

# Youth Unemployment and Terrorism in Nigeria: The Case of “Boko Haram”

Galadima Gladstone Wayas, Sivapalan Selvadurai, Abd Hair Awang

**Abstract:** *The increasing social vices in Nigeria such as kidnapping, armed robbery, political thuggery and terrorism are indicators of a national doom. Kidnappings are done for ransom from the victims, while armed robbery, political thuggery, and terrorism are engaged for financial gains and selfish interest. These criminal activities negatively affect the peace, security, and development of the nation. This study examines the relationship between youth unemployment and Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria. This study relies on secondary data and adopted the frustration-aggression theory as its theoretical framework. The study revealed that high rate of youth unemployment in northeast Nigeria has provided foot soldiers for the Boko Haram elites. More so, available data show youth unemployment rate in Nigeria is so high, and these criminal engagements are attributed to it. As a way forward, the study recommends amongst others that, the Nigerian government should identify the causes of youth unemployment and intensify efforts at youth unemployment reduction as such efforts will reduce poverty and take care of other needs of the youths.*

**Index Terms:** Youth Unemployment, Terrorism, Boko Haram, Social Vices, Northeast Nigeria.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Youth unemployment Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria is indeed a threat to Nigerian sustainability and development. The huge number of unemployed youths are available personnel ready for recruitment into vices like kidnapping, Boko haram, armed robbery, and political thuggery. The high rate of unemployment in Nigeria has created an army for the deadly Boko haram, kidnapping, political thuggery and ethnic conflicts in the nation. (Stober, 2015) The popular adage in Nigeria that ‘The idle hand is the devil’s workshop’ confirms to Nigerian high youth unemployment and their connection to Boko Haram terrorism and other insurgencies. The evil activities of these groups do not only cripples the national economic activities but scares foreign investors and increases the rate of youth unemployment (Nwogwugwu & Irechukwu, 2015)

In an attempt to react to the degree of terrorism and social vices in Nigeria, some scholars attributed it to youth unemployment as the main factor responsible for it. To these

**Revised Manuscript Received on September 22, 2019.**

**Galadima Gladstone Wayas**, School of Social, Development and Environmental Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia 43600 Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, [galadimawayas@yahoo.com](mailto:galadimawayas@yahoo.com)

**Sivapalan Selvadurai**, School of Social, Development and Environmental Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia 43600 Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

**Abd Hair Awang**, School of Social, Development and Environmental Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia 43600 Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia.

scholars, youth unemployment is directly connected to Boko Haram terrorism and other social vices due to its frustration and depressive tendencies. That youth unemployment increases poverty, lack of opportunities to acquire knowledge and skills. (Varin, 2018). The unemployed youths due to their frustration and socio-economic difficulties and afflictions provides fertile ground for their recruitment into terrorism and others especially the Boko Haram in Nigeria (Idrees, Shabbir, Roman, & Atif, 2015). The implication of this statement is that unemployment with its nature, afflicts its victims psychologically to the extent that they are weight down by pressures due to lack of necessities of life as their situation does not promote or provide welfare in any way. This therefore makes it easy for the unemployed youths to accept invitations to join or be recruited into Boko Haram or any of the related vices based on the appealing conditions attached to as these unemployed youths may consider such as the best option to their distress and frustrated situation (Adelaja, Labo, & Penar, 2018)

Suleiman and his associate identified armed robbery, political thuggery, Kidnapping, Boko Haram, and other criminal acts among youths as the result of youth unemployment. Some of the youths who are unemployed due to frustration have turned themselves to suicide bombers, vandals, terrorists, kidnappers, militants, armed robbers, and lots more, thereby causing Nigeria a great loss in revenue earnings. This in turn hinders the nation from the needed development as these problems have negative impact on the economic and the security of the country (Suleiman & Aminul Karim, 2015). A scholar Perceived this as danger particularly with some who have taken to armed robbery and kidnapping that they may not search for legal employment even if the employment might be available because of the huge amount of money being realized through such. (Baah-Boateng, 2016). This great number of the unemployed youths have become mighty tools in the hands of wicked persons who used them for their selfish interest either as political thongs or use them to cause crisis in the nation (Afolabi, 2013)

Various studies have identified poverty, illiteracy, and many other causes of Boko Haram terrorism, but much is not said about youth unemployment and ungoverned places as a cause of Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria. This studies therefore investigates the link between youth unemployment and Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### A. Conceptual Clarification

The following sections include the main concepts of this paper along their description.

#### 1) Youth Unemployment

Youth unemployment as defined by a scholar is a situation of young people living without an engaged work to earn a living (Okafor, 2011) The International Labor Organization considers it as the entire population of able people living in a society that were supposed to be part of the economically active people but are living without employment and are also willing and available for work (Olawoyin, 2017) The implication of the above definitions is that youth unemployment is the number of working age people between the ages of 18 and 60 years, who are searching and available for employment within a stipulated or given period. It is not just a workable age of people without work, but people that are interested and are actively searching and are much available for the jobs. Youth unemployment as a concept is best described as a state of joblessness which an individual is duly qualified for gainful employment and has made series of applications or attempted different recruitment opportunities but could not successfully secure any job. (Fergusson, Horwood, & Woodward, 2001)

Youth is being seen and defined differently by different societies of the world. The United Nations considers ages between 15 and 24 as youths, while Uganda considers ages between 12 and 30 as youths. Youth is best understood as a period of transition from dependence childhood to adulthood (Akande, 2014). Youth in Nigeria is regarded between the ages of 18 and 35 years. The National Youth Policy document of Federal Republic of Nigeria stipulates the following characteristics of youths: He must be a Nigerian citizen between the ages of 18 and 35 years old, must have completed secondary school education, tertiary education, or learning a trade, he is looking for employment or already employed, he is leaving parental home because of marriage or being independent (Osakwe, 2013) (Abdullahi, 2008).

#### 2) Boko Haram Terrorist

Boko Haram as an Islamist terrorist group was founded by Mohammed Yusuf, an Islamic theologian around 2002 with its headquarter in Maiduguri, Borno state. The group major's priority is absolute adherence to the teachings of prophet Muhammed, especially on jihad. Boko in Hausa Language means Western education, while Haram in Arabic means forbidden. The implication of this is that Western education and culture ought to be neglected, ignored, and resisted as they (Boko Haram) are of the view it is the one responsible for the ills in the society today. Muhammed Yusuf's teaching was based on this ideology and expected all his followers to vehemently resist Western education as true followers of Allah (Shuaibu, Salleh, & Shehu, 2015). The major goals of Boko Haram are thus stated:

- Establishment of an Islamic state that has Quran as its constitution.
- Establishment of its educational system based on

Quran and Sunnah.

- Establishment of economic system that has characteristics of trading and farming and not capitalistic model that is in operation in most of the Western and secular states today.
- Waging war on their enemies. These enemies include the following: Any one or group of persons that oppose their teachings or beliefs; Nigerian government as a secular state; Nigerian army, police, and other security officers, and Government officers or civil servants in respective of their religious background (Moss, 2018)

In the pursuit of their (Boko Haram) stated goals, Muhammed Yusuf was killed in 2009 by Nigerian police in one of their attacks against the Nigerian government in Borno state. Abubakar Shekau who was a deputy to Muhammed Yusuf then became the commander in-chief or leader of Boko Haram. Abubakar Shekau felt bad on the death of his predecessor and vowed for retaliation on Nigerian government and its officials. Abubakar Shekau and the terrorist group became more aggressive in the evangelistic preaching of their extremism as the best way to earn more members. Thus was the summary of their evangelism:

- A member that fights and dies even through suicide bombing in the course of Allah has the reward of Aljanna paradise or heaven.
- Sharia is the only option for justice and prosperity
- Capitalism, Socialism, Western education and modernism have failed because Allah is excluded from each of the aforementioned.
- Nigeria was once an Islamic state before it was turned to an infidel state contrary to Muslim beliefs.
- The solution is to return back to a noble and honorable state that would be ruled through the principle of Sharia law. (Carter, 2012)

Boko Haram's serious-minded attacks on Nigeria and Nigerians started from when Abubakar Shekau took over the leadership of this deadly terrorist group. The attack that attracted sympathy of the global community most is the abduction or kidnapping of over 200 Chibok girls in a boarding school in 2014. Boko Haram as an Islamic terrorist group is more complex to handle due to its deceit of working for the purification of Islam religion and coupled that they are faceless. To refute this claim by Boko Haram that they are out to revive Islam, President Bush in 2001 after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack on US, stated that the violence acts of Islamic terrorists do not represent the true faith of Islam that he knew as a religion of peace (Bush, 2001). Sultan of Sokoto too in 2016 at Washington DC refuted Boko Haram deception of fighting for Islam as he stated that Islam forbids killings and that the Islamic terrorists are on their own. (Samerdyke, 2016)

TABLE 1. SOME ATTACKS OF BOKO HARAM FROM 2012 – 2017

Year	Attack	Death Toll
January 20, 2012	Two vehicles-borne were detonated in Kano, Nigeria.	200+
April 14, 2014	Chibok School Girls: Over 276 girls were kidnapped from a Boarding School in the Northeast Nigerian town of Chibok. This was Boko Haram’s most notorious abduction case, as it garnered international attention and created a worldwide social movement called “#Bring Back Our Girls.” In June 2017, the Nigerian Government reached a deal with the group, which freed over 100 of the Chibok girls.	Unknown
January 3-7, 2015	Baga Massacre: Boko Haram carried out a series of killings and destroyed 16 villages in Northeast Nigeria. It is one of the deadliest attacks Nigeria has ever experienced.	Estimated to be around 2,000.
April 23, 2015	Boko Haram opened fire in the village of Kukuwa-Gair. It was the seventh most fatal terrorist attack in 2015.	170+
July 28, 2017	While searching for oil, Boko Haram ambushed a group of people in Northeast Nigeria.	40+

Source: Adopted from (Moss, 2018)

Table 1 showing some of the Boko Haram’s attacks on Nigerian citizens between 2012 and 2017. The death toll of each of the attacks are indeed more than the figure in this report as indicated with plus signs.

### B. Theoretical Framework

This research adopts Frustration-Aggression theory that was propounded by Dollard et al in 1939 and was cited by Ikechukwu et al in 2017. The theory was propounded in an attempt to explain the occurrence of violence and crimes in a society. In their view, human beings have needs, ambitions, or expectations in life that are arranged in their order of priority. That once the attainment of these needs, particularly the basic needs are delayed, prevented, or denied frustration sets in and the consequences could be aggressive. The implication of this theory is that aggression is a consequence of frustration due to unobtainable needs or expectations in life. This Frustration-Aggression theory is opted for this research and could be used to link up with the ever increasing rate of youth unemployment and Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria. The inability of Nigerian government providing employment opportunities for its unemployed youths has provided a fertile atmosphere or environment for frustration for the unemployed youths. It is strongly believed that there is a feeling of joy and expectation when a student is about finishing from university or other higher institutions of learning. This expectation gradually declines away and is replaced with frustration after some years of hopelessness as

necessitated by unfruitful efforts made to secure employment opportunity. When the frustration prolongs as the employment delays or denied, there could be the earnest probability that the unemployed youths may resort to unethical engagements, activities or means to actualize their desired goals or needs in the society. The implication of the above is that, Boko Haram terrorism and its violence activities in Nigeria is a glaring exhibition of Frustration-Aggression theory from the great number of unemployed youths in Nigeria, especially the North East due to the denial of employment opportunities for them to earn a living. And it is most applicable and useful in this context, coupled with a Nigerian adage that says a hungry man is an angry man.(Breuer & Elson, 2017; Dialoke & Edeja, 2017; Nwogwugwu & Irechukwu, 2015)

### III. METHODOLOGY

This study covers the entire nation of Nigeria as the activities of Boko Haram affect the whole country. For instance, one of the institutions Boko Haram wages war against most is the government and all the civil servants, including the army, police, and other security agents. Apart from this, Boko Haram’s war is targeted to other Nigerians in respective of their tribes, educational attainment and social status, ages, sex, localities, as long they would not accept their (Boko Haram) views and convictions about life. Moreover, thousands of Nigerians that lost their lives through Boko Haram attacks are Nigerians from different states, different ages and are of different sex, especially those ones that died through bombing explosions in Jos, Suleja, and Kano cities. This research methodology is qualitative and adopted descriptive for its analysis, while its data are secondary sources collected from journals, seminar papers, and technical reports.

### IV. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

#### A. Causes of Youth Unemployment in Nigeria.

Nigerian youth unemployment and terrorism is a consequence of series of factors. They are thus: Corruption, insecurity, neglect of agriculture, outdated educational curricular, misguided educational qualifications, and lack of enabling environment for businesses.

##### 1) Corruption

Corruption is a major factor responsible for youth unemployment and terrorism in Nigeria, though it may not be explained and measured easily, however it is easy to be seen and identified as it is evil or bad behaviors in nature (Idachaba, 2014). Asian Development Bank sees corruption as wrong, bad and illegal behaviors of public or private sector officers to favor and amass themselves with public resources and equally do the same to relations and friends, as well using their positions to influence others in the illegal ways of life to the detriment of the general public (OECD., 2008). It could be considered as non-violent criminal practices and illegal manners or

activities with the aim to acquire wealth or resources meant for the individuals or the public (Adedeji<sup>1</sup>, Soyinka, & Sunday, 2018) (Okorie, 2014) In this, the officers who are legally appointed for the good of the public use their legal or authorized offices or positions for personal interest that in most cases involve stealing public fund meant for developmental purposes and creation of employment opportunities. This illegal way of such officers could involve manipulations of figures and information to favor some persons instead of being neutral in the discharge of their responsibilities as stipulated by the civil service rules that government officers should be neutral in handling their assigned duties. (Samuel, 2011).

### 2) *Insecurity*

Nigerian insecurity is also a factor responsible for youth unemployment. The seriousness of this started with bomb explosions at the Eagle Square in Abuja on the first of Oct'2010 when Nigeria was celebrating her 50th independence. After that, several bomb explosions took place in different parts of the nation in worship places, business places and motor parks. Many lives were lost, businesses and properties worth of billions of naira were destroyed. A lot of business couldn't survive the unfortunate incidences and the implication was that their staff became unemployed. (Adesina, 2013) The situation therefore increased the number of unemployed youths and criminal activities among them as many of them took to kidnapping, armed robbery, prostitution, while others were recruited into Boko Haram terrorism. Some were engaged and lured into ethnic and religious crisis and other related crimes (Adebayo, 2014) With the frequent occurrence of bomb explosions, kidnapping and other crimes in Nigeria, it gave negative impression to the entire world that Nigeria was not safe for investment and other related issues. Many international investors relocated to different countries where they knew had adequate peace and security and as a result of that many Nigerians lost their jobs (Akanni, 2014). As the bomb explosions, kidnappings and the related crimes was on the increase or prevailing in Nigerian, this state of insecurity prompted some nations of the world that had their businesses in Nigeria to issue specific instructions to their citizens in Nigeria where not to go for the fear that their citizens might be victims of bomb explosion or being kidnapped. US as a nation was one of these countries. It instructed its citizens through Bureau of Consular Affairs in January 2012 not to travel to some parts of Nigeria like the Niger Delta states, South east states, Plateau, Bauchi, and Borno states. This was as a result of frequent bomb explosions, kidnappings and the related crimes (Adesina, 2013). It was reported that between 2009 and 2011 more than 140 foreigners were kidnapped by Nigerian youths and seven of US citizens. These criminal activities do not only deter the growth of Nigeria economic but scared other nations that wanted investing in Nigeria. Their activities crippled other businesses that had been in existence and increased the number of youth unemployment and terrorism as the environment was not secured for economic activities and transactions, while so many

businesses folded up and so many schools closed down in the North east of the country (Adedeji<sup>1</sup> et al., 2018).

### 3) *Neglect of Agriculture*

Agriculture had been the main employment for Nigerians before the discovery and exploration of oil in the early 70s. It provided both food and employment to people within the 1960s, but was neglected at 1970s due to oil sector (Chiazor & Udume, 2017). Agriculture sector before the discovery of oil employed above 90 percent of Nigerians as their main economy, and there was very little or no problem of youth employment at all, for all working class people were actively engaged in one agriculture activity or the other for a living. Their income was through it as well as almost everywhere within the nation had one cash crop or the other. (Ojo & Oluwatayo, 2016). The problem with the oil sector is that it doesn't have the capacity to employ the explosive population of Nigerian youths as agriculture did in 1960s. Due to Nigeria negative attitudes to agriculture, it couldn't develop as supposed because there are no policies made to that effect, and coupled with Nigeria shallow level of technology as a factor responsible for its underdevelopment as many farming activities are yet to be done through mechanized farming as obtainable in most of the developed nations. In contending with youth unemployment, Nigerian Agricultural sector must be restructured to comfortably attract and employ the vast population of the unemployed youths (Oluwatayo & Ojo, 2018).

### 4) *Outdated Curriculum*

Nigeria educational system is being seen as factor responsible for youth unemployment in the country. According to (Ajake, Oba, & Ekpo, 2014) Nigeria educational system is indeed a factor responsible for youth unemployment because the curriculum planners failed to include issues that are related with the changing environment that should make the Nigerian youths employable after graduation from school. One of these is computer literacy knowledge that is needed globally for effective and maximum performance in all disciplines of life. A lot of Nigerian youths are not computer literate, though most of them are graduates from different universities of the nation. This therefore makes it almost impossible for such graduates to get employment these days particularly with international organizations in Nigeria. Added to this problem is that most of the institutions are not well equipped to give the youths while in schools or undergoing trainings the expected knowledge they require for employment. For example, many youths that read Business Education in Nigerian universities and other institutions of learning and that would be expected to be employed as secretaries or accountants and business administrative officers can hardly type or work and operate computer due to the inability of government to equip such institutions with computers and manual type writers for the sake of skills acquisition, but much emphasis has been on paper qualifications ((Collins & Halverson, 2018).

This is an indication that Nigerian present educational curricula is not appropriate based on the present needs and realities of life. (Kareem, Maaji, & Mohammed, 2016) The present curricula for Nigerian schools or educational system does not lay much emphasis or priority on entrepreneurship or entrepreneurial skills acquisition with the hope for self-employment. Instead youths are given the orientation during their trainings of seeking employment with the public or private sectors after completion of trainings was the ultimate (Etodike, Ezech, Ogbeide, & Ike, 2018). Vocational and technical education training as a solution to youth unemployment is not being given a priority in this present schools' curricula in Nigeria. In his persuasion for Vocational and technical education training skills as solution for youth unemployment (Edokpolor & Owenvbiugie, 2017) stated its significance, that it has the enablement for contending with youth unemployment and poverty through skills acquisition for development in a given society. That the major role of vocational and technical education training skills is that it equips the youths with the desired skills for easy employment and to enable them appropriately participate in the developmental processes of their nations. He concluded that both the developed and some developing nations have identified vocational and technical education training skills as the best solution for youth unemployment and for the development of a society. Olajide makes it clearer as he stated that the growing youth unemployment rate and terrorism in Nigeria is an indication or expression that the huge number of youths do not have the skills to initiate and operate a business so as to become self-employed. (Olajide, 2015)

#### 5) *Misguided Educational Qualification*

Misguided educational qualifications play a major factor to youth unemployment and terrorism in Nigeria. Reasons for this are: Nigerian young men and women were not guided on the courses and programs they went in to read in their various institutions of learning (Offem, Anashie, & Aniah, 2018). As a result of this, the job or employment requirements were not considered based on the changing environment and globalization. They have their educational qualifications but not required skills needed for the employment as required by employers of labor at this present dispensation or age (Longe, 2017). Another reason is that the curriculum for the educational institutions are outdated as it does not include employment practical skills, more so almost Nigerian institutions are not adequately equipped for the needed skills based on the requirement for employment in this present dispensation (Olatunji, 2018).

#### 6) *Failure of Providing Enabling Environment*

Nigeria's failure of providing enabling environment for successful business and economic activities, coupled with power failure is most responsible for the increasing rate of youth unemployment and terrorism. The environment is not indeed safe for any reasonable economic activities neither does it attract external investors any more due to the activities of Boko Haram, kidnapping, herdsmen killings, and corruption among the public office holders. According to

(Chiazor & Udume, 2017), about one hundred business organizations in Nigeria that provided employment for thousands of Nigerians closed down between 2009 and 2016 as a result of unfriendly nature of the environment as stated above and lack of adequate power supply. The closure of some of the business organizations in Nigeria within these years eventually brought their staff to unemployment situation. Other youths that completed their trainings in their respective institutions and trade centers have nowhere to go for employment or to apply for employment. The inability of government due to its corruption to provide infrastructure and facilities, and poor nature of power supply to ease the citizens in their efforts to continue with their businesses or self-employment aggravated their situation to the extend the same self-employed persons like the aluminum window filters, welders, furniture makers, fashion designers, and the related self-employed persons or Nigerians wound up their activities as they were not able to buy personal generators or could not afford for the power generators (Ruth, Emmanuel, & Ndubuisi-Okolo, 2014).

Apart from the artisans that closed down their self-employment, international business organizations in Nigeria like the Michelin, Dunlop Plc, Volkswagen Plc, PZ, etc also closed down their operations for their inability to provide themselves with adequate power supply needed for their operations in Nigeria. They therefore relocated to other nations with stable power supply and peace in such nations. The multinationals departure or exit from Nigeria resulted of adding more than two thousand unemployed Nigerians to the already existing ones (George & Oseni, 2012)

#### 7) *Weak Government of Nigeria*

Nigeria as a state before the emergence of Boko Haram and other insurgencies has been weak and incapable of handling crisis in order to maintain peace and stability of the nation. As reported by Adesina in 2010, the seriousness and the exhibition of this weak attitude of Nigeria government started with bomb explosions at the Eagle Square Abuja when Nigeria was celebrating her 50<sup>th</sup> independence. There was not serious reaction from the government to the that ugly and violence situation, neither was someone or persons brought to book, instead more bomb explosions took place in different parts of the nation and many lives and properties were lost and destroyed.

In his careful study and analysis on Nigeria and its leadership, Dowden reported that Nigerian political office holders are more of business incline as they considered their engagements as business in which they must enrich themselves at the detriment of the electorates that elected them to work for the development of the nation and the security of their lives and properties. With this mind set, they become blind and insensitive to the needs and what they ought to do for the welfare of the electorates and for the development of the nation. The implication is that they could not provide political dividends to the citizens, neither can they appropriately use the state power to protect the electorates or their citizens as they are all

corrupt. He concluded that a nation with this set of people at the apex of its leadership are expected to comprise with terrorist groups and other insurgencies due to their inability to provide adequate security to their citizens. With the analysis of Dowden on Nigeria and its leadership as a weak state, one could see why corruption prevails and Boko Haram gets the upper hand in waging war against Nigeria and its citizens. Boko Haram uses the inability of Nigerian leadership to afflict the entire nation with violence activities. (Adesina, 2013; Dowden, 2009; Piazza, 2008).

**B. Effects of Boko Haram activities on Nigeria state**

Boko Haram effects on Nigeria are enormous and grievous, the effects are grouped as thus: Economic, unemployment, poverty, negative impression on Nigeria and Muslims, insecurity, and underdevelopment.

*1) Economic Effects*

Boko Haram’s criminal and violence activities to Nigeria society was the destruction of economic activities and development. All business organizations and other institutions including religious centers that were not destroyed were closed down within the three major states that were greatly affected by the attacks of Boko Haram. Life generally was full of hardships as movements and daily human normal engagements were almost impossible. As a result of frequent attacks of Boko Haram on business organizations and government institutions in the Northern part of Nigeria, many businesses closed down, while others relocated to other relatively peaceful areas of the nation and some migrated to other nations, especially the foreigners.(Shehu, 2015)

*2) Unemployment and Poverty.*

The destruction of business organizations and the violence activities of Boko Haram threatens the peace of the nation. This therefore forced the foreign investors to relocated to other nations of the world. This single action increased the already high rate of youth unemployment and poverty in Nigeria, especially the northern part of the country (Ajaegbu, 2012). The relocation of foreign investors to other nation states made many of Nigerian youths unemployed and poor as those that were employed by the foreign industries were later disengaged of their employment as the foreign investors left for peaceful nations. Poverty rate increased as a result of high rate of youth unemployment as the unemployed youths do not have anything doing to earn a living. It is one of the reasons why many of them engaged in social ills and Boko Haram to earn a living (Stober, 2015)

**TABLE 2: NATIONAL YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT BY GENDER.**

Year	Percentage of unemployed Youths	
	Female	Male
2008	58.50	41.50
2009	57.82	42.50
2010	54.52	45.48
2011	50.85	49.15
2012	55.42	44.58

Source: Adopted from (Oduwole, 2015)

From the statistics above in table 1, it shows female youth unemployment rate is higher than their male counterpart. This could be attributed to cultural background, marital status, and religious beliefs that may restrict young women for going in for some jobs.

*3) Negative effects on Nigeria and Muslims.*

Boko Haram activities in Nigeria affected Nigeria as a nation badly as it gave negative impression about Nigeria and Nigerians to other nation states that Nigeria was not safe for human existence nor safe for business engagements. This was demonstrated and expressed when US instructed their citizens living in Nigeria not to travel to some specific states due to frequent attacks and kidnapping of both Nigerians and foreigners. Other foreigners, especially the business fellows relocated or left Nigeria for other nations due to Boko Haram attacks and violence activities. This makes the entire nations of the world to be skeptical about Nigerians as they are given thorough scrutiny before giving them visa to their countries (Adesina, 2013). Apart from the negative impression other nations developed on Nigeria due to Boko Haram activities, some Christians in Nigeria too developed negative and cold feelings towards the Muslim community as they considered them (Muslims) to be extremists and terrorists. This indeed almost destroy their harmonious relationship and unity of the country as a lot of Christians are skeptical and are more careful in relating to Muslims these days.(Anyadike, 2013)

*4) Insecurity*

Boko Haram terrorist activities have created insecurity in Nigeria. This is due to dynamic manner of their operations that was not understood by the security agents, coupled with the fact that the terrorists are faceless and some of these terrorists live among the communities considered to be innocent. This makes it almost impossible for security officers to detect who is or who is not a terrorist, and that is why it makes it easy in most cases for the suicide bombers to secretly get through to the midst of people and get themselves killed with others.(Anyadike, 2013) The possession of more sophisticated weapons by the terrorists compare to Nigerian army’s weapons makes it more difficult for Nigerian army to contend successfully with the terrorists. The terrorists’ attacks on human beings and destruction of business organizations and other properties are evidences to the fact that Nigeria has serious security problems. In his lamentation over the destruction of Kano commercial center by the terrorists, the former Minister of information, Mr.Maku stated that over 500 years Kano has served as a commercial center not only to Nigerians but to their neighboring nations but has been destroyed by Boko Haram terrorists (Nossiter, 2012)

*5) Underdevelopment of Nigeria*

Nigeria’s development has been commandeered since the inception of Boko Haram terrorists’ activities in the country. This is due to their criminal and violence attacks that started in earnest in 2009 on human beings, educational institutions, government ministries, business organizations, religious centers



and security agents. These attacks on the aforementioned made Nigeria look like a war front that Nigerians were only making efforts to hide and protect themselves from subsequent attacks from the terrorists. Nothing meaningful as a sort of development was taking place, as commercial activities, and educational institutions closed down in Northeast of the country. There was no peace among the citizens as all were living in fears for the unknown since the terrorists operate in dynamic manner and coupled that they are faceless. As the former information minister stated in his reaction to the attacks on Kano commercial center, that the more peace was destroyed the more terrible the foundation of economic and its related were tempered with (Moshood, Abdulganeey, & Babatunde). Nigeria, particularly the Northern part suffered more underdevelopment due to the activities of Boko Haram terrorists, and their level of backwardness in all aspects of life had increased. High rate of illiteracy was one of the specific aspects of life that was stressed on and this was as a result of the closure of schools and the destruction of educational institutions by the terrorists. Poverty and hardships increased beyond human imagination due to the closure of commercial engagements as almost everybody had nothing doing to earn a living (Bamidele, 2012; Shehu, 2015).

## V. CONCLUSION

With the available records on literature, youth unemployment and terrorism is both an endangerment and a threat to the development of Nigeria. It does not only constitute problems to economic development of the nation, but it affects the unemployed youths negatively as it renders them frustrated and helpless due to the hopeless and distress situation of the unemployment. Though this paper has made some recommendations, it also stressed the need of Nigerian security to embark on strategies that would enable them detect terrorists' plan ahead and preventing them from attacking.

Youth unemployment and terrorism is a serious problem in Nigeria due to its connection to other social vices and insurgencies. The following are proposed for curbing the challenges of youth unemployment and terrorism in Nigeria:

Nigerian government should make security matter a special business or priority as it is an aspect of government business that affects all and determines the peace and the development of the nation. Moreover, security of lives and properties is a primary responsibility of a government to its citizens. Nigerian security agents should as from now onwards embark on strategies that would enable them detect and perceive ahead when Boko Haram and other insurgencies may want to strike. And as a matter of urgency, should plan to counter them or get hold of them and prevent them from executing their violence attack. Running or chasing after terrorists or criminals after they have implemented their attacks is a poor way of managing security. To detect and perceive ahead or on good time against the terrorists' plan to attack is the best way of managing security. Of course this would require Nigerian security personnel to acquire the modern devices and

equipment as well training them for the effectiveness of this noble job.

Government should make stronger efforts to create more vocational skills acquisition institutions and centers throughout the country to enable our young men and women to acquire skills for easy employment and to be self-employed.

Government should put more efforts in the area of agriculture to generate employment opportunities. New farming technology should be used to attract the youths into farming because the old methods are not encouraging and they do not yield much as modernized farming does.

Educational systems should be restructured and be equipped based on the new curriculum to meet the needs of the changing environment and globalization as well as equipping the youths with entrepreneurship and vocational skills for self-reliance.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Adebayo, A. A. (2014). Implications of 'Boko Haram' terrorism on national development in Nigeria: A critical review. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, 5(16), 480.
- [2] Adedeji<sup>1</sup>, D. B., Soyinka, K. A., & Sunday, O. M. (2018). Corruption Control in the Public Sector and the Nigerian Accountant.
- [3] Adelaja, A. O., Labo, A., & Penar, E. (2018). Public Opinion on the Root Causes of Terrorism and Objectives of Terrorists: A Boko Haram Case Study. *Perspectives on Terrorism*, 12(3), 35-49.
- [4] Adesina, O. S. (2013). Unemployment and security challenges in Nigeria. *International Journal of humanities and social science*, 3(7), 146-156.
- [5] Afolabi, O. (2013). The Rate of Youth Unemployment and Its Effects on National Security. *Cultural and Religious Studies*, 1(1), 8-20.
- [6] Ajaegbu, O. O. (2012). Rising youth unemployment and violent crime in Nigeria. *American Journal of Social Issues and Humanities*, 2(5), 315-321.
- [7] Ajake, U. E., Oba, A. N., & Ekpo, T. E. (2014). Enriching higher education curriculum to meet the challenges of 21st century in Nigeria. *Journal of Educational and Social Research*, 4(3), 21.
- [8] Akande, T. (2014). Youth unemployment in Nigeria: A situation analysis. *The Brookings Institution*, 23.
- [9] Akanni, A. (2014). History of terrorism, youth psychology and unemployment in Nigeria. *Journal of Pan African Studies*, 7(3), 231-321.
- [10] Anyadike, N. O. (2013). Boko Haram and national security challenges in Nigeria; causes and solutions. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 4(5), 12-23.
- [11] Baah-Boateng, W. (2016). The youth unemployment challenge in Africa: What are the drivers? *The Economic and Labour Relations Review*, 27(4), 413-431.
- [12] Bamidele, O. (2012). Boko Haram catastrophic terrorism: An albatross to national peace, security and sustainable development in Nigeria. *Journal of sustainable Development in Africa*, 14(1), 32-44.
- [13] Breuer, J., & Elson, M. (2017). Frustration-Aggression Theory. *The Wiley Handbook of Violence and Aggression*, 1-12.
- [14] Bush, G. W. (2001). Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress on the United States Response to the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, September 20, 2001. *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*, 37, 1347-1349.
- [15] Carter, C. (2012). Pre-Incident Indicators of Terrorist Attacks: Weak Economies and Fragile Political Infrastructures Bring Rise to Terrorist Organizations and Global Networks. *Global Security Studies*, 3(4).
- [16] Chiazor, I., & Udume, M. (2017). Unemployment in Nigeria: A Time Bomb Waiting To Explode: Issues, Diagnoses and the Way Forward. *Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal*, 4(2).
- [17] Collins, A., & Halverson, R. (2018). *Rethinking education in the age of technology: The digital revolution and schooling in America*: Teachers College Press.

## Youth Unemployment and Terrorism in Nigeria: The case of “Boko Haram”

- [18] Dialoke, I., & Edeja, M. S. (2017). Effects of Niger delta militancy on the economic development of Nigeria (2006–2016). *Int J Soc Sci Manag Res*, 3(3), 25-36.
- [19] Dowden, R. (2009). Africa: Altered States, Ordinary Miracles (London: Portobello). *Google Scholar*.
- [20] Edokpolor, J. E., & Owenvbiugie, R. O. (2017). Technical and vocational education and training skills: an antidote for job creation and sustainable development of Nigerian economy. *Problems of Education in the 21st Century*, 75(6).
- [21] Etodike, C. E., Ezech, L. N., Ogebeide, D. E., & Ike, P. R. (2018). Typical Solution To The Unemployment Problems In Nigeria: The Convergence Utility Of The Entrepreneurship Models. *European Journal of Human Resource Management Studies*.
- [22] Fergusson, D. M., Horwood, L. J., & Woodward, L. J. (2001). Unemployment and psychosocial adjustment in young adults: causation or selection? *Social science & medicine*, 53(3), 305-320.
- [23] George, E., & Oseni, J. (2012). The relationship between electricity power and unemployment rates in Nigeria. *Australian Journal of Business and Management Research*, 2(2), 10.
- [24] Idachaba, F. (2014). Government Corruption and the Underdeveloped Nigerian Agriculture. *a lecture delivered at the Prof. Samson Olayide Memorial Lecture, University of Ibadan, Nigeria*, 15-25.
- [25] Idrees, M., Shabbir, M., Roman, M., & Atif, M. (2015). Youth Bulge, a Forecast of Violence in Developing Countries. *International Journal of Innovation and Applied Studies*, 12(4), 1005.
- [26] Kareem, W., Maaji, S., & Mohammed, B. (2016). Perception of technical college students on woodwork technology for self-empowerment in Niger state. Nigeria. *ATBU Journal of Science, Technology and Education*, 4(1), 40-49.
- [27] Longe, O. (2017). Graduate Unemployment in Nigeria: Causes, Consequences and Remediable Approaches. *American International Journal of Contemporary Research*, 7(4), 63-73.
- [28] Moshood, I., Abdulganeey, O., & Babatunde, I. O. GOVERNANCE, TERRORISM AND SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE NORTH-EASTERN NIGERIA.
- [29] Moss, K. (2018). Nigerian Terror: The Rise of Boko Haram.
- [30] Nossiter, A. (2012). „Kano under siege“. *New York Times*.
- [31] Nwogwugwu, N., & Irechukwu, G. N. (2015). Socio-Political Implications of Youth Unemployment on Nigeria's Economic Development. *Journal of Economics and Finance*, 6(4), 27-34.
- [32] Oduwole, T. A. (2015). Youth unemployment and poverty in Nigeria. *International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology Research*, 1(2), 23-39.
- [33] OECD. (2008). *Growing unequal?: Income distribution and poverty in OECD countries*.
- [34] Offem, O. O., Anashie, A. I., & Aniah, S. A. (2018). Effect of strikes on management and planning of educational activities in Nigerian universities. *Global Journal of Educational Research*, 17(1), 1-8.
- [35] Ojo, A. O., & Oluwatayo, I. B. (2016). Drivers and Challenges of Sustainable Development in Africa.
- [36] Okafor, E. E. (2011). Youth unemployment and implications for stability of democracy in Nigeria. *Journal of sustainable Development in Africa*, 13(1), 358-373.
- [37] Okorie, N. (2014). Corruption and the Challenges of Insecurity in Nigeria: Political Economy Implications. *Global Journal of Human-Social Science Research*.
- [38] Olajide, S. E. (2015). Repositioning technical and vocational education toward eradicating unemployment in Nigeria. *International Journal of Vocational and Technical Education*, 7(6), 54-63.
- [39] Olatunji, O. M. (2018). The goals of tertiary education: a philosophical assessment of Nigeria's national policy on education. *Journal Plus Education*, 20(2), 230-253.
- [40] Olawoyin, O. (2017). Nigeria's unemployment worsens as 18.8% are jobless. *Premium Times*.
- [41] Oluwatayo, I. B., & Ojo, A. O. (2018). Walking Through a Tightrope: The Challenge of Economic Growth and Poverty in Africa. *The Journal of Developing Areas*, 52(1), 59-69.
- [42] Osakwe, C. (2013). Youth, unemployment and national security in Nigeria. *International Journal of humanities and social science*, 3(21), 258-268.
- [43] Piazza, J. A. (2008). Incubators of terror: Do failed and failing states promote transnational terrorism? *International Studies Quarterly*, 52(3), 469-488.
- [44] Ruth, H., Emmanuel, A. Y., & Ndubuisi-Okolo, P. (2014). Understanding and Overcoming the Challenge of Youth Unemployment in Nigeria. *Review of Public Administration and Management*, 400(3614), 1-9.
- [45] Samerdyke, O. K. (2016). *Information vs. Propaganda: An Analysis of the Washington Post's Reporting of the Islamic State*. Bowling Green State University.
- [46] Samuel, A. (2011). Democratic challenges in Nigeria and steps towards achieving the vision 20/2020. *Kubani Journal of Arts and Social Sciences*, 1(1), 14-23.
- [47] Shehu, S. (2015). *The impact of boko haram on Nigerian national development*. Paper presented at the International Conference on Empowering Islamic Civilization in the 21st Century.
- [48] Shuaibu, S. S., Salleh, M. A., & Shehu, A. Y. (2015). The impact of Boko Haram insurgency on Nigerian national security. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 5(6), 254-266.
- [49] Stober, E. O. (2015). Unemployment Scourge: Rising to the Nigerian Challenge. *The Romanian Economic Journal*, 18(56), 181-200.
- [50] Suleiman, M. N., & Aminul Karim, M. (2015). Cycle of bad governance and corruption: The rise of Boko Haram in Nigeria. *Sage Open*, 5(1), 2158244015576053.
- [51] Varin, C. (2018). *The Perfect Storm: A Study of Boko Haram, Religious Extremism, and Inequality in Nigeria Expressions of Radicalization* (pp. 247-271): Springer.

### AUTHORS PROFILE

My name is **Galadima Gladstone Wayas**, currently working with School of Social, Development and Environmental Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia 43600 Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia, [galadimawayas@yahoo.com](mailto:galadimawayas@yahoo.com). My area of interest is youth Development.

My name is **Sivapalan Selvadurai**, affiliated with School of Social, Development and Environmental Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia 43600 Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia. My area of interest is Development.

I am **Abd Hair Awang**, affiliated with School of Social, Development and Environmental Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia 43600 Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia. My area of interest is Development and youth related affairs.