

## **THE EFFECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN NIGERIA.**

Unemployment refers to a situation whereby individuals who are employable and seeking a job are unable to find job. It also refers to a situation where individuals are given job below or above their qualification and capabilities. “Of all the aspects of social misery, nothing is so heartbreaking as unemployment” – Jane Addams (1910). Unemployment is on the increase in Nigeria. It has also displayed diverse effects.

Unemployment lends to an increase in crime and social vices in Nigeria. Crime naturally goes against the established social rules, which can prevent things in a country from functioning properly. It is counteractive to how things operate and serious cases can be especially devastating when they occur on a large scale (e.g. violence). Criminal acts have actually been a method of turning things upside down for years. It has been a historical favored tactic of criminal organization.

Increase in moral decadence is one of the effects of unemployment in Nigeria. It is a big challenge to maintain and bolster this large number of people in this country properly. Unfortunately, a significant percentage of the youth is being affected by moral decadence. It causes many social problems and sadly, the scenario is worsening day by day. Since they are unemployed, they indulge in various ill activities. The decadent youths forget to practice value rather they give utmost priority to enjoyment and dominating attitudes. Moral decadence amongst the youth is a dreadful disease for any country.

Unemployment also results to low self-esteem on the lives of its victim. Unemployment reduces the young adults' self-efficacy whether or not it was accompanied by parental support. Each month of unemployment decreases the young adults' self-efficacy below the individual average self-confidence. Unemployment has the potential to erode its victims' confidence in two ways: first, by delaying or preventing successful adult transitions (e.g. marriage, parenthood, economic self-sufficiency etc.), and second, by providing the occasion for parental financial assistance that undercuts his or her autonomy and independence.

Decrease in productivity in Nigeria is one of the effects on unemployment. Labor is the main (can be the most important) factor of production. Not using this factor effectively leads to a big loss in the output of the economy (production). Also, unemployment means less revenue for people in the country and thereby less active demand. Effective demand is very important for economic cycle. Studies show that high economic growth rates are associated with low rates of unemployment especially on the long run. We can see clearly that there is relationship between employment and economic growth. High unemployment level in a country indicates that the country's economy is operating below full capacity. This will lead to low outputs and incomes in the country.

The health of the victims of unemployment in Nigeria is at a great risk. Studies show that the unemployed who had significantly worse perceived mental health profiles, were more likely to delay health care services due to cost, and were likely

to have access to health care than the employed. Also, the impetus for unemployment, be it voluntary or involuntary, may significantly impact a person's mental health. The unemployed tend to have higher levels of impaired mental health including depression, anxiety, and stress as well as higher levels of mental health hospital admissions, chronic diseases and premature mortality. Unemployment is also associated with unhealthy behaviors such as increased alcohol and tobacco consumption and decreased physical activities.

It is therefore evident that unemployment is a complex issue with many effects. It is indeed an ill wind that blows one good. Due to its negative impacts in Nigeria, it should be greatly discouraged. It is also important to note that it is not a one man fight or a fight for the government but it is a fight that every individual is meant to engage in.