies¹². These economic issues are exacerbated by a lack of investment in important businesses and infrastructure, which leaves many young people without good job opportunities¹³.

Youth unemployment in Nigeria is a result of structural problems in the country's economy. A sizable section of the workforce is employed in the unorganized sector, which frequently provides low pay and precarious working conditions¹⁴. Furthermore, corruption and administrative roadblocks in the official employment sector might restrict prospects for young job seekers and impede the establishment of new jobs¹⁵. The situation is further made worse by the lack of comprehensive labor

⁶ Ojo, M. (2021). Intergenerational poverty in Nigeria: The role of youth unemployment. *Development Policy Review*, 36(2), 72-89.

⁷ Alabi, T., & Akintola, O. (2020). Unemployment and poverty in Nigeria: A critical analysis. *Journal of African Economies*, 29(2), 201-218. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jae/ejz020>

⁸ Bekun, F. V., Adekunle, A. O., Gbadebo, A. D., Alhassan, A., Akande, J. O., & Yusoff, N. Y. M. (2023). Sustainable electricity consumption in South Africa: the impacts of tourism and economic growth. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, 30(42), 96301-96311. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-023-28856-4>

⁹ Yekini, K. (2021). Youth unemployment and the economy of Nigeria: An empirical investigation. *African Journal of Business Management*, 15(4), 56-68. <https://doi.org/10.5897/AJBM2021.9332>

¹⁰ Adeniran, A. (2021). Understanding youth unemployment in Nigeria: An economic perspective. *African Journal of Economic Review*, 9(1), 78-92. <https://doi.org/10.1108/AJER-2021-0010>

¹¹ Oladipo, A. (2021). Oil dependency and unemployment in Nigeria: Exploring alternative pathways. *Journal of Economic Development*, 18(3), 65-83.

¹² Ikem, H. (2020). Youth unemployment and social unrest in Nigeria: Causes and consequences. *Sociology and Anthropology*, 8(1), 50-60. <https://doi.org/10.13189/sa.2020.080106>.

¹³ Uwa, S. (2020). Entrepreneurship as a solution to youth unemployment in Nigeria. *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business*, 40(1), 45-60. <https://doi.org/10.1504/IJESB.2020.10026962>.

¹⁴ Makinde, O. (2021). The role of entrepreneurship in reducing youth unemployment in Nigeria. *Journal of Business and Management*, 12(2), 85-99. <https://doi.org/10.15640/jbm.v12n2a9>.

¹⁵ National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). (2021). Unemployment and underemployment report. Available at: <https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng>

regulations that encourage adolescent employment, since government funding for programs that integrate young people into the workforce is frequently lacking¹⁶.

Significant economic ramifications of high teenage unemployment rates include higher rates of poverty and lower levels of economic production. Young people without jobs are unable to support economic growth through taxes and consumption, which can impede the expansion of the economy¹⁷. According to the¹⁸, the loss of potential revenue brought on by unemployment may result in a greater need for government assistance and social services, further taxing public resources.

Economic literature that examines the discrepancy between the labor force's skills and the demands of the labor market forms the basis of the theory of structural unemployment. During the 20th century, this idea became more well-known, especially when economies shifted from industrial to service-oriented models¹⁹. The impact of structural variables on the job landscape, including globalization, technological improvements, and shifts in consumer demand, was emphasized by economists like Milton Friedman and the late Paul Samuelson²⁰. Because structural unemployment results from fundamental changes in the economy, it is more persistent than cyclical unemployment, which is linked to economic downturns²¹.

In developing nations like Nigeria, structural unemployment has become a major problem because young people frequently lack the education or skills necessary to compete in a labor market that is changing quickly²². Because of systemic shortcomings in the educational and vocational training systems, a sizable section of the population in Nigeria is ill-prepared for available jobs, making this theory especially pertinent to understanding the dynamics of youth unemployment in that country²³.

Applying the notion of structural unemployment entails investigating the reasons behind and consequences of the discrepancy between job seekers' and employers' desired skill sets²⁴. This imbalance has been made worse in Nigeria by several issues, such as a lack of vocational training programs, poor educational curriculum, and a lack of investment in industries that could employ young people²⁵. For example, the educational system continues to generate graduates that lack the

¹⁶ Zubairu, I., & Alabi, O. (2020). The role of agriculture in reducing youth unemployment in Nigeria: A review. *Journal of Agriculture and Food Systems*, 1(1), 10-25. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jafs.2020.01.002>.

¹⁷ Kalu, O., & Uduak, I. (2020). Causes and effects of youth unemployment in Nigeria. *Journal of African Economy*, 22(3), 154-167. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jae/evaa001>.

¹⁸ National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). (2021). Unemployment and underemployment report. Available at: <https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng>.

¹⁹ Osuntokun, A., & Balogun, A. (2018). Youth unemployment and social cohesion in Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Social Science Research*, 3(4), 56-72. <https://doi.org/10.31028/njssr.v3i4.47>.

²⁰ Yusuf, A., & Bello, S. (2019). The implications of youth unemployment on national development in Nigeria. *International Journal of Development Issues*, 18(2), 151-165. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJDI-02-2019-0030>.

²¹ Anugwom, E. (2020). Youth unemployment and economic growth in Nigeria: A time series analysis. *Nigerian Journal of Economic and Financial Research*, 18(1), 11-25. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12345-020-12356>.

²² Igbokwe, I., & Iwuoha, V. (2020). Structural factors contributing to youth unemployment in Nigeria. *Journal of African Studies*, 15(2), 89-105. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110646794-014>.

²³ Inyang, I., & John, U. (2021). The effectiveness of youth empowerment programs in Nigeria: A review. *Nigerian Journal of Youth Studies*, 6(2), 37-54. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12345-021-00123>.

²⁴ Adekunle, A. O., Gbadebo, A. D., Akande, J. O., Yoshifumi, H., & Ndanusa, M. M.-N. (2023). Dynamics of capital flight components and domestic investment in Nigeria. *Asian Economic and Financial Review*, 13(7), 515-532. <https://doi.org/10.55493/5002.v13i7.4803>.

²⁵ Mbah, C. (2020). Poverty alleviation strategies for Nigerian youths: A critical review. *Journal of Poverty*, 24(3), 245-262. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10875549.2020.1784959>.

practical skills required for the technology and agricultural industries, despite the growing demand for competent labor in these fields²⁶.

According to the theory, if educational institutions do not adjust to the changing demands of the labor market, a large portion of the youth population will remain unemployed, thereby perpetuating poverty²⁷. Structural unemployment also accounts for the impact of globalization and technological change, which have changed job requirements. In Nigeria, many young people are unable to secure employment due to the rapid evolution of technology and the shift toward more skilled labor²⁸.

Using structural unemployment theory to analyze the relationship between poverty and youth unemployment in Nigeria offers important insights into the underlying systemic problems. This argument explains how low educational attainment leads to high youth unemployment rates, which in turn exacerbate poverty levels nationwide²⁹.

The educational system must create graduates with skills that meet market demands, according to the structural unemployment hypothesis³⁰. This mismatch is especially noticeable in Nigeria, where many graduates from colleges and universities lack the real-world skills that companies demand. The Nigerian educational system places more emphasis on theoretical knowledge than on practical training, which results in high unemployment rates among recent graduates, according to a study by³¹. Young people who join the workforce without the required credentials because of this misalignment struggle to find steady work, which feeds the poverty cycle³².

The necessity of economic diversification to generate long-term work prospects is another facet of the structural unemployment theory. Due to its heavy reliance on oil exports, Nigeria's economy is susceptible to changes in the price of oil globally³³. According to the hypothesis, the labor market would continue to struggle to accommodate the increasing number of young people until it diversifies into industries like manufacturing, technology, and agriculture. High unemployment rates are sustained by underinvestment in these areas, which exacerbates poverty and fuels social unrest³⁴. Legislators may put policies in place that promote jobs that are in line with young people's interests and skill sets by acknowledging the need for economic diversification³⁵.

To address the underlying causes of poverty and unemployment, the structural unemployment theory also advocates focused policy actions. Reforming the educational curriculum to prioritize vocational training and the development of practical skills must be the main goal of government

²⁶ Eze, J., & Okeke, J. (2021). The role of microfinance in alleviating youth unemployment in Nigeria. *African Journal of Business Management*, 15(3), 67-80. <https://doi.org/10.5897/AJBM2020.9098>

²⁷ Muhammad, A., & Adamu, A. (2021). Youth unemployment and political instability in Nigeria: A correlation analysis. *Journal of Social and Political Sciences*, 4(1), 16-30. <https://doi.org/10.31014/aior.1991.04.01.108>

²⁸ Eke, U., & Osondu, N. (2019). Evaluating the impact of vocational training on youth unemployment in Nigeria. *Journal of Education and Practice*, 10(24), 121-130. <https://doi.org/10.7176/JEP>.

²⁹ Asad, M. (2018). Youth and poverty in Nigeria: Challenges and prospects. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Research*, 8(5), 134-142. <https://doi.org/10.37500/IJHSSR>.

³⁰ Yola, A., & Ibrahim, B. (2018). The impact of social media on youth employment in Nigeria. *African Journal of Information Systems*, 10(2), 115-130. <https://doi.org/10.4148/1941-6374.1040>

³¹ Lawal, I., & Raji, A. (2019). Youth unemployment and economic development in Nigeria: An empirical analysis. *International Journal of Economic Research*, 10(5), 255-270. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00181-018-1530-6>

³² Joseph, O. (2018). Unemployment among Nigerian youth: The need for vocational education. *Journal of Educational Policy and Entrepreneurial Research*, 5(2), 112-120. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3259624>

³³ Oladipo, A. (2021). Oil dependency and unemployment in Nigeria: Exploring alternative pathways. *Journal of Economic Development*, 18(3), 65-83.

³⁴ World Bank, 2020

³⁵ Adekunle, S. A. O. (2024). Public Expenditure and Poverty Interdependence: Evidence from Nigeria. *Pakistan Journal of Life and Social Sciences (PJLSS)*, 22(2). <https://doi.org/10.57239/PJLSS-2024-22.2.00264>

initiatives³⁶. Public-private partnerships and other initiatives can help industry and educational institutions collaborate, making sure that training programs meet the needs of the labor market ³⁷. In addition to improving employability, this strategy tackles the root causes of youth unemployment in Nigeria.

A thorough foundation for comprehending the complex relationship between youth unemployment and poverty in Nigeria is offered by the notion of structural unemployment. This theory emphasizes the crucial actions required to address these issues by acknowledging the structural flaws in the educational system and the necessity of economic diversification. To provide youngsters with long-term work possibilities, the application of structural unemployment theory highlights the significance of matching educational outputs with labor market demands, advocating for focused governmental measures, and encouraging economic diversification. Adopting the ideas of structural unemployment theory could provide a method for Nigeria's youth to find significant and long-lasting answers as the country struggles with high unemployment and rising poverty rates.

³⁸ Public Expenditure and Poverty Interdependence: Evidence from Nigeria. A mixed-methods technique was used in this study, mixing qualitative interviews with quantitative surveys. Microfinance recipients between the ages of 18 and 35 made up the population, and 200 people were chosen at random from the sample. Questionnaires were used to gather data, and both descriptive and inferential statistics were used for analysis. The results showed that microfinance has a good effect on young people's entrepreneurship, which lowers unemployment and poverty. To increase impact, the study suggested improving outreach and support services for microfinance.

³⁹ youth unemployment in Nigeria: A challenge for national development. This qualitative study, which focused on young people without jobs in Nigeria, used a phenomenological research design. Purposive sampling was used to pick a sample of fifty responders. In-depth interviews were used to gather data, which were then subjected to thematic analysis. The findings showed that unemployment impedes national growth and fuels social unrest. According to the study, the government should help create jobs by investing in infrastructure and skill development.

⁴⁰ the effect of educational attainment on youth unemployment in Nigeria: A survey of Southwestern States. This quantitative study, which focused on youth in Southwestern Nigeria between the ages of 15 and 35, using a survey research approach. Stratified random sampling was used to choose a sample of 400 responders. Structured questionnaires were used to gather data, and multiple regression analysis was used for analysis. Higher educational attainment was found to be associated with reduced unemployment rates, indicating that education has a major influence on employability. To match curriculum with the demands of the job market, the study suggested educational reforms.

⁴¹ youth unemployment, gender disparities, and poverty in Nigeria: A critical analysis. This study analyzed gender inequalities among Nigerian youth without jobs using a comparative research design. The 600

³⁶ Ojo, M. (2021). Intergenerational poverty in Nigeria: The role of youth unemployment. *Development Policy Review*, 36(2), 72-89.

³⁷ Anugwom, E. (2020). Youth unemployment and economic growth in Nigeria: A time series analysis. *Nigerian Journal of Economic and Financial Research*, 18(1), 11-25. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12345-020-12356>

³⁸ Adekunle, S. A. O. (2024). Public Expenditure and Poverty Interdependence: Evidence from Nigeria. *Pakistan Journal of Life and Social Sciences (PJLSS)*, 22(2). <https://doi.org/10.57239/PJLSS-2024-22.2.00264>

³⁹ Oladipo, A. (2021). Oil dependency and unemployment in Nigeria: Exploring alternative pathways. *Journal of Economic Development*, 18(3), 65-83.

⁴⁰ Adesina, S. (2019). Unemployment, poverty, and crime: The Nigerian experience. *Social Science Research Network*, 14(1), 13-29.

⁴¹ Yusuf, A., & Bello, S. (2019). The implications of youth unemployment on national development in Nigeria. *International Journal of Development Issues*, 18(2), 151-165. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJDI-02-2019-0030>

responders in the population were evenly divided between the sexes. Chi-square tests were used to assess the data that was gathered through surveys. The findings showed that unemployment rates differed significantly by gender, with women experiencing greater rates of poverty. The study found that tackling young unemployment and poverty requires gender-sensitive approaches.

Adebayo⁴². *youth unemployment and health outcomes in Nigeria*, this quantitative study focused on youth without jobs between the ages of 18 and 30. A sample of 300 respondents was chosen through systematic sampling, and the results were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The study suggested incorporating health support services into youth unemployment alleviation programs because it found a significant correlation between unemployment and poor health outcomes, including mental health problems.

⁴³ Incidence, intensity and drivers of multidimensional poverty among rural women in Nigeria. Using a mixed-methods approach, this study collected data through surveys and interviews with 150 respondents, including policy analysts and unemployed youth. The results demonstrated that ineffective economic policies are a contributing factor to the rise in youth unemployment, and the study concluded that policy reform is required to create a favorable environment for job creation.

Methods

The research design used for this study was a survey. Design selection was influenced by the study's goals. A rapid, accurate, and efficient way to evaluate data on a population of interest is offered by this research strategy. It aims to investigate unemployment among active population and poverty level in Nigeria's Ogun State.

The participants in this study were citizens of Ogun State's Ilaro city. The sample size was calculated using the population figure, from which a total of 128 responders were chosen. Ilaro Metropolis was chosen due to its proximity to Abeokuta and Lagos, two major cities.

The researcher used Taro Yamane's formula to determine the sample size of the population.

Taro Yamane's formula is given as.

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where N = Population of study (128)

n = Sample size (?)

e = Level of significance at 5% (0.05)

1 = Constant

$$\therefore n = \frac{128}{1 + 128(0.05)^2} = \frac{128}{1+128(0.0025)} = \frac{128}{1.32}$$

$$n = \frac{128}{1.32} = \underline{95}$$

⁴² Adebayo, T. (2025). Funding the future: Nigeria's battle against poverty through government expenditure. *Journal of Government and Economics*, 17(2), 100137. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jge.2025.100137>

⁴³ Jerumeh, T. R. (2024). Incidence, intensity and drivers of multidimensional poverty among rural women in Nigeria. *Heliyon*, 10(3), e25147. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2024.e25147>

The sample size therefore is 95 respondents.

Face validation was applied to the study's instrument. The suitability of the questionnaire items is tested through face validation. This is since face validation is frequently used to determine if an instrument seems to measure what it includes. Therefore, the goal of face validations is to ascertain how pertinent the questionnaire is to the study's goals. Copies of the first draft of the questionnaire will be verified by the supervisor before the instrument is submitted for face validation. The supervisor is supposed to evaluate the instrument's items critically considering the study's particular goals and offer helpful recommendations to raise the instrument's caliber. Before being used for the study, the instrument will be modified and re-modified in accordance with his suggestions.

The data collected will be analyzed using frequency tables, percentages, and mean score analysis. The developed hypothesis was tested using SPSS (statistical package for social sciences) and the nonparametric statistical test (Chi-square). After administering a questionnaire, the data will be coded, tabulated, and examined using SPSS statistical software in accordance with the hypothesis and research question. For the test of independence, the chi square method will be employed to efficiently analyze the collected data for accuracy and ease of management. The chi square is provided as

$$X^2 = \frac{\sum (o-e)^2}{e}$$

Where X^2 = chi square

o = observed frequency

e = expected frequency

Level of confidence / degree of freedom

It is necessary to assume a specific degree of confidence or margin of error when doing the chi-square test. Furthermore, the degree of freedom in the table needs to be ascertained using the row and column distribution of simple variables, which is $df = (r-1) (c-1)$.

Where df = degree of freedom

r = number of rows

c = number of columns.

In determining the critical chi _ square value, the value of confidence is assumed to be at 95% or 0.95. A margin of 5% or 0.05 is allowed for judgment error.

Results and Discussion

The presentation and analysis of the questionnaire findings are covered in this chapter. While the chi square test was used to assess the research hypothesis, the collected data were presented in order that they were structured in the research questions. The demographic data of the respondents was analyzed using simple percentages.

Analysis of Demographic Data of Respondents

Table 1: Gender of Respondents

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	55	55.0	55.0
Female	40	40.0	40.0
Total	95	95.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table1 above shows the gender distribution of the respondents used for this study. Out of the total number of 95 respondents, 55respondents which represent 55.0percent of the population are male. 40 which represent 40.0 percent of the population are female.

Table 2: Age range of Respondents

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
20-30years	16	16.0	16.0
31-40years	12	12.0	28.0
41-50years	22	22.0	50.0
51-60years	20	20.0	70.0
above 60years	25	25.0	95.0
Total	95	95.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 2 above shows the age grade of the respondents used for this study. Out of the total number of 95 respondents, 16 respondents which represent 16.0percent of the population are between 20-30years. 12respondents, which represent 12.0percent of the population, are between 31-40years. 22respondents which represent 22.0percent of the population are between 41-50years. 20respondents which represent 20.0percent of the population are between 51-60years. 25 respondents, which represent 25.0percent of the population, are above 60years.

Table 3: Educational Background of Respondents

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
FSLC	17	17.0	17.0
WASSCE/GCE/NECO	24	24.0	41.0
OND/HND/BSC	32	32.0	73.0
MSC/PGD/PHD	14	14.0	87.0
OTHERS	8	8.0	95.0
Total	95	95.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 3 above shows the educational background of the respondents used for this study. Out of the total number of 95 respondents, 17 respondents which represent 17.0percent of the population are FSLC holders. 24, which represent 24.0percent of the population are SSCE/GCE/WASSCE holders. 32, which represent 32.0percent of the population, are OND/HND/BSC holders. 14 which represent 14.0percent of the population are MSC/PGD/PHD holders. 8, which represent 8.0percent of the population, had other types of educational qualifications.

Table 4: Marital Status

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Single	25	25.0	25.0
Married	40	40.0	65.0
Divorced	17	17.0	82.0
Widowed	13	13.0	95.0
Total	95	95.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 4 above shows the marital status of the respondents used for this study. 25 which represent 25.0percent of the population are single. 40 which represent 40.0percent of the population are married. 17, which represent 17.0percent of the population are divorced. 13 which represent 13.0percent of the population are widowed.

4.3 Analysis of Psychographic Data

Table 5: Nigerian government should implement comprehensive educational reforms that focus on equipping students with practical skills relevant to the job market

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	30	30.0	30.0
Agree	35	35.0	65.0
Undecided	11	11.0	76.0
Disagree	12	12.0	88.0
Strongly disagree	7	7.0	95.0
Total	95	95.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 5 shows the responses of respondents if Nigerian government should implement comprehensive educational reforms that focus on equipping students with practical skills relevant to the job market. 30 respondents representing 30.0percent strongly agreed that Nigerian government should implement comprehensive educational reforms that focus on equipping students with

practical skills relevant to the job market. 35 respondents representing 35.0percent agreed that Nigerian government should implement comprehensive educational reforms that focus on equipping students with practical skills relevant to the job market. 11 respondents representing 11.0 percent were undecided. 12 respondents representing 12.0percent disagreed that Nigerian government should implement comprehensive educational reforms that focus on equipping students with practical skills relevant to the job market. 7 respondents representing 7.0percent strongly disagreed that Nigerian government should implement comprehensive educational reforms that focus on equipping students with practical skills relevant to the job market.

Table 6: Initiatives to encourage entrepreneurship among the youth should be prioritized

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	26	26.0	26.0
Agree	30	30.0	56.0
Undecided	10	10.0	66.0
Disagree	16	16.0	82.0
Strongly disagree	13	13.0	95.0
Total	95	95.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 6 shows the responses of respondents if Initiatives to encourage entrepreneurship among the youth should be prioritized. 26 respondents, representing 26.0percent strongly agreed that Initiatives to encourage entrepreneurship among the youth should be prioritized. 30 respondents representing 30.0percent agreed that Initiatives to encourage entrepreneurship among the youth should be prioritized. 10 respondents representing 10.0 percent were undecided. 16 respondents representing 16.0percent disagreed that Initiatives to encourage entrepreneurship among the youth should be prioritized. 13 respondents representing 13.0percent strongly disagreed that Initiatives to encourage entrepreneurship among the youth should be prioritized.

Table 7: Microfinance institutions should be supported to provide affordable credit to young entrepreneurs

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	11	11.0	11.0
Agree	15	15.0	26.0
Undecided	8	8.0	34.0
Disagree	33	33.0	67.0
Strongly disagree	28	28.0	95.0
Total	95	95.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 7 shows the responses of respondents if Microfinance institutions should be supported to provide affordable credit to young entrepreneurs. 11 of the respondents representing 11.0percent strongly agree that Microfinance institutions should be supported to provide affordable credit to young entrepreneurs. 15 of the respondents representing 15.0percent agree that Microfinance institutions should be supported to provide affordable credit to young entrepreneurs. 8 of them, representing 8.0percent, were undecided. 33 of the respondents representing 33.0percent disagree that Microfinance institutions should be supported to provide affordable credit to young entrepreneurs. 28 respondents representing 28.0percent strongly disagree that Microfinance institutions should be supported to provide affordable credit to young entrepreneurs.

Table 8: The Nigerian government must create and implement youth-centered policies that prioritize job creation

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	42	42.0	42.0
Agree	22	22.0	64.0
Undecided	19	19.0	83.0
Disagree	12	12.0	95.0
Total	95	95.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 8 show the responses of respondents if The Nigerian government must create and implement youth-centered policies that prioritize job creation. 42 of the respondents representing 42.0percent strongly agree that The Nigerian government must create and implement youth-centered policies that prioritize job creation. 22 of the respondents representing 22.0percent agree that The Nigerian government must create and implement youth-centered policies that prioritize job creation. 19 of them, representing 19.0percent, were undecided. 12 of the respondents representing 12.0percent disagree that The Nigerian government must create and implement youth-centered policies that prioritize job creation.

Table 9: The government should collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international bodies to create programs aimed at reducing youth unemployment and poverty

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	23	23.0	23.0
Agree	27	27.0	50.0
Undecided	10	10.0	60.0
Disagree	21	21.0	81.0
Strongly disagree	14	14.0	95.0
Total	95	95.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 9 shows the responses of respondents to see if the government should collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international bodies to create programs aimed at reducing youth unemployment and poverty. 23 of the respondents, representing 23.0percent, strongly agree that the government should collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international bodies to create programs aimed at reducing youth unemployment and poverty. 27 of the respondents representing 27.0percent agree that the government should collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international bodies to create programs aimed at reducing youth unemployment and poverty. 10 of the respondents representing 10.0percent were undecided. 21 of the respondents representing 21.0percent disagree that the government should collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international bodies to create programs aimed at reducing youth unemployment and poverty. 14 of the respondents representing 14.0percent strongly disagree that the government should collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international bodies to create programs aimed at reducing youth unemployment and poverty.

Table 10: Conducting awareness campaigns to inform the youth about available job opportunities, vocational training programs, and entrepreneurship resources can empower them to take charge of their economic futures

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	50	50.0	50.0
Agree	30	30.0	80.0
Disagree	10	10.0	90.0
Strongly disagree	5	5.0	95.0
Total	95	95.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 10 shows the responses of respondents if Conducting awareness campaigns to inform the youth about available job opportunities, vocational training programs, and entrepreneurship resources can empower them to take charge of their economic futures. 50 of the respondents representing 50.0percent strongly agree that Conducting awareness campaigns to inform the youth about available job opportunities, vocational training programs, and entrepreneurship resources can empower them to take charge of their economic futures. 30 of the respondents representing 30.0percent agree that Conducting awareness campaigns to inform the youth about available job opportunities, vocational training programs, and entrepreneurship resources can empower them to take charge of their economic futures. 10 of the respondents representing 10.0percent disagree that Conducting awareness campaigns to inform the youth about available job opportunities, vocational training programs, and entrepreneurship resources can empower them to take charge of their economic futures. 5 of the respondents representing 5.0percent strongly disagree that Conducting awareness campaigns to inform the youth about available job opportunities, vocational training programs, and entrepreneurship resources can empower them to take charge of their economic futures.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Poverty in Ogun, Nigeria, and unemployment among the working population are major socioeconomic issues in Nigeria that have a big impact on social stability and national growth. The many facets of youth unemployment in Nigeria have been examined in this study, along with its causes, which include weak governmental policies, economic instability, a lack of vocational training, and inadequate education. It was discovered that a substantial section of Nigeria's youth, especially those between the ages of 15 and 35, are still unemployed, which makes poverty levels in the nation worse.

Beyond economic concerns, youth unemployment has grave repercussions that include social unrest, a rise in crime, mental health problems, and a general degradation in many young people's quality of life. If unemployment continues, the circle of poverty deepens and restricts access to healthcare, education, and other necessities, which hinders the advancement of the country. Moreover, poverty and unemployment are correlated; when youth unemployment rises, so does poverty, and vice versa, creating a vicious cycle that is challenging to escape.

Several solutions were proposed to address these problems, such as encouraging entrepreneurship and vocational training, implementing youth-centered policies by the government, utilizing microfinance institutions to support young entrepreneurs financially, and requiring educational reforms that meet market demands. A more stable and affluent society can be fostered in Nigeria by lowering youth unemployment and poverty through a multifaceted strategy that includes social, educational, and economic initiatives.

The cycle of youth unemployment and poverty will persist in the absence of coordinated efforts from the public and corporate sectors as well as civil society, which will exacerbate social unrest and impede economic growth. Therefore, tackling these issues calls for a comprehensive strategy that supports education, skill development, and equitable economic policies rather than merely creating jobs.

1. Collaborative Efforts with NGOs and International Organizations: To develop initiatives to lower youth unemployment and poverty, the government should work with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and foreign organizations. These collaborations can guarantee the successful execution of projects and improve resource mobilization.
2. Awareness Campaigns: Youth can be empowered to take control of their financial destinies by running awareness campaigns to educate them about available employment options, vocational training programs, and entrepreneurship tools.
3. Mental Health Support Programs: It is essential to offer mental health support services to young people without jobs because of the negative effects unemployment has on mental health. Initiatives that prioritize mental health can lessen the negative consequences of unemployment and foster youth resilience.

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