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UNEMPLOYMENT AND INSECURITY AS CORRELATE OF MALADJUSTED BEHAVIOUR AMONG YOUTHS IN IDEMILI NORTH, ANAMBRA STATE

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated unemployment and insecurity as correlate of maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State. Two research questions and two hypotheses guided the study. The study adopted correlation research design. The population of the study comprised of six hundred and fourteen thousand, two hundred (614,200) youths in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State. The sample size of the study was 200 respondents drawn through simple random sampling technique. A set of instruments titled "Questionnaire on unemployment and insecurity as correlate of maladjusted behaviour" (QUICMB), was used for the study. The instrument was validated by three experts from the Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used for data analysis. The findings of the study revealed that, there is a positive relationship between unemployment and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North. It was also revealed that, there is a positive relationship between insecurity and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended among others that the youths should be creative and learn different vocational skills. By so doing, they will be job providers and not job seekers. Also, Government should set up rehabilitation centers to aid the unemployed. These would help a lot towards solving unemployment and insecurity.

Keywords: Unemployment, Insecurity, Maladjusted behaviour

Introduction

Maladjustment is the inability of the individual to develop a pattern of behaviour that leads to success in his environment. It is the inability of an individual to cope with the demands and expectations of their environment. It could also say to be a state of being unable to adapt to one's social, emotional, or physical environment in a way that is considered normal or acceptable. Though the term applies to a wide range of biological conditions, it often implies an individual's failure to meet social or cultural expectations. According to Sandhya Aravind, (2018), Maladjustment can manifest in various forms such as anxiety, depression, aggression, or withdrawal from social interactions. Sandhya and Aravind maintained that maladjustment has different aspects which include anxiety, depression, mania, inferiority, and paranoia.

Anxiety is the feeling of impending doom, fear, worry about the future, perspective, palpitation, tremor, and being

upset. Depression includes worry, suicidal thoughts, disinterest, feelings of guilt, a sense of failure. Hopelessness, despair, and emptiness. Mania includes restlessness, lack of self-control, lack of restraint, over-activity, quick temper, getting into trouble, over-talkativeness, and impulsivity. Inferiority denotes feelings of smallness, sensitiveness, shyness, self-consciousness, lack of self-confidence, and easily hurt. Paranoia includes suspiciousness, the feeling of being persecuted, exploited, and misunderstood, not trusting others, and getting into quarrels.

There are also various types of maladjustment; they include academic maladjustment, emotional maladjustment, and social maladjustment. Academic maladjustment refers to difficulties in meeting academic demands, such as poor performance in school, difficulty completing assignments, or lack of motivation to learn. Emotional maladjustment refers to difficulties in regulating one's emotions, such as anxiety, depression, or mood swings. Social maladjustment refers to difficulties in social interactions, such as social withdrawal, lack of empathy, or aggression. Maladjustment can have a significant impact on an individual's life, such as hindering their ability to form meaningful relationships, perform well academically or professionally, and maintain good mental and physical health. Therefore, it is essential to identify and address maladjustment issues early on to prevent them from becoming more severe and causing long-term harm to an individual's well-being.

Maladjusted behaviour on the in other words can be described as any behaviour that deviates significantly from social norms and expectations, resulting in difficulty and functioning well in the society. According to Ladd and Price (2017), it often emerges during childhood when individuals learn how to navigate their social world and solve interpersonal problems. During this period, children face changing school settings and social networks. Children who are not able to successfully adjust to these new environments may exhibit a range of maladaptive behaviours, such as aggression or rough play, which may lead to peer rejection. Further, maladjusted behaviours according to Aravind, (2018), can be ranged from substance abuse, criminal activity, and social isolation, among others.

There are several concepts and definitions of maladjusted behaviour provided by different scholars. For example, Alfred Adler a psychologists viewed maladjusted behaviour as the result of an individual's inability to cope with the demands of society. Adler believed that individuals who exhibit maladjusted behaviour lack a sense of belonging and purpose. Likewise, Sigmund Freud believed that maladjusted behaviour is the result of unconscious conflicts between an individual's id (primitive, instinctual drives) and superego (moral and ethical values). Freud suggested that maladjustment could be resolved through psychoanalysis, which aims to uncover and resolve these unconscious conflicts. Abraham Maslow on the other hand suggests that maladjusted behaviour arises when an individual's basic needs

(physiological, safety, love/belonging, esteem) are not met. Maslaw believed that individuals who exhibit maladjusted behaviour may lack self-esteem or a sense of purpose in life. However, different scholars suggested that maladjusted behaviour may arise form of internal or external conflict or inadequacy that leads to difficulty functioning in society. It is believable that Maladjustment behaviour may arise as a result of certain factors such as unemployment and insecurity.

Unemployment according to Fajana (2000), refers to a situation where people who are willing and capable of working are unable to find suitable paid employment. It is one of the macro-economic problems which every responsible government is expected to monitor and regulate. This is because the higher would be the poverty level and associated welfare challenges of a state. According to Aravind, (2018) a situation where a person actively searches for employment but is unable to find work is referred to as Unemployment.

Thus, unemployment is a global phenomenon whereby eligible workforce of a nation is disengaged in the service of the nation. It is not only a serious economic issue but has social implications that affect almost all countries and the people either directly or indirectly. It causes social crisis and is the harbinger of the spate of crimes. Perennial youth unrest and unstable socio-economic structure has also bedeviled several nations. The state of unrests witnessed recently in Nigeria, as well as several other African countries could be attributed to the increasing rate of unemployment and underemployment. Most parts of the world, particularly developing nations are currently facing serious job challenges and widespread recent work deficits which are a development that is capable of increasing the spread of poverty.

It is well understood that very economy is characterized by both active and inactive population. The economically active ones are referred to as the population willing and able to work, and include those actively engaged in the production of goods and services and those who are unemployed. Oladele, Akeke and Oladunjoye (2011) opined that unemployment can be in different forms such as; frictional unemployment, residual unemployment and technical unemployment.

Frictional Unemployment is caused by industrial friction in which jobs may exist, yet the workers may be unable to fill them either because they do not possess the necessary skill, or because they are not aware of the existence of such jobs. The employable may remain unemployed on account of shortage of raw materials, or mechanical defects in the working of plants. Therefore, the better the economy is doing, the lower this type of unemployment is likely to occur. Residual Unemployment on the other hand is caused by personal factors such as old age, physical or mental disability, poor work attitude and inadequate training. Technological Unemployment on the other hand is caused by changes in the techniques of production. Technological changes are taking place constantly, leading to the increased mechanization of the production process.

According, Ayinde (2008) youth unemployment can be caused by the following factors; Rapid Population Growth, Low Standard of Education, The Rapid Expansion of the Educational System, Lack of Steady and Sustainable Power Supply and Corruption. Rural-Urban Migration which is explained in terms of push-pull factors is a situation where youths migrate from rural to urban areas with the probability of securing lucrative employment in the industries. Observably, there is the concentration of social amenities in the urban centers than in rural areas which shows that the rural areas are neglected in the allocation of social and economic opportunities by the governments. Morphy (2008), affirmed that Rapid Population Growth has been argued that it has resulted in the rapid growth of the labour force, which is far outstripping the supply of jobs. Meanwhile the accelerated growth of population on Nigeria's unemployment problem is multifaceted that it affects the supply side through a high and rapid increase in the labour force relative to the absorptive capacity of the economy.

Further, Low Standard of Education which manifested in the course contents of most tertiary education in Nigeria lack entrepreneurial contents that would have enabled graduates to become job creators rather than job seekers. Access to entrepreneurial training such as tailoring, computer, incubation is been constraints by access to capital to establish their own after the training. Awobgenle and Iwuamadi, (2020) assert that unemployment for young graduates create problem of violence due to lack of job and idleness, because without job they will not be able to play a useful role in the society which may lead to maladjusted behaviour.

Thus, Lack of Steady and Sustainable Power Supply as a fact, Nigeria is becoming hostile to investment due lack of steady and sustainable power supply/energy crises, in spite of the various attempts of reviving this sector leading to firms depending on generators for their operation whose cost of buying, fueling and maintenance are high, thereby increasing the cost of operation in the country, besides, high and multiple levies and taxations being paid by these companies, energy crises have combined to make the cost of doing business in specifically Idemli North to be very exorbitant. When the industries and factories closed shops or relocated to a friendlier economic environment, workers were laid off and prospect of recruiting new ones were dashed. Adeloye, (2020) affirmed that all these lead the adjustments behaviour of youth.

Consequently Okafor, (2010) observed that corruption has permeated the entire social structure of Nigeria and has robbed the country of developing a vibrant economic base. Funds meant for development projects have been misappropriated, diverted, or embezzled and stashed away in foreign banks, while some incompetent and corrupt bureaucrats and administrators in the public enterprise and parastatal have liquidated the country. Okafor affirmed that the ruling "political" class failed because they replaced the vision, policy and strategy, which should be the thrust of every leadership with transactions (contract award and other mundane money-

related activities), as each successive government took turns to prey on the nation's wealth, by using public power, resources, good will, utilities, instrument of abuse, and personal gains. Thus, adeboye, (2020) reported that crippling the economy and exacerbating unemployment creates abject poverty, hunger and frustration among youths.

Further, the alarming rate of unemployment and insecurity in Nigeria is raising a serious concern among Nigerian youths especially in Idemili North, Anambra State. The youth, in the past were seen as leaders of tomorrow or leaders in waiting in preparation for their engagement as leaders and policy makers of the future Kura (2018). They are vibrant and energetic social group that is severally used in shaping the future of a society. In many literatures, they are regarded as leaders of tomorrow. Unlike Nigeria, some countries perceived youths as people within 18-40 years age limit. Meanwhile, irrespective of the age bracket, certain characteristics manifest themselves in the youths. These characteristics according to Obikeze, (2016) include; physical changes, biological changes, intellectual changes, emotional changes, increasing independence and sex interest.

In present projections of populations, it is estimated that over one billion of the world population are youths. According to Nedeljikovic (2014) "being young and unemployed can lead to increase in the risk of poverty, deskilling and social exclusion as well as cause loss of motivation and mental health problem." Akwara, Akwara, Enwuochola, Adekunle and Udaw (2013) also noted that psychologically, the unemployed usually experiences trauma, anger, frustration, low self-esteem, negative life satisfaction, unhappiness and mental disorder including depression and acute stress. Studies have shown that youth unemployment is associated with increase in drug and alcohol use as well as higher levels of crime among young people (Nedeljikovic, 2014). Adegbie in Ella (2022), observed that, Nigeria's unemployment rate increased from 18.8 percent in the third quarter of 2017 to 23.1 percent in the third quarter of 2018 and it's estimated to reach 35 percent in 2023.

Scholars for example Kura, (2018) have continued to buttress the importance of youths to economic and political development. Kura affirmed that in the past, people were not trusting the abilities of the youths which created a barrier for youths to surmount in order to attain their true potentials. On like today these youths are saturated with the menace of cultism, armed robbery, kidnappings, prostitution and all manner of deviant behaviour which has generated into state of anomie or lawlessness and insecurity in the country for instance Anambra state.

Insecurity connotes different meanings such as: absence of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of protection, and lack of safety. According to Beland (2005) insecurity is a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or lack of protection. Insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. According to Aravind, (2018), it is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety,

where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune.

However, the current wave of insecurity in Nigeria especially in Anambra state, is raising concern among stakeholders, as no state is left behind. There are reports of increase in criminality and lawlessness in all parts of the country. The present tension in most parts of the country (including Abuja the seat, of power) can attest that the security of life and properties is no longer guaranteed in Nigeria, as some communities in most parts of the country have abandoned their homes to take refuge outside their community because of cult crisis, kidnapping, assassination and fear of the unknown. Some have questioned the whole idea of the modern day's politics where human life is no longer guaranteed.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported that in Dec l9, 2018, the countries in the sub-Saharan Africa are mostly hit by this malaise and if these countries do not take major step in arresting this problem, it may affect the development of the sub region particularly Nigeria precisely in Idemili North, Anambra State.

The state of unemployment and insecurity in Nigeria is however, becoming worrisome considering the high rate at which innocent people fall to the guns of criminals in Nigeria, as religious leaders, children of political elites, and the powerless class has all fall victim of this menace. No day passes without report of unknown gunmen kidnapping or taking lives of innocent citizens in the streets of Nigeria cities. Who are these gunmen? Are they abnormal people in a normal population? Are they known to us? The rhetorical questions may not need answer but it is mind-boggling that despite billions of naira voted for security by the state and federal and local government, Nigeria remains a state polluted by all kind of deviant behaviour which has seriously led to insecurity.

Khalid (2014) observed that, the Federal government is spending heavily on the military while the Nigerian Police has always received vehicles and communication gadgets in the name of curbing insecurity in the country. Yet the problem remains without solution. The security strategies of the combined force of the military are not yielding substantial result. Nigerians have special crime-fighting military unit known as Joint Military Taskforce, JTF, and Operation python dance 111 and others. Khalid (2014) assert that it is in the face of these dreadful that military set-ups in the county and gunmen still go about molesting innocent Nigerians.

At the same vein, Ahmad, (2018) argued that the peace, tranquility and survival of a nation is tied to the way the government implements program of action to bring down the level of unemployment and in the process reduce the numbers of willing youths and adult who are the basic tools used in insurgent activities. Nigeria does not have any business with unemployment and or poverty due to the abundant natural and material resources placed at its disposal providence. The proponents of this insurgent act used joblessness and or poverty which are direct ingredients of basic weapon to blackmail their adherents into submission. A hungry

man is an angry man so says an African adage which explains why most people submit to the proposition of this insurgent matter. The government in particularly has a critical and pivotal role to play in reducing to the barest minimum, the effects of unemployment among its youths. A well-fed nation is a peaceful nation. Insurgency has caused our country dearly both in terms of life lost and material resources. Ahmad, (2018) revealed that the budgetary allocations meant for the wellbeing of citizen are being appropriated for military hardware as security votes to the detriment of other sectors of the economy like education, health care, agricultural imputes and the growth of infrastructural facilities. Likewise, Castaneda, Serrani, and Sperotti, (2016) state that, the present trend of unemployment and insurgency ravaging the Nigeria states is a direct indictment of us all and our government present and past. The resurgence of violence and all manner of insecurity in Nigeria particularly, in Anambra state and South East as a whole resulting in kidnapping, unknown gunmen, cult clashes and killing of dozens of persons.

It is certainly recognized and accepted that the underlying causes of the insecurity in Nigeria have not been addressed. Bursik and Harold, (2013) assert that retrogression into the recent past where armed confrontation led to waste of human lives cannot be a solution at this time or any other time for that matter. Insecurity however is often perceived to be threatening the fabric of society or as a symptom of a breakdown of the social order. Insecurity is dysfunctional as it threatens the stability of society and it is therefore, a social problem that requires a concerted effort towards finding a lasting solution to it.

Therefore, it is important to note that unemployment and insecurity could profoundly affect youths daily living for instance and as well lead to their maladjusted behaviours. Based on this, the researchers were on the view to fill the gap, if unemployment and insecurity correlate of maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State. Specifically, the researcher tends to find out; (1). The relationship between unemployment and maladjusted behavior among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State. (2). The relationship between insecurity and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State.

Two research questions guided the study and they are:
(1) What is the nature of relationship between unemployment and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State**?**
(2) What is the nature of relationship between insecurity and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State?

There are also two leading hypotheses which are stated as follows:
(1). There is no significant relationship between unemployment and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State.
(2). There is no significant relationship between insecurity and maladjusted behaviour among

youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State.

Research Method

This study adopted the correlation research design. According to Nworgu (2015), this type of study seeks to establish the relationship that exists between two or more variables. This design is considered suitable because it involved selecting sample from the population of the study to access the relationship Unemployment, insecurity and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State. As this help the researchers to describe the existing relationship between unemployment, insecurity and maladjusted behaviour among youths.

The population of this study comprised of 614,200 youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, made up of 312,628 males while 301,572 female youths. Stratified sampling technique was used under the use of simple random sampling technique to sample 200 respondents from the youths. The respondents are from the secretariat of the Local Government Area. Eleven different denominations within Six different towns in the study area, namely: Abatete, Ideani, Nkpor, Obosi, Uke, Umuoji, Abacha, Nkpor, Eziowelle, Ogidi, and Oraukwu; were used for the study. The youths used fall within the age range of 23-35 years of age.

The instrument used for data collection was "Questionnaire titled Unemployment and Insecurity as Correlate of Maladjusted Behaviour" (QUICMB). The instruments for data collection were in two sections A and B. Section A contains the demographic data of the respondents. Section B contains (3) clusters with a total of (20) items. The instruments were constructed on a 4-point rating scale of Strongly Agree (SA) = 4, Agree (A) = 3, Disagree (D) = 2, and Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1. The instrument was validated by three experts from Educational Foundations, two experts from Educational Psychology and one expert from Philosophy of Education, all from the Faculty of Education, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka in Anambra State. The essence of the validation was to ensure that the items strictly address the research questions for this study. Crombach's alpha coefficient was used to determine the reliability of the instrument which yielded coefficient of 0.73 for unemployment, 0.79 insecurity and 0.83 for maladjusted behaviour. The data was collected through direct delivery method. Three research assistants were duly informed for the administration and collection of the data. Data collected were analyzed in line with the research questions and hypotheses using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient for the questions while simple regression analysis was used in testing the hypotheses.

Results and Discussion

Research Question 1: What is the pattern of relationship between unemployment and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State?

Table 1: Relationship between unemployment and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State.

Table 1: Pearson r on unemployment and maladjusted behaviour among youths

N	Correlation co-efficient (r)	Remark
200	.701	High positive relationship

Data presented in Table 1 reveals a Pearson Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient computed to determine the relationship between unemployment and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State. The result revealed that there is a high positive relationship between unemployment and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State *(r= .701, n= 200).*

Research Question 2: What is the pattern of relationship between insecurity and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State?

Table 2: Relationship between insecurity and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State?

N	Correlation co-efficient (r)	Remark
200	.554	Moderate positive relationship

Data presented in Table 2 revealed a Pearson Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient computed to determine the relationship between insecurity and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State. The result reveals that there is a moderate positive relationship between insecurity and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State. *(r= .554, n= 200)*

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between unemployment and maladjusted behavior among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State.

Table 3: Test of significance between unemployment and maladjusted behavior among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State.

Correlation coefficient (r)	N	Df	A	r-calculated	r-critical	Decision
.701	200	76	0.05	8.712	1.960	Significant

Result presented in Table 3 shows that the r-calculated value (8.712) is greater than the r-critical value (1.960) at .05 alpha level (8.712 > 1.960). Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected. This means that there is a significant relationship between unemployment and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant relationship between insecurity and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State

Table 4: Test of significance between insecurity and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area Anambra State

Correlation coefficient (r)	N	Df	A	r-calculated	r-critical	Decision
.554	200	120	0.05	7.29	1.960	Significant

Result presented in Table 4 shows that the r-calculated value (7.29) is greater than the r-critical value (1.960) at .05 alpha level (7.29 > 1.960). Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected. This means that there is a significant relationship between insecurity and maladjusted behaviour among youths in Idemili North Local Government Area, Anambra State

Conclusion

It was concluded that unemployment and insecurity correlate youths maladjusted behaviour in Idemili North, Anambra state. Therefore, there is a need to increase jobs through small enterprises and poverty alleviation schemes for the good of these youths. Again, the provision of right skills to youth should be taken as one of the priorities in other to curb employment and insecurity and approve adjustment behaviour of the youths. However, if these factors responsible for youth unemployment and insecurity are addressed, youths' maladjustment would be reduced especially in Idemili North, Anambra State.

Recommendations

Based on the above findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. Youths should be creative and learn different vocational skills. By so doing, they will be job providers and not job seekers.
2. In order to ensure robust national data base for employment generation, job employment centres must be established in all the local government area headquarters in the country to assist unemployed graduates once they have been discharged from the National Youth Service Scheme (NYSC).
3. Youth unemployment census should also be carried out across the country to identify university youth with innovative ideas thereby equipping

them with necessary entrepreneurial development. In sum, grappling with youth unemployment reduction in Nigeria will require an all-encompassing and inclusive approach of all professionals and concerted efforts of all stakeholders in order to rescue the nation and restore the fate of affected graduates in the country.

4. Government should set up rehabilitation centers to aid the unemployed and cushion insecurity. This would help a lot towards solving problems of youths' maladjustment behaviours.

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