**UNEMPLOYMENT**

Unemployment…..one of the banes of man. It is often said that “an idle mind is the devil’s workshop”. As silly as it sounds, it has been proven over the years. An idle man always finds himself thinking of one mischief or the other, not necessarily because he wants to, but because he has nothing to do. You don’t easily see a working class man thinking of kidnapping someone. Thus an idle man is not only a burden to himself but also to the society at large.

The term “unemployment” is known to many in many ways. To some people, it is a lack of job, to others; it is the absence of job opportunities. However, when you talk about unemployment, you talk about the labour force. Therefore, Unemployment can be defined as the situation whereby qualified persons who are willing and able to work do not have and are looking for jobs. For a person to be unemployed, he must be of “working age” and possessing necessary skills to work.

Unemployment is one of the main contemporary issues not just in Nigeria but all parts of the world today. In every society, you tend to see youths roaming the streets in search of jobs, even those with proven credentials. Those tired of roaming the streets resort to lives of crime; all just to make ends meet. While some engage in such acts for various reasons, the major motive behind such acts is undeniably the state of unemployment. One of the pressing questions about the issue is who the blame is pushed to: The individuals meant to create job opputunities for themselves, or the government meant to provide such oppurtunities for them. No matter who is responsible, it is an issue that finds itself in all places of the world, even among the First-World countries.

Unemployment comes in different forms (or types).

1. Classical Unemployment occurs when real wages for jobs are set above the market clearing level. The result of this is higher number of job-seekers than there are vacancies.
2. Structural Unemployment occurs when the labour market is not able to provide jobs for everyone who wants to work. There is a mismatch between the skills of the unemployed workers and those needed for the available jobs.
3. Frictional Unemployment is seen in the time period in between jobs when a worker is searching from one job to another.
4. Hidden Unemployment occurs when the unemployment of potential workers is not taken into account in official unemployment statistics because of how data is collected.
5. Long-Term Unemployment is as the name suggests unemployment lasting more than a year.

No matter the form it appears in, the main situation is defined as the lack of jobs. Unemployment is a menace both to the individual, the society and the economy at large.

1. **Individual:** The ideal man dreams of getting a tertiary education to get a certificate in a course of his dreams. With this, he hopes to then get a good paying job, and then get settled. However, this is not often the case. Unemployment has been found to cause depression as the state of not having a job and a means of income tends to make people think a lot. Depression in turn gives rise to other health problems and without a steady source of income, it becomes worrisome. Socially, it may lead to loss of friends and self-respect. In some people, studies have found that being without a job for long periods of time, may lead to loss of skills.
2. **Society:** As I said before an idle mind is the devil’s workshop. An unemployed person with nothing doing is more likely to steal or kidnap than an employed man. Crime and other evil acts have numerous causes, but one of the major causes is unemployment. Most youths roam the streets looking for jobs, and need money to take care of their daily needs. Where would the money come from without a job? Therefore, most resort to a life of theft, terrorism and anti-social behaviour.
3. **Economy:** The effects of unemployment are very clear on a nation’s economic growth and performance. We all say that we believe the children are our future. How will that future look when the children aren’t given that chance to contribute to it? There is that loss of skills and talent since a great number of university graduates are unable to find jobs and put their knowledge and great thinking capabilities into producing innovation and hence promoting economic growth. Excluding young people from the labour market means a lack of the divergent thinking, creativity and innovative ideas that the young mind has to offer. Fighting this unemployment is key to the economic performance of a country.

The only way to know where you are going is to know where you are coming from. The 2 main causes of unemployment are an increase in the growing population and a decrease in the available job opportunities. When the available job opportunities cannot meet the demands of the growing population, it creates the issue of unemployment.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the main solution to the issue of unemployment, is simply to provide and create more job opportunities. This is where the government comes in. To meet the demands of the growing population and labour market, more vacancies for work must be provided. Vocational skills and education also help to increase social conclusion and provides a working environment for people to express their various skills and productivity. In a situation where the government cannot provide job opportunities, it falls to the youths to engage in entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship basically refers to the concept of developing and managing a business venture in order to gain profit by taking several risks in the business world. When the labour force fails to provide opportunities, the youths may have to take matters into their own hands and be self-employed

There is a saying that when oil touches one finger, there is a tendency for it to spread to others. Unemployment is a contemporary issue not just in Nigeria but in our world today. It can give rise to many problems such as health issues, poverty, loss of skills and most acts of crime. The only way to solve the problem is to get to the root of the matter by provision of job vacancies. It remains an issue to be solved collectively by both the government and the individual as it affects them both.