



YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND VIOLENT MOBILIZATION IN KEBBI STATE



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ABSTRACT

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Youth unemployment has been the thorny issue affecting our young democracy in Nigeria. Though previous literatures mainly discuss the problems of unemployment without touching on how it instigates violence mobilization. This indicates existence of a missing gap and therefore, this study intends to cover that gap. Data were sourced through interviews conducted with the stake holders such as staff of the electoral institution, civil society, and security agencies such as the Police, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps as well as Nigerian Prisons Service and Nongovernmental Organizations such as Vigilante group. The findings shows that laziness, dying heart, desire to acquire wealthy things simply are the major causes of youth unemployment. The paper gives some recommendations on solving youth unemployment in Kebbi State and indeed Nigeria at large.

Contribution/ Originality: This research work contributes in filling the gap on issue of unemployment and its effects on election violence. Previous studies mainly discuss effects of unemployment without touching on how it initiates violence therefore; the study was carried out in order to feel the gap.

1. INTRODUCTION

Unemployment is one of the biggest problems affecting the politics of developing nations and it is the leading causes of most of the crises facing the developing nations. Unemployment generally leads to all sort of malice within the society and youths that are not employed are likely to be employed by the politicians, and use them to achieve their selfish interest. Most of the time, they use drugs and monetary gifts so that they can misbehave anywhere they find themselves, unemployment is the root cause of the problem that we are facing now in society. For instance, issue of Boko Haram, street begging, when you do not provide job for people, definitely they will cause trouble for you.

Most of the youths are jobless; they need money for clothing, eating and smoking. That is why politicians do engage them and give them something to go and destroy people properties for the satisfaction of their political motives. Unemployment constitutes the biggest problem to the country in general and Kebbi State in particular. Based on this therefore, this research intends to explore the problems of unemployment and its effects in election violence in Kebbi State.

1.1. Research Question

The paper raises the following research questions:

- i. What are the causes of unemployment in Kebbi State?
- ii. What are the effects of unemployment on election violence in Kebbi State?
- iii. What are the strategic ways of improving the situation in Kebbi State?

1.2. Research Objectives

In order to answer the above raised questions, the following research objectives are put forward to be achieved:

- i. To determine the causes of unemployment in Kebbi State;
- ii. To examine the effects of unemployment on election violence in Kebbi State;
- iii. To design some strategic ways of improving them.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Endogenous or growth theory: - Attributed to [Romer \(1994\)](#) this theory is built on thrust of basic production of capital and labour, and revolves around the importance of (physical) capital accumulation for long-run economic development. Endogenous growth theory assumes that increase in productivity is not an external factor (exogenous) but endogenous (internal); there is a link between improvement in productivity and rate of innovation as a result of investment in human capital. Endogenous growth theory emphasises the need for the government, private sector and market to nurture innovation and provide incentives for individuals to be inventive. The theory also emphasises the importance of knowledge in fostering economic growth. Endogenous growth theory assumes that there is positive externalities from development of a high valued added knowledge economy that maintains competitive advantage in growth industries in the global economy ([Mohammed, 2012](#)). The basic assumption of endogenous growth theory is that governments should subsidise education and research and development which in the long run, will have a positive impact on the growth and development of a state ([Korf, 2007](#)).

The basic thrusts of the theory are that:-

1. The rate of technological progress should not be taken as given in a growth model - appropriate government policies can permanently raise a country's growth rate particularly if they lead to a higher level of competition in the market and a higher rate of innovation.
2. There is potential for increasing returns from higher levels of capital investment.
3. The theory emphasises that private investment is the central source of technical progress.
4. Protection of property rights.
5. Investment in human capital (education and training) is an essential ingredient of a country's development democratically and socially ([Mohammed, 2012](#)). Investment in human capital through education and gainful employment is the remedy of all election related violence.

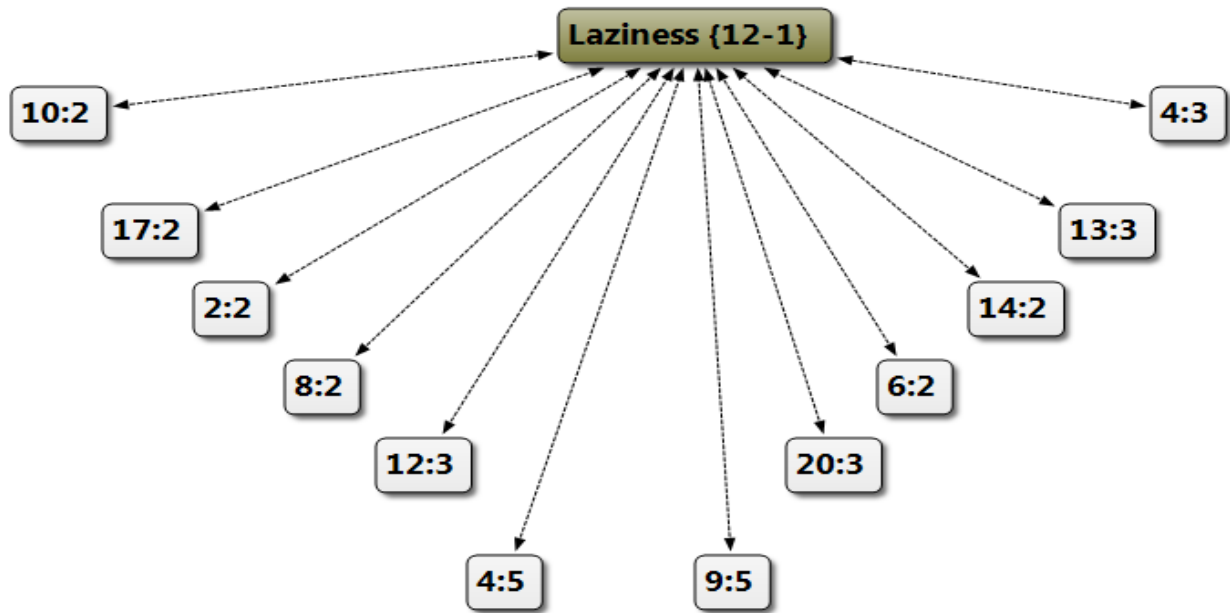
3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study employed qualitative method of data collection. Data were sourced through interviews conducted with the stake holders such as staff of the electoral institution, civil society, security agencies such as the Police, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps as well as Nigerian Prisons Service and Non-governmental Organizations such as Vigilante group. The table below shows the informants and number interviewed.

Table-1.1. Informants interviewed

S/N	Informants	Number Interviewed
1	Staff of the electoral institution	5
2	Civil society	5
3	Security agencies	5
4	Non-governmental Organizations	5
Total		20

Source: Authors computation, 2016



Network on laziness

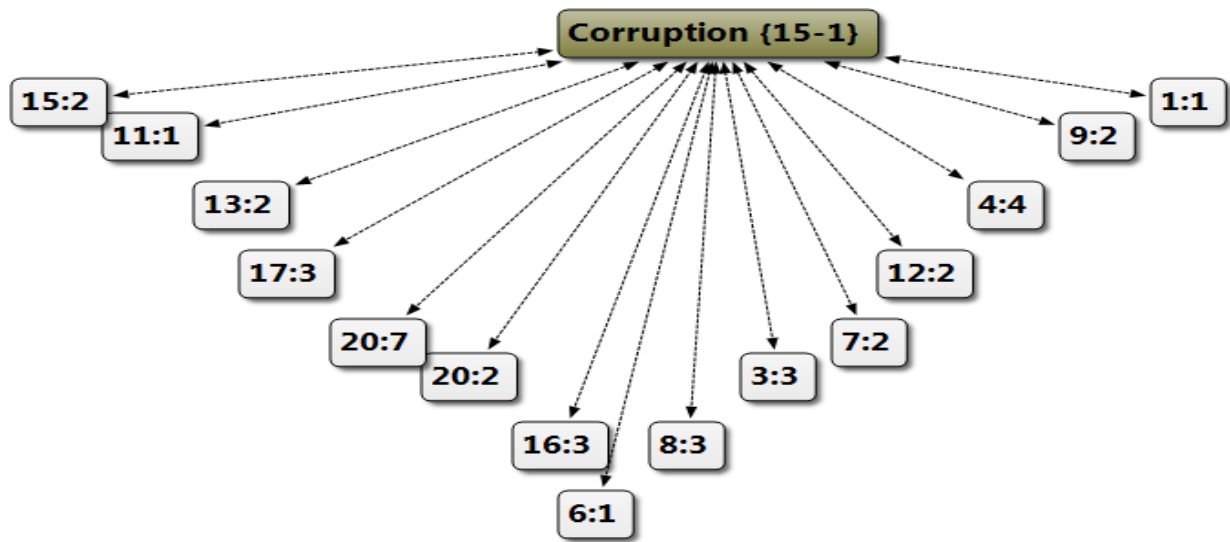
Source: Authors computation, 2016

3.1. Laziness

Looking at Kebbi youths, things are not working too well, many observers stated that Kebbi youths are becoming more and more lazy, youths are the bed rock of any nation. The issue of laziness is because of the idleness of the youths, they have nothing doing, you call them and give them incentive and they will do it for you. Willingly and happily for token fees, small money will convince them to join that group (Thuggs), but thuggery is reducing in election because during the last election, thuggery is reducing, because there wasn't any much violence and killings compare with previous elections. Now there was thugery but with few incidences, another reason is the awareness of the youths, they will talk and shout but they will not fight (10;4 & 13).

In democracy, thuggery is more pronounce, due to idle mind as a result that they don't have job, they can be easily convince with small thing, for instance if PDP did a banner another thug from other party will come and destroy it. The supporters of both parties are the one that are giving them incentive to go and commit atrocity which doesn't auger well for our young democracy. There are many instances where by someone erect banner that could assist him in winning election, and someone from another political party will come and destroy it (17;14 & 6).

There was a politician that brought thugs together and asked which trade did they want to venture into, this one said this, another said that etc. They gave them everything but they ended up spending it without any thing at last. The assumption is that, politics especially in this Northern part was built on thugs at the same time youth want to get everything via the Plata of gold, they want cheap food, they don't want to work. If you bring 10 thugs together you will realize that 8 out of them have the means of lively hood such as salary, while some graduate are at home without job (9, 20 & 12).

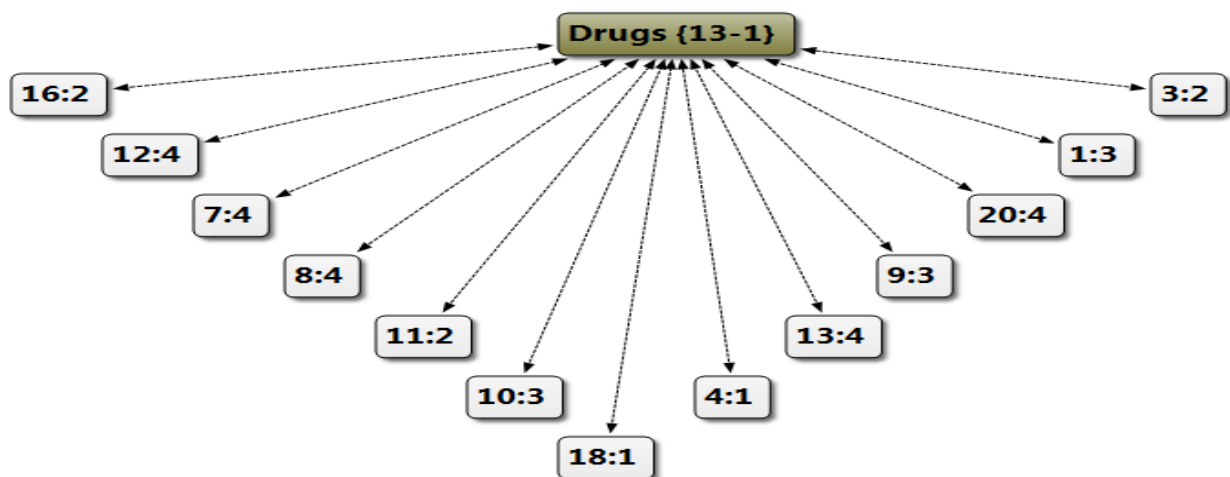


Network on corruption

Source: Authors computation, 2016

3.2. Corruption

Kebbi today is at a critical stage since returned of the country to democracy in 1999. The state faces a severe crisis in its economic, social and political development that is connected to the problem of pandemic corruption. The manifestations of the crises are clear, corruption which takes many dimensions- the embezzlement of public fund from the civic public and the solicitation and acceptance of bribes from individuals seeking services provided by the civic public by those who administer these services, clientism and favoritism are all dimensions of corruption. Given money to electorates in order to cast their votes for a particular candidate and party is a clear manifestation of corruption in Kebbi, politicians are not after the dividend of democracy but after their selfish interest, all these constitute money politics and affect our young democracy (20; 16 & 12). There are many instance here in Kebbi in which the candidates people like were not given chance to be the party flag bearer due to favouratism, they prefer to put their brothers or their in-law or someone close to them, even if is against the wishes and aspiration of the populace(15; 6 & 7).



Network on Drugs

Source: Authors computation, 2016

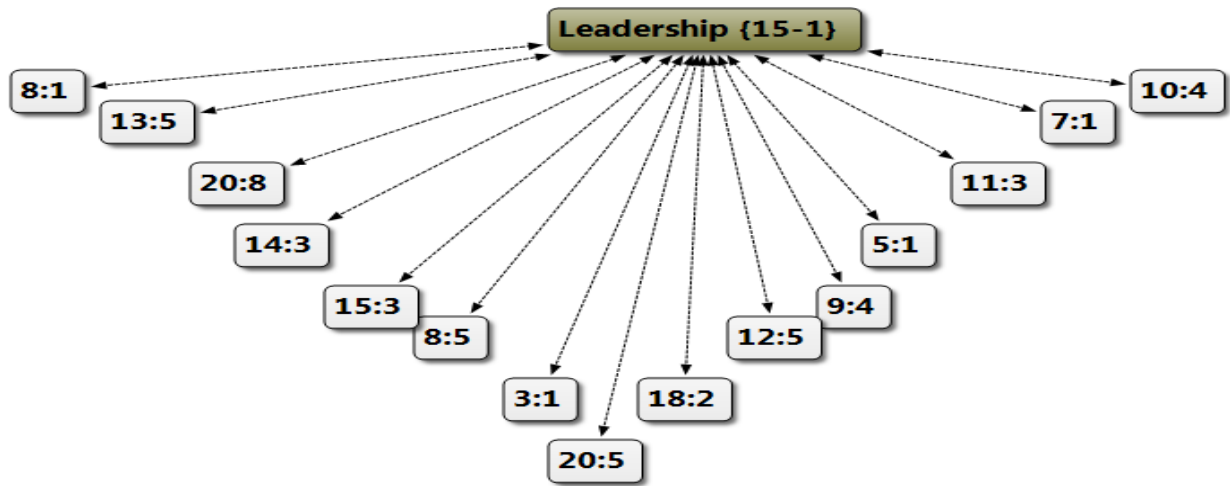
3.3. Drugs

Since the return of the country to democracy in 1999, the rate of drug abuse is very high and is very prevalence among the youths in Kebbi State(18), in every society you will have these bad and rotten eggs, some of them are

drunkers, some of them are drug addict and when they come into politics you cannot stop them because politics is a society in which every jack and harry can participate, but the most important thing the good once should not allow bad one to other ride them otherwise the whole society will suffer (10;4 &1).

In addition to the above, an informant also added that:-

“Youths are unemployed; they are looking for what comes to their way and sometime giving those drugs to convince them to vote for particular candidates. There is also popular adage that says that an idle mine is a devil workshop” (16; 10 & 11).

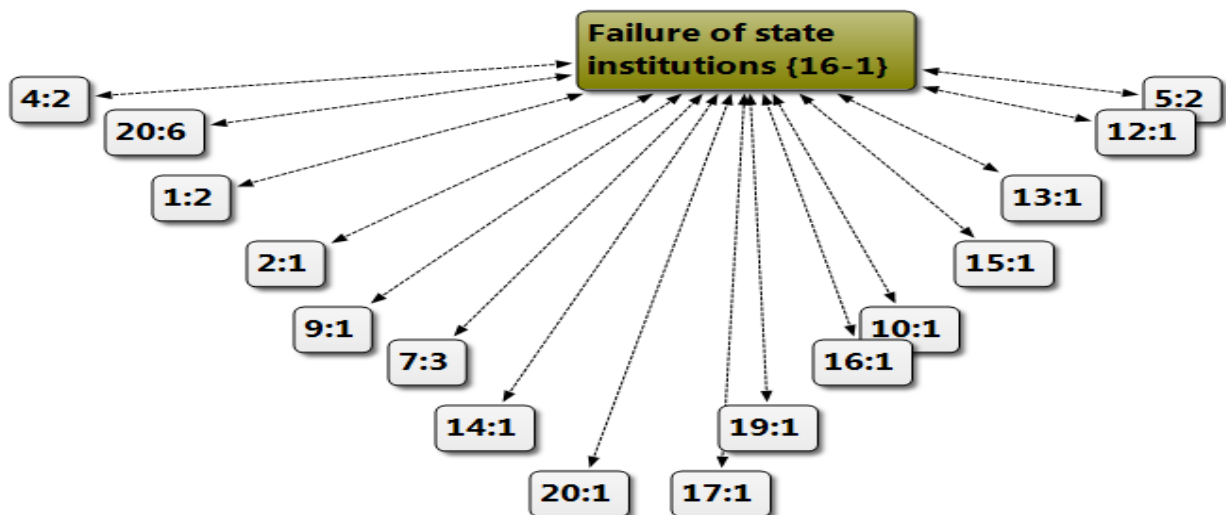


Network on leadership

Source: Authors computation, 2016

3.4. Leadership

Leadership is another factor that led to the failure of yesteryears programme (12 ; 3 & 15). The leaders are not patriotic (8 & 13), they are just after their selfish accumulation but not after the development of the nation as well as addressing the problem of the youths. Lack of political will constitute biggest problem to failure of many unemployment problem in Nigeria (20).



Network on Failure of State institutions

Source: Authors computation, 2016

3.5. Failure of State Institutions

The failure of state institutions such as education and economy is another causes of unemployment among the

youths, weak institution is a very big issues affecting Nigeria as a nation, during the past yesteryears, governments tried their best in order to aleimorate masses from unemployment but did not yield any result. For instance the failure of programmes such as Operation Feed the nation, Green revolution, Back to land, poverty alleviation, as well as poverty eradication, youths empowerment scheme etc but did not yield any results. Poverty has increased since the returned of the country to democracy, more than 75% of the population are farmers but 50% are sleeping in hunger.

A nother major causes of thuggery at the same time affecting democratic process as a whole. The major issue that led to thuggery is because of poverty, our timing youths have nothing to do that is why they are involving themselves in thuggery, poverty is the major issue. During the time of fair elections the elders were the one that served as judge, whatever they say is the final arbiter, until they deduced among the aspiring candidates the one that can bring development to their people. But due to hate rate and corruption, in this modern era, you will see people selecting the wrong candidates instead of the right candidates. The issue is that whenever he does not use thugs there is no way one could win election. Another issue is poverty, if you observe, those thugs even if they gets the money from those politician probably sponsor him to Mecca, buy vehicle for him, build house and many other things, such thug has no respect on the eyes of the masses. Any thug you see even if he is well known he has no respect on the eyes of the populace, he cannot come out for people to elect him in any post due to the fact that he is well known as thug. Lack of trust is what is bringing thugs in the affairs of election (P12).

Illiteracy is very prevalence in the North, it is estimated that one out of five is illiterate, most of the causes of violence and election malpractice in Nigeria is due to lack of education, it is also associated with rise of insurgency such as Boko Haram. One of the factors is illiteracy, two failure of government and three money politics.

CODES-PRIMARY-DOCUMENTS-TABLE																					
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Code-Filter: All [6]																					
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	P 1	P 2	P 3	P 4	P 5	P 6	P 7	P 8	P 9	P 10	P 11	P 12	P 13	P 14	P 15	P 16	P 17	P 18	P 19	P 20	TOTAL
Corruption	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	15
Drugs	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	13
Failure of state institutions	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	16
Lazines	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	12
Leadership	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	15
TOTALS:	3	2	3	5	2	2	4	5	5	4	3	5	5	3	3	3	3	2	1	8	71

Source: Authors computation, 2016

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