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 The Effect of Unemployment in Nigeria

 Unemployment can be seen as one of the major issues leading to a fall in Nigerians economy. Unemployment can be seen as a situation where an individual who is actively capable and of the right age to work is searching for a job and is unable to find it. Furthermore, it is those people in the workforce or pool of people who are available for work that do not have any appropriate job. Unemployment serves as one one of the indicators of an economic status.

Unemployment is healthy in any way healthy for the economy of a country as it attracts negative social and political effect aside from the economical effects it brings forth.

 Causes of unemployment

 Unemployment can be caused by various factors. Some off the causes of unemployment are as follows:

* Recession: Unemployment in Nigeria has been worsened by the recent decline in the country’s economy. A lot of people have been laid off due to the fact that new jobs haven’t been created. Most of the companies running laid off hiring employees because they can’t afford to pay a lot of workers.
* Rural-urban Migration: Rural-urban migration is mostly explained in terms of push-pull factors which include the pressure resulting from man-land ratio in the rural areas and the existence of serious underemployment arising from the seasonal cycle of climate. This is further aggravated by the lack of infrastructural facilities, which makes the rural life unattractive making youths to move to urban areas with the probability of securing lucrative employment in the industries and to enjoy the available social amenities.
* Rapid population growth: Rapid population growth is also considered as one of the major causes of urban unemployment in Nigeria. Basically, according to the 2006 census conducted in Nigeria, the nations population was said to be at 140,431,790 and the projections for the future indicate that the population could be over 180 million in the year 2020 which we are in currently given the annual growth rate of 3.2 percent (National Population Commission & and ICF Macro, 2009:3). With this population, Nigeria is the most populated nation in Africa currently. It is argued that the high population growth rate has resulted in the rapid growth of the labour force, which is leading to the reduction of supply of jobs.
* Outdated school curriculum: Outdated school curricula and lack of employable skills are other identified factors contributing to the growth of unemployment in Nigeria. Some scholars have argued that the average Nigeria graduate is not employable and, therefore, does not possess the skills needed by the employers of labour for a formal employment. The course contents of most tertiary education in Nigeria lack entrepreneurial elements that would have enabled graduates to become job creators rather than job seekers. Presently, with over 97 universities in Nigeria (Federal, state, and private) and the increasing demand for higher education, there has been the problem of suitable employment for the varieties of graduates turned out by these higher institutions every year. Ordinarily, this should not have been a problem, but the reality is that the Nigerian economy is too weak to absorb this large number of graduates
* Corruption: Very importantly is the issue of corruption is a cause of unemployment. Corruption, as having permeated the entire social structure of Nigeria, 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 enterprises and parastatals have liquidated these organizations

 The effects of unemployment

The effects of unemployment is as follows:

* High level of Poverty: Unemployment can lead to rampant poverty as people without jobs may not be able to afford the basic needs of life which include water, shelter, clothing, food etc. As people are unemployed they wont be able to fend for themselves as they do not have any available source of income.
* High rate of crimes: Due to unemployment, there will be increase in crime rates. This is because people who cannot afford to get a job to fend for themselves would engage in crimes and other vices as a way to earn money for themselves. Crimes such as armed robbery and kidnapping will be rampant.
* Increase in the number of dependent people: unemployment will make people of the society without jobs depend more on other people for they will need aid, support and favours from other people.
* Increased rural-urban migration: Due to unemployment there will be increase in rural-urban migration as people from the rural areas will move to the urbanised side in order to look for work.
* Unemployment results in lowered purchasing power, which, in turn, causes lowered profits for businesses and leads to budget cuts and workforce reductions. It creates a cycle that goes on and on and on. Everyone loses in the end
* Reduction in output of goods and services: unemployment leads to reduction of output of goods and services as the labour force is being reduced and is not put to work therefore goods and services would not be produced as much.

 Solutions to unemployment in Nigeria

* Aggressive Emphasis on Entrepreneurial Education**:** Entrepreneurship has been primarily suggested by many scholars to be one of the key factors to curb unemployment in Nigeria. If entrepreneurship is seriously driven by government through encouraging youth who are interested with interest-free loan and other forms of enabling- environment creating platforms, unemployment will definitely reduce.
* More Investment in Youth Intensive Sectors (YIS**)**: These include ICT, Entertainment and hospitality, e.g. Nollywood, fast food industry, catering and hotel service. Just as Hollywood, Bollywood, Ghollywood bring a lot of revenue to the government of the U.S., Indian and Ghana respectively, Nollywood- the Nigerian movie industry today can also receive renewed interest from the government to develop and act as one of the major employers of labour in the country.
* Diversification of the Economy***:*** Nigeria should cease from relying entirely on oil whose price fluctuates according to the world market. Agriculture, ICT, Hospitality and Entertainment are other promising avenue for Nigeria to diversify her economy.
* Conducive Investment Climate or Enabling Environment: Good infrastructure, generous access to finance and effective power supply are some of the things needed for entrepreneurship to thrive in any community. Enabling Environment, especially in the area of power supply and finding a lasting solution to our security challenges will boost employment generation in Nigeria. Salami (2013) believes that while entrepreneurship may not be the absolute panacea to youth unemployment, an enabling environment that nurtures entrepreneurship is capable of reducing youth unemployment by half.
* Value Re-orientation, Honesty, Dignity of Labour and Hard work:Until very recently, Nigerians are used to being hardworking, honest and patriotic. The trend has however changed in the last few decades. If Nigerian leaders and youth can return back to their original honest and hardworking folks they were known for, unemployment might reduce because people will do whatever their hands find to do not minding whether it is not a white-collar jobs.

 In all, unemployment is a very big problem in the society and it should be looked into and it should be solved.