

**YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR SECURITY AND
PEACEBUILDING IN IBADAN METROPOLIS, OYO STATE, NIGERIA**

Evaristus Kanayochi AKOMA, PhD

Department of Criminology and Security Studies, Dominion University, Ibadan

Email: kanayoakoma2013@yahoo.com | Phone No.: 08063403326

Abstract

Youth unemployment is a widespread issue in Nigeria, particularly in urban areas like Ibadan. Previous studies have largely focused on its economic consequences and general relationship with crime at the national level; limited scholarly attention has been paid to its specific implications for peacebuilding and community security in rapidly urbanised areas. This study therefore investigates the causes of youth unemployment, its effects, and peacebuilding initiatives in addressing these challenges. The study is significant due to its potential to promote community stability in the Ibadan metropolis, Oyo State. The study is grounded in Galtung's Structural Violence Theory and uses a qualitative exploratory case study design. Primary data were obtained from 32 participants: 17 key informants (government officials, security personnel, community leaders, and NGO representatives) and 15 unemployed or underemployed youths across five LGAs. Data were analysed using thematic and narrative techniques. Findings revealed that limited education, economic exclusion, and population growth drive youth unemployment, contributing to rising crime such as theft, armed robbery, cybercrime, and cultism, which undermines community stability. Findings further deepen our understanding that inclusive economic policies, vocational training, and community engagement emerged as effective peacebuilding strategies. The paper argues that unemployment affects the lives, aspirations, and involvement of youths in insecurity. It concludes that urgent action is needed to support multifaceted interventions to enhance education, skills development, public-private job creation, and targeted programs to address structural unemployment. The study also recommends targeted interventions to reduce insecurity, empower youth, and foster sustainable peace.

Keywords: Youth unemployment, security, peacebuilding, Ibadan Metropolis, Nigeria

Word count = 245 words

Introduction

Globally, the inability of economies to absorb young people into productive employment has intensified concerns about poverty, inequality, social exclusion and political instability. This challenge is particularly acute in Sub-Saharan Africa, where rapid population growth, limited

industrialisation, weak governance and fragile economic institutions continue to constrain sustainable job creation (Hope, 2012).

In Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, youth unemployment constitutes a major socio-economic and security challenge. Structural constraints, including excessive

dependence on oil revenues, inadequate infrastructure, corruption, weak industrial capacity and inconsistent policy implementation, have contributed substantially to rising unemployment levels (Adebayo, 2013). According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2022), youth unemployment remained above the national average, a situation exacerbated by rapid population growth, rural–urban migration, inflation and broader economic disruptions.

Beyond its economic consequences, youth unemployment has become a significant concern for security and peacebuilding. Persistent unemployment may generate frustration, hopelessness and social exclusion, thereby increasing young people's vulnerability to criminality and violence (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010). The increasing incidence of kidnapping, cybercrime, cultism, armed robbery, political thuggery, militancy and violent extremism in Nigeria has frequently been associated with widespread youth unemployment and poverty (Akwara et al., 2013). Recent security challenges, including the Boko Haram insurgency, banditry, farmer–herder conflicts and organised criminal activities, have also involved economically vulnerable young people (Obasi, 2016; Hassan & Aliyu, 2020). Although unemployment does not inevitably result in violence, the absence of legitimate economic opportunities may create conditions in which young people become susceptible to manipulation by political elites, criminal networks and extremist organisations (Aliyu, 2021).

Despite these challenges, Nigerian youths have demonstrated considerable potential as agents of peacebuilding and social transformation. Youth-led initiatives across the country have contributed to community security, civic engagement and conflict resolution. For instance, the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) has supported local security efforts against insurgency in North-Eastern Nigeria (Awodiya, 2021), while the #EndSARS protests demonstrated the capacity of young people to mobilise peacefully in support of institutional reform and social justice (Akinwotu, 2020). Organisations such as Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC) and the Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (YPAN) have also promoted dialogue and peaceful coexistence among diverse communities (Amusan, 2020). These developments underscore the dual role of young people within Nigeria's security landscape: while socio-economic deprivation may heighten their vulnerability to violence, empowerment and inclusion can transform them into important actors in peacebuilding and national development.

Within this national context, Ibadan metropolis in Oyo State provides an important setting for examining the relationship between youth unemployment, security and peacebuilding. As one of Nigeria's largest metropolitan centres, Ibadan has experienced rapid urbanisation, population growth and socio-economic transformation. However, the city continues to face growing challenges relating to unemployment, urban poverty

and youth vulnerability. Many young people depend on informal economic activities characterised by unstable incomes and limited prospects for upward mobility. These conditions have contributed to the increasing prevalence of cybercrime, cultism, drug abuse and street violence within the metropolis.

Against this background, this study investigates the causes of youth unemployment, examines its relationship with insecurity, and analyses its implications for peacebuilding and community stability in Ibadan metropolis, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Problem Statement

Youth unemployment has emerged as one of the most persistent socio-economic challenges confronting Nigeria, with serious implications for security and peacebuilding. Despite several government interventions aimed at job creation and youth empowerment, unemployment among young people has continued to rise, particularly in urban centres such as Ibadan. The growing population of unemployed youths has increasingly been associated with criminal activities, including kidnapping, armed robbery, cybercrime, cultism, political thuggery, drug abuse and other forms of violence that threaten community stability and public safety (Umar, 2020). Consequently, youth unemployment is no longer regarded solely as an economic concern but also as a major threat to sustainable peace and security.

Existing studies on youth unemployment in Nigeria have largely focused on its

economic consequences and its general relationship with crime at the national level (Osakwe, 2013). However, limited scholarly attention has been devoted to its specific implications for peacebuilding and community security within rapidly urbanising settings such as Ibadan metropolis. Furthermore, many studies have paid insufficient attention to the ways in which unemployment-induced frustration, social exclusion and hopelessness may undermine peaceful coexistence and weaken public trust in social and political institutions.

This gap necessitates a context-specific investigation of the relationship between youth unemployment, insecurity and peacebuilding in Ibadan metropolis. Therefore, this study seeks to provide an empirical understanding of how youth unemployment affects security and peacebuilding processes in the study area, while contributing to the development of sustainable policy interventions for peace and socio-economic development.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of youth remains dynamic because it is shaped by varying socio-economic realities and policy frameworks across societies. The United Nations (1981) defines youth as individuals aged 15 to 24 years; however, the African Union broadens this definition to encompass those aged 15 to 35 years, acknowledging the extended period of dependency and the postponed transition to adulthood prevalent in African cultures (African Union, 2006). Nigeria's National Youth Policy similarly adopts the 18–35 age bracket, reflecting the expectation that

youths should contribute meaningfully to national development despite prevailing structural constraints (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2019). These varying conceptualisations suggest that youth is not merely a biological category but a socio-economic condition strongly influenced by access to education, employment, and social participation. Scholars such as Osakwe (2013) therefore argue that the transition from dependence to productive adulthood has become increasingly difficult in many developing countries because of persistent unemployment and weak economic structures.

Youth unemployment is primarily a structural rather than temporary or cyclical problem. The International Labour Organisation defined unemployment as a situation in which economically active individuals were without work, available for work and actively seeking employment (ILO, 1982). However, contemporary scholars criticised this definition for overlooking underemployment, precarious informal employment and discouraged youths who had withdrawn from the labour market after repeated unsuccessful job searches (Brown & Davis, 2022). This limitation is particularly relevant in Nigeria and other African countries, where many young people survive through unstable informal economic activities without adequate social protection. Johnson (2021) attributed the problem to structural mismatches between labour-market demands and available workforce skills. Similarly, Olubusoye et al. (2023) identified weak industrialisation, poor governance,

inadequate policy implementation and ineffective labour-market planning as major causes of youth unemployment in Nigeria. Thus, youth unemployment was embedded in wider political and economic structures rather than individual failure.

A major strength of the existing literature lies in its consistent demonstration of the relationship between unemployment and insecurity. Contemporary security studies increasingly reject the traditional state-centred conception of security and instead emphasise human security, social wellbeing, and freedom from fear and deprivation. Buzan, Wæver, and de Wilde (1998) conceptualise security as protection from threats to valued interests, thereby broadening security beyond military concerns to include socio-economic stability. This perspective is particularly useful in analysing Nigeria's security crisis because many forms of insecurity, including terrorism, kidnapping, cybercrime, cultism, and political violence, are closely associated with poverty, inequality, and unemployment. Scholars such as Onuoha (2018) and Nwankwo (2019) argue that widespread unemployment among Nigerian youths creates frustration, hopelessness, and social alienation, thereby increasing susceptibility to criminality and violence. The strength of this argument lies in its recognition that insecurity cannot be addressed solely through military responses without tackling the socio-economic conditions that sustain violence.

Empirical studies across Africa reinforce this relationship between unemployment and insecurity. The African Development

Bank (AfDB, 2024) reports that nearly 60 per cent of youths in sub-Saharan Africa experience unemployment or underemployment despite the continent's expanding labour force. This contradiction reveals the inability of many African economies to absorb growing youth populations into productive sectors. Studies from the Sahel region demonstrate how extremist organisations exploit unemployed youths by offering financial incentives, social identity, and a sense of belonging. Similarly, persistent unemployment in South Africa has been associated with organised crime, gang violence, and drug abuse, while urban gangs such as Kenya's Mungiki movement emerged largely from conditions of social exclusion and economic marginalisation. These examples support the argument that unemployment creates fertile conditions for violence because excluded youths often perceive criminality or extremism as alternative means of survival and social recognition. However, some studies tend to overemphasise unemployment as the sole cause of violence while paying insufficient attention to other factors such as ideology, ethnic grievances, weak governance, and political manipulation. This suggests that unemployment should be understood as an interacting factor rather than a singular determinant of insecurity.

In Nigeria, it has been discovered that youth unemployment leads to insurgency, militancy, banditry and urban criminality. The United States Institute of Peace (USIP, 2013) states that unemployment and poverty contributed significantly to youth radicalisation and extremist recruitment in

Northern Nigeria. Correspondingly, Wayas (2018) states that prolonged unemployment heightened frustration and participation in insurgency across Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States. Mercy Corps (2016) reported that unemployed youths often perceived insurgent groups as alternative sources of livelihood and social identity. In the Niger Delta, Oyefusi (2008) and Okoli and Atelhe (2016) linked unemployment and economic marginalisation to militancy and violent criminal activities. These studies demonstrated that deprivation weakened state legitimacy and increased the appeal of violent groups. However, existing literature concentrated mainly on northern insurgency and Niger Delta militancy, neglecting urban insecurity and peacebuilding challenges in cities such as Ibadan. This imbalance limited the understanding of unemployment-related insecurity in rapidly urbanising communities.

Scholarly literature showed that unemployment undermined peacebuilding by weakening social cohesion and increasing youths' vulnerability to violence and criminal networks. John Paul Lederach (1997) and Johan Galtung (1976; 1996) argued that sustainable peace required addressing structural violence, including poverty, inequality and exclusion. Galtung's distinction between negative and positive peace remained relevant because the absence of direct violence could not ensure sustainable peace where structural injustices persisted. The United Nations, through its peacebuilding frameworks and Security Council Resolution 2250, recognised youths as essential

peacebuilding actors while acknowledging that unemployment and marginalisation exposed them to violent recruitment. This approach shifted attention from portraying youths solely as perpetrators of violence to recognising their potential contributions to stability and development.

Despite efforts, the involvement of youth in peacebuilding has been limited in many African countries due to factors such as poor governance, insufficient funding, corruption, and ineffective institutions. Within the Ibadan metropolis, emerging studies reveal that youth unemployment contributes significantly to urban insecurity through internet fraud, armed robbery, cultism, political thuggery, and other criminal activities. Adeniyi and Lateef (2024) found a positive relationship between unemployment and violent crime across communities such as Bodija, Agbowo, and Ojoo, while Oluwaseun et al. (2023) observed that economically excluded youths often become vulnerable to criminal networks. These studies are important because they broaden the discourse beyond insurgency and militancy to include everyday urban insecurity within South-Western Nigeria. However, many existing studies remain largely descriptive and fail to provide deeper analytical explanations of how unemployment weakens social cohesion and undermines sustainable peacebuilding processes. Moreover, there has been insufficient focus on the significance of employment generation, vocational training, entrepreneurship, and inclusive governance as effective peacebuilding strategies that can mitigate insecurity.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study was underpinned by Johan Galtung's Structural Violence Theory, which explained how social structures and socio-economic inequalities prevented individuals from meeting basic needs and attaining their potential. It conceptualised violence beyond physical harm to include poverty, unemployment, inequality, marginalisation and exclusion, which fostered frustration, insecurity and conflict (Galtung, 1969, 1990).

The relevance of the Structural Violence Theory to this study lies in its explanation of how persistent youth unemployment contributes to insecurity and undermines peacebuilding efforts in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State. When young people are denied access to meaningful employment, quality education, and economic opportunities, they become vulnerable to criminal activities such as armed robbery, cultism, political thuggery, cybercrime, kidnapping, and drug abuse. The inability of social and economic institutions to provide adequate opportunities creates frustration, deprivation, and hopelessness among youths, thereby threatening social stability and peaceful coexistence (Ake, 1996).

The theory further suggests that sustainable peacebuilding cannot be achieved solely through security operations or punitive measures. Rather, lasting peace requires addressing the structural causes of violence, including unemployment, poverty, and inequality. In the context of this study, the theory implies that youth empowerment through vocational training, entrepreneurship development, and inclusive economic policies can reduce

insecurity and promote sustainable peace in Ibadan Metropolis.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the five major urban Local Government Areas (LGAs) within Ibadan metropolis, namely Ibadan North, Ibadan North-East, Ibadan North-West, Ibadan South-East and Ibadan South-West. These LGAs were purposively selected because they exhibit key urban characteristics, including a high youth population, substantial rural-urban migration, underemployment, the concentration of tertiary institutions, and increasing incidences of youth-related crimes, such as cybercrime, gang violence, cultism and ritual killings. The selected LGAs also provide useful insights into broader urban youth challenges prevalent across Nigeria.

The study adopted a qualitative, exploratory case-study design to examine the relationship between youth unemployment, insecurity and peacebuilding in Ibadan metropolis, Oyo State, Nigeria. This approach was considered appropriate because it enabled an in-depth exploration of participants' experiences, perceptions and interpretations of unemployment, insecurity and peacebuilding. Specifically, the study sought to understand how young people, community leaders, government officials, security personnel and civil society representatives perceived the causes, effects and possible solutions to youth unemployment and insecurity within the metropolis.

A total of 32 participants were selected through purposive and snowball sampling techniques. Purposive sampling was used to select 17 key informants, comprising five government officials, five security personnel, five community leaders and two representatives of non-governmental organisations. These participants were selected based on their expertise, institutional roles and relevant experience. Snowball sampling was subsequently employed to recruit 15 unemployed or underemployed youths, with three participants selected from each LGA. This category included current or former cult members, cybercrime offenders and political thugs, who were considered difficult-to-reach participants.

Data were collected through face-to-face semi-structured interviews using open-ended questions. The data were collected between 15 and 30th January, 2026. With participants' informed consent, interviews were audio-recorded and supplemented with field notes. The data were subsequently transcribed and analysed thematically, with narrative analysis techniques used to interpret participants' accounts. This analytical approach enabled the identification and synthesis of recurring themes relating to the underlying causes of youth unemployment, its effects on insecurity, and potential strategies for promoting peacebuilding.

In addition to the primary data, secondary sources were consulted to provide contextual support and enhance the credibility of the findings. These sources included books, journal articles, reports, and policy documents. Ethical principles

were strictly observed throughout the study, including informed consent, confidentiality, anonymity and voluntary participation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Findings show that youth unemployment in Ibadan is driven by structural violence embedded in economic and institutional systems.

Research Question 1: What were the causes of youth unemployment in the Ibadan metropolis?

Rapid Expansion of the Educational System

The findings revealed that the rapid expansion of educational institutions had significantly contributed to youth unemployment in Ibadan. Tertiary institutions produced increasing numbers of graduates each year without a corresponding increase in employment opportunities. Indeed, the economy lacked the capacity to absorb the growing number of graduates entering the labour market. One participant explained that, after completing the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), he applied to several organisations without success because vacancies were limited. Thousands of graduates competed for relatively few formal-sector jobs in Ibadan. These findings were consistent with the National Population Commission (NPC, 2013), which reported that youth unemployment had risen over the previous two decades, partly because educational expansion had outstripped labour market demand. Likewise, Utomi (2011) and Eastwood and Lipton (2011) observed that the expansion

of higher education in Nigeria had outpaced economic growth and job creation, thereby sustaining unemployment and social exclusion among urban youths.

Inadequate Skills and Vocational Training

The study found that inadequate practical and vocational skills were a major cause of youth unemployment in the Ibadan metropolis. Participants argued that the Nigerian educational system had focused excessively on theoretical instruction, with insufficient emphasis on practical, technical and entrepreneurial competencies required in contemporary workplaces. Accordingly, many graduates left school without employable skills and were compelled to accept poorly paid informal work or remain unemployed for extended periods. Participants noted that, despite completing higher education, many graduates required additional vocational training before becoming employable. One participant explained that tailoring and other informal skills acquired outside formal education often provided survival income rather than sustainable economic empowerment. These findings corroborated Pitan and Adedeji (2012) and Okolie et al. (2020), who found that outdated curricula and underfunded vocational programmes limited graduates' technical and entrepreneurial competencies. Thus, educational institutions' inability to equip youths with relevant skills contributed to unemployment, dependency, frustration and vulnerability to criminal activities.

Rural-Urban Migration

Rural-urban migration was identified as a significant structural factor contributing to youth unemployment in Ibadan. Participants reported that many young people migrated from rural communities in Oyo State to Ibadan in search of improved employment opportunities and living conditions. However, the urban labour market lacked sufficient capacity to absorb the growing influx of job seekers. Interviewees indicated that many migrants sought white-collar employment but lacked the skills required in the formal sector. As a result, they became trapped in insecure, poorly paid informal employment. One participant observed that migration into Ibadan had intensified competition for the few available jobs and increased frustration among unemployed youths. Another noted that the closure of several factories in the Oluyole and Challenge industrial estates, owing to economic difficulties, had further reduced employment opportunities for migrants. These findings supported Adebayo and Oduwaye (2007) and Oyesiku (2002), who argued that uncontrolled rural-urban migration placed pressure on urban resources and contributed to unemployment and underemployment.

Mismatch Between Education and Labour Market Demand

The study identified a substantial mismatch between educational training and labour market demand in Ibadan. Participants emphasised that many graduates possessed qualifications poorly aligned with employers' and industries' requirements. Accordingly, degree holders competed for scarce white-collar jobs,

while technical and vocational sectors remained understaffed. Interviews showed that universities and polytechnics continued to offer obsolete courses and outdated teaching methods, whereas employers increasingly required modern competencies, including AutoCAD, Python programming, solar installation and digital accounting. These findings were consistent with Okunuga and Ajeyalemi (2018) and Gbadamosi (2021), who observed that weak collaboration between educational institutions and industries contributed to graduate unemployment in Nigeria. Reports by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2023) similarly indicated high levels of youth unemployment and underemployment, partly attributable to inadequate practical training and poor career guidance. The findings therefore suggested that prioritising academic certification over labour market relevance had deepened youth unemployment and insecurity in Ibadan.

Rapid Population Growth and Limited Job Creation

The findings showed that rapid population growth without corresponding job creation had substantially contributed to youth unemployment in Ibadan. Participants observed that the expanding youth population had placed considerable pressure on limited employment opportunities. Each year, large numbers of graduates and school leavers enter the labour market, while employment opportunities remain stagnant or decline because of prevailing economic challenges.

One participant stated that there were "too many graduates chasing fewer than 200

real jobs every year in Ibadan". This finding was consistent with Kouassi and Cilliers (2025) and the World Bank (2024), who argued that rapid population growth could become a developmental burden where investment in labour-intensive sectors, such as agriculture and manufacturing, remained inadequate. The findings further revealed that high rates of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET), alongside underemployment, contributed to frustration, poverty and involvement in criminal activities. Thus, inadequate job creation relative to population growth remained a critical cause of youth unemployment.

Economic Instability

Economic instability emerged as a major cause of youth unemployment in the Ibadan metropolis. Participants attributed declining employment opportunities to persistent inflation, currency depreciation, inconsistent economic policies and reduced industrial productivity. One participant explained that several factories in the Oluyole and Challenge industrial estates had closed because of high electricity costs and the depreciation of the naira, thereby reducing formal-sector employment. Participants further noted that economic hardship had pushed some unemployed youths into cybercrime, political thuggery, drug abuse and other deviant activities. Economic instability had therefore contributed not only to unemployment but also to insecurity and weakened peacebuilding. These findings were consistent with the World Bank (2024) and NBS (2023), which reported that inflation, poor infrastructure and recurring economic downturns had undermined business

sustainability and employment generation in Nigeria. They also aligned with African Liberty (2025), which reported increased urban youth unemployment in Ibadan during the recent economic crisis.

Unfavourable Business Environment, Corruption and Nepotism

The findings revealed that an unfavourable business environment, corruption and nepotism had significantly contributed to youth unemployment in many urban centres, including in the Ibadan metropolis. Participants identified poor infrastructure, unreliable electricity, multiple taxation and limited access to credit as barriers to investment and business expansion. Hence, some companies relocated, reduced their workforce or ceased operations. Recruitment processes were also reportedly influenced by bribery, favouritism and political connections, excluding qualified applicants without financial resources or influential contacts. One participant disclosed that applicants were sometimes required to pay between ₦200,000 and ₦500,000 to secure employment. These findings supported the arguments of Okafor (2011), Bamidele (2022) and Transparency International (2022), that identified corruption and unfair recruitment practices as significant barriers to equitable employment opportunities. From the perspective of structural violence, weak institutions denied young people equal access to employment and social mobility, thereby perpetuating unemployment, marginalisation, insecurity and ineffective peacebuilding.

Research Question 2: What were the effects of youth unemployment on security

and peacebuilding in the Ibadan metropolis?

Increase in Violent Crime and Insecurity

The study found that youth unemployment had intensified violent crime and insecurity in the Ibadan metropolis. Participants linked prolonged unemployment with armed robbery, burglary, cultism, kidnapping, cybercrime and street violence. They explained that economic deprivation, hunger and frustration had compelled some unemployed youths to adopt criminal activities as an alternative means of survival. Participants also noted that persistent unemployment had weakened moral values, reduced social control and normalised criminal behaviour among vulnerable youths. These findings were consistent with Oluwaseun et al. (2023) and Ajufo (2013), who established that unemployment contributed significantly to violent crime and urban insecurity among Nigerian youths. The findings suggested that unequal socio-economic conditions had denied many young people access to legitimate opportunities and social protection, thereby increasing their vulnerability to criminal activities. Youth unemployment had therefore become both an economic and security challenge, threatening community safety, social stability and sustainable peacebuilding in Ibadan metropolis.

Political Thuggery, Gang Violence and Cultism

Political thuggery, gang violence and cult-related activities emerged as major consequences of youth unemployment in

the Ibadan metropolis. Participants indicated that politicians often recruited unemployed youths during elections to intimidate opponents, disrupt voting processes and engage in organised violence. Community leaders observed that gangs and cult groups offered economically vulnerable youths identity, protection and financial incentives unavailable through legitimate institutions. These findings aligned with Abdulahi (2024), who argued that economic exclusion increased unemployed youths' vulnerability to political manipulation and violent mobilisation. Participants further reported that gang violence had contributed to territorial conflicts, fear and declining public trust in political institutions. The findings indicated that institutional failures and socio-economic inequalities had indirectly sustained organised violence and weakened democratic stability. Subsequently, youth unemployment had increased young people's susceptibility to recruitment into violent groups, undermining public safety, political participation, community cohesion and sustainable peacebuilding in the Ibadan metropolis.

Kidnapping and Illicit Economies

The findings revealed that youth unemployment had contributed to the expansion of kidnapping and other illicit economies in Ibadan and Nigeria more broadly. Participants explained that unemployment, poverty and social exclusion had made kidnapping for ransom attractive to some economically disadvantaged youths. They linked this development to weak governance, corruption, inadequate law enforcement

and declining economic opportunities. Participants observed that financially insecure and desperate unemployed youths were easily recruited into organised criminal networks. This finding corroborates Ibrahim and Ahmad (2020), who identified unemployment and poverty as major drivers of kidnapping and criminal enterprises in Nigeria. Respondents emphasised that kidnapping had generated fear, weakened community trust, discouraged investment and disrupted social and economic activities. The findings, therefore, indicated that youth unemployment had undermined local security and weakened the social and economic conditions necessary for sustainable peacebuilding in the study area.

Psychological Frustration and Social Alienation

Youth unemployment has caused psychological distress, frustration and social alienation among young people in the Ibadan metropolis. Participants explained that unemployed graduates often experienced humiliation, hopelessness, anxiety and diminished self-worth following repeated job rejections and prolonged dependence on family members. Societal expectations of financial success further intensified these experiences, particularly when unemployed youths compared themselves with peers who appeared economically successful through political connections or illicit activities. Respondents further revealed that prolonged unemployment had weakened social relationships, increased family tensions and contributed to deviant behaviour. The findings suggested that

unemployment had undermined not only economic well-being but also the psychological and social stability required for peaceful coexistence. Eze (2012) equally observed that unemployment contributed significantly to social disorder and emotional instability among Nigerian youths. Thus, unemployment had weakened family cohesion, social integration and community peace in Ibadan metropolis.

Drug Abuse and Substance Dependency

The study identified drug abuse and substance dependency as important consequences of youth unemployment. Participants revealed that some unemployed youths had resorted to cannabis, tramadol, shisha, codeine and alcohol as coping mechanisms for economic hardship, emotional distress and social frustration. Community leaders observed that substance abuse increased vulnerability to gang violence, criminal behaviour and other anti-social activities. The findings further showed that unemployment had weakened family relationships, increased social tension and encouraged deviant conduct among some youths. This was consistent with Tarkaa (2023), who reported that economic marginalisation among urban youths contributed significantly to substance abuse and organised violence in Ibadan. The findings therefore indicated that youth unemployment had serious implications for public health, community security and social cohesion. Addressing unemployment and providing accessible psychosocial support, skills training and economic opportunities would be important for

reducing substance dependency and associated insecurity.

Weakening of Community Peace and Social Cohesion

Youth unemployment had substantially weakened community peace, social cohesion and collective security. Traditional rulers, religious leaders and community representatives reported rising youth restiveness, tension and distrust associated with widespread economic exclusion and insecurity. Participants explained that unemployment had contributed to fear, social fragmentation and declining communal cooperation, thereby weakening informal peacebuilding mechanisms. Respondents further noted that insecurity had discouraged investment, reduced business activity and constrained economic growth, deepening poverty and unemployment. This finding agrees with Ebobo and Akujobi (2023), who established a strong relationship between unemployment and rising violence in Nigeria. Results indicated that socio-economic deprivation and institutional inequalities had undermined social harmony, peaceful coexistence and community development in Ibadan metropolis. Therefore, reducing youth unemployment was essential for restoring trust, strengthening collective security, promoting economic activity and sustaining community-based peacebuilding efforts.

Rise in Cybercrime and Internet Fraud

The research revealed that youth unemployment had substantially contributed to the rise of cybercrime and internet fraud among educated young people. Participants indicated that some

unemployed graduates had increasingly engaged in online scams, commonly referred to as '*Yahoo Yahoo*', due to financial strain, peer pressure and limited job opportunities. They observed that cybercrime had become normalised among some youths who viewed it as a survival strategy rather than a criminal offence. Participants also noted that social media pressure and societal preoccupation with wealth accumulation had encouraged involvement in fraudulent digital activities. Accordingly, unemployment had expanded digitally facilitated crime, undermined public safety and damaged Nigeria's international reputation. These findings were consistent with Ngboawaji (2024), who linked unemployment and economic frustration with the increasing prevalence of cybercrime among Nigerian youths. The findings highlighted the need for employment creation, digital skills development, and ethical orientation to reduce cybercrime.

Threats to Peacebuilding and Democratic Stability

The findings demonstrated that youth unemployment had posed a major threat to peacebuilding and democratic stability in the Ibadan metropolis. Participants explained that economically marginalised youths had often participated in protests, riots, political violence and anti-government demonstrations because of frustration and distrust in public institutions. Respondents referred to the #EndSARS protests as evidence of how unemployment, poverty and police brutality had combined to produce widespread unrest and destruction in

Ibadan and other Nigerian cities. Amnesty International (2021) similarly documented youth-led unrest associated with socio-economic exclusion during the protests. Participants agreed that persistent unemployment had weakened confidence in democratic governance and increased young people's susceptibility to radicalisation and violent mobilisation. The findings, therefore, suggested that sustainable peacebuilding and democratic stability in Ibadan required inclusive economic development, transparent governance, job creation and targeted youth empowerment programmes that addressed exclusion, frustration and distrust among young people.

Research Question 3: What peacebuilding strategies are essential for mitigating youth unemployment and fostering sustainable peace in the Ibadan metropolis?

Vocational and Entrepreneurial Training

The findings showed that vocational and entrepreneurial training was an effective strategy for reducing youth unemployment and promoting sustainable peacebuilding in the Ibadan metropolis. Participants advocated integrated vocational hubs where youths could acquire practical skills in ICT, tailoring, solar installation, welding, digital marketing and phone repairs. They criticised temporary empowerment programmes, including N-Power and YES-O, for lacking sustainability, market integration and post-training support. Participants argued that vocational education should prioritise innovation, entrepreneurship and industry partnerships

that could facilitate long-term economic inclusion. This finding supported Okafor (2024), who observed that poorly implemented empowerment programmes often failed to produce sustainable employment outcomes. The findings suggested that practical skills acquisition could reduce socio-economic exclusion, dependency and young people's vulnerability to criminal activities. Therefore, sustainable vocational empowerment, supported by mentoring, finance and market access, remained essential for reducing poverty, insecurity and youth unemployment in Ibadan metropolis.

Community-Based Empowerment and Economic Cooperative Enterprises

Community-based economic empowerment and cooperative enterprises emerged as important strategies for addressing unemployment and insecurity in the Ibadan metropolis. Participants proposed establishing youth cooperative factories and industrial clusters in garment production, agro-processing, solar assembly and shoe manufacturing. They argued that traditional rulers, religious leaders and community organisations should participate in such initiatives to ensure accountability and minimise political interference. Participants maintained that cooperative enterprises would strengthen local ownership, reduce youth restiveness and promote social cohesion. These findings were consistent with Ahmadu and Valentine (2022), who found that vocational clusters and cooperative initiatives contributed significantly to

reducing violent crime and insecurity in Oyo State. The findings suggested that cooperative economic structures could generate employment, strengthen community participation and improve local resilience. Thus, community-led enterprises remained critical for economic inclusion, collective responsibility and sustainable peacebuilding in the Ibadan metropolis.

Governance Reforms and Anti-Corruption Measures

The findings highlighted governance reforms and anti-corruption measures as essential strategies for reducing youth unemployment and promoting sustainable peacebuilding. Participants argued that corruption, nepotism, political patronage and favouritism had undermined employment opportunities for qualified youths. They recommended transparent recruitment systems supported by digital monitoring, civil society oversight and merit-based employment practices. Some participants proposed blockchain-based recruitment platforms to reduce manipulation, bribery and political interference in public institutions. They maintained that transparent governance would restore trust in public institutions and reduce youth frustration. These findings supported Structural Violence Theory, which argued that institutional corruption systematically reproduced inequality, exclusion and insecurity (Galtung, 1969). Similar findings by Transparency International (2022) and Okafor (2011) identified corruption as a major obstacle to equitable employment and social stability in Nigeria. As a result, governance reforms remained central to

employment equity, public trust and sustainable peacebuilding.

Digital Skills and Green Economy Employment

The findings indicated that investment in digital skills and green economy employment was considered essential for sustainable peacebuilding in the Ibadan metropolis. Participants advocated comprehensive youth training in ICT, renewable energy, waste recycling, agribusiness, software development and digital entrepreneurship. They argued that such training would equip young people with relevant skills for emerging employment opportunities and sustainable development. Participants also noted that digital innovation and renewable energy industries could reduce youth dependency, cybercrime and migration pressures. These findings aligned with the African Development Bank (AfDB, 2023), which identified digital innovation and green employment as important pathways for youth empowerment across Africa. The findings suggested that inclusive economic participation could reduce social marginalisation and insecurity. Therefore, investment in digital and green economy initiatives remained essential for transforming unemployed youths into productive stakeholders, improving livelihoods and promoting sustainable peacebuilding in urban centres like Ibadan.

Public-Private Partnerships and Industrial Development

The findings highlighted the need for stronger public-private partnerships and industrial revitalisation to promote sustainable employment creation in the

Ibadan metropolis. Participants explained that many governments employment programmes had failed because they were disconnected from industrial realities and labour-market demands. They recommended collaboration among government agencies, technical institutions, financial organisations and private companies to establish industrial estates, apprenticeship schemes and innovation hubs. Participants further noted that vocational centres in Akinyele and Egbeda achieved better outcomes because trainees were linked directly to employers, cooperative loans and guaranteed apprenticeships. These findings supported Lawal (2023), who argued that sustainable youth employment depended heavily on effective institutional collaboration and industrial investment. The study suggested that inclusive economic structures reduced inequality and exclusion. Consequently, industrial revitalisation and public–private partnerships remained essential for employment generation, economic stability and sustainable peacebuilding in the Ibadan metropolis.

Rural-Urban Economic Linkages and Agribusiness Development

The findings identified rural–urban economic linkages and agribusiness development as important strategies for reducing youth unemployment and promoting sustainable peacebuilding. Participants stressed the need to strengthen agriculture, agro-processing industries and rural infrastructure to reduce migration pressures and create employment within local communities. Respondents observed that many youths

migrated to Ibadan because of collapsing rural economies, inadequate social amenities and limited agricultural support. They recommended modern farming techniques, agricultural cooperatives and youth-focused agribusiness financing to improve rural livelihoods. These findings resonated with Ayinde et al. (2016), who observed that agribusiness development contributed significantly to employment generation and social stability in Nigeria. The findings indicated that balanced regional development could reduce socio-economic inequalities and urban overcrowding. Therefore, sustainable rural development remained critical for long-term economic inclusion, reduced migration and peacebuilding in Ibadan.

Youth Inclusion in Governance and Peacebuilding Networks

It was revealed that meaningful youth inclusion in governance and peacebuilding initiatives was critical for reducing insecurity and unemployment. Participants recommended establishing youth-led peace and security networks to facilitate dialogue among communities, government institutions and security agencies. Participants argued that excluding youths from political participation and decision-making increased frustration, alienation and vulnerability to political manipulation. They maintained that youth involvement in governance would strengthen accountability, civic responsibility and community trust. The findings supported inclusive governance as a mechanism for reducing marginalisation and social inequality. Youth participation could also improve the responsiveness of

employment policies and peacebuilding interventions to local needs. Consequently, meaningful youth inclusion remained essential for promoting democratic stability, peaceful coexistence, public trust and sustainable peacebuilding in Ibadan metropolis.

Sustainable Economic Inclusion and Social Justice

The findings showed that sustainable peacebuilding in Ibadan metropolis required comprehensive economic inclusion and social justice rather than punitive security responses alone. Participants emphasised that policing and military interventions could not effectively address insecurity without tackling the structural causes of unemployment, poverty and exclusion. They argued that long-term employment opportunities, social protection and institutional reforms would reduce crime, strengthen peaceful coexistence and restore public confidence. The findings indicated that sustainable peace could emerge only when socio-economic inequalities were addressed and young people had equitable access to opportunities and resources. Therefore, inclusive development remained central to reducing marginalisation, insecurity and youth restiveness. Sustainable peacebuilding required coordinated policies that promoted employment creation, fair access to services, accountable institutions and meaningful youth participation in Ibadan metropolis.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS IN THE CONTEXT OF STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE THEORY

The findings strongly support Johan Galtung's Structural Violence Theory, which argues that social structures and institutions can systematically deny individuals access to opportunities and resources necessary for their well-being (Galtung, 1969). The study revealed that youth unemployment in Ibadan metropolis is not merely the consequence of individual failure but is deeply rooted in structural deficiencies within the educational, economic, and governance systems. The rapid expansion of tertiary education without corresponding job creation, coupled with inadequate vocational training and curriculum mismatch, reflects institutional arrangements that reproduce unemployment and social exclusion among youths.

The findings further demonstrated that corruption, nepotism, and the absence of merit-based recruitment processes constitute forms of structural violence that marginalise qualified youths and deny them equitable access to employment opportunities. These systemic inequalities create frustration, hopelessness, and alienation, thereby increasing vulnerability to cybercrime, cultism, political thuggery, kidnapping, and drug abuse. This aligns with Galtung's argument that structural inequalities often generate indirect forms of violence and insecurity within society. Similarly, persistent economic instability, poor industrial development, and rural-urban migration intensify competition for limited jobs, reinforcing socio-economic

deprivation and urban insecurity in Ibadan metropolis.

The findings also revealed that sustainable peacebuilding requires addressing the structural roots of unemployment rather than relying solely on punitive security measures. Strategies such as vocational empowerment, digital skills acquisition, agribusiness development, industrial revitalisation, anti-corruption reforms, and youth inclusion in governance were identified as critical for reducing insecurity and promoting social cohesion. These measures correspond with Structural Violence Theory's emphasis on social justice, equitable resource distribution, and inclusive institutions as foundations for sustainable peace. Therefore, the study concludes that meaningful peacebuilding in Ibadan metropolis depends largely on transforming the socio-economic structures that perpetuate youth unemployment, exclusion, and inequality.

CONCLUSION

This study examined youth unemployment and its implications for security and peacebuilding in Ibadan metropolis, Oyo State, Nigeria. The findings revealed that youth unemployment is largely driven by structural factors such as industrial decline, corruption, poor governance, educational mismatch, labour-market imbalance, and rural-urban migration. These conditions have restricted access to meaningful employment opportunities and increased the marginalisation of many youths within the urban economy.

The study further established a strong relationship between unemployment and insecurity in Ibadan. Unemployed youths

were found to be more vulnerable to criminal activities such as armed robbery, cybercrime, cultism, political thuggery, substance abuse, and gang violence. Prolonged unemployment generated frustration, hopelessness, and social alienation, thereby weakening social cohesion, community peace, and sustainable development. As a result, youth unemployment has become not only an economic challenge but also a significant human-security concern within the metropolis.

The findings also demonstrated that sustainable peacebuilding requires addressing the structural causes of unemployment and insecurity through vocational training, entrepreneurship development, youth empowerment, transparent governance, and inclusive economic policies. Overall, the study validated the Structural Violence Theory by showing that unemployment and insecurity are consequences of systemic inequalities and institutional failures. Therefore, lasting peace and security in Ibadan can only be achieved through inclusive socio-economic reforms and sustainable employment opportunities for youths.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government and private stakeholders should revitalise collapsed industries in Ibadan and establish vocational and digital-skill centres to improve youth employability and reduce structural unemployment within the metropolis.
2. Educational institutions should review curricula to align with labour-market demands through practical training, entrepreneurship education, and

- industry partnerships that equip graduates with relevant employability skills.
3. Government agencies, civil society organisations, and community leaders should implement sustainable youth empowerment and peacebuilding programmes, including cooperative enterprises, transparent recruitment systems, and community-based deradicalisation initiatives to reduce insecurity and social exclusion.

References

- Abdulahi, M. (2024). Youth unemployment and political violence in urban Nigeria. *Journal of African Political Studies*, 11(2), 66–82.
- Adebayo, A. (1999). Youth unemployment and rural–urban migration in Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Economic and Social Studies*, 41(3), 325–340.
- Adebayo, A. A. (2013). Youth unemployment and crime in Nigeria: A nexus and implications for national development. *International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, 5(8).
- Adebayo, A., & Oduwaye, L. (2007). Rural–urban migration and urban unemployment in Nigeria. *Journal of Social and Policy Issues*, 4(1), 15–28.
- Adeniyi, T., & Lateef, A. (2024). Youth unemployment and urban violent crimes in Ibadan metropolis. *Journal of African Security Studies*, 12(2), 45–61.
- African Development Bank. (2023). *African economic outlook report 2023*. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- African Development Bank. (2024). *African economic outlook report*. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- African Liberty. (2025). *Urban unemployment and economic hardship in South-West Nigeria*. Lagos, Nigeria: African Liberty Initiative.
- African Union. (2006). *African Youth Charter*. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: African Union Commission.
- Ahmadu, S., & Valentine, O. (2022). Cooperative enterprises and youth empowerment in Oyo State. *African Journal of Community Development*, 7(2), 88–103.
- Ajufo, B. I. (2013). Challenges of youth unemployment in Nigeria: Effective career guidance as a panacea. *African Research Review*, 7(1), 307–321.
- Ake, C. (1996). *Democracy and development in Africa*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.
- Akinwotu, E. (2020). Nigeria's #EndSARS movement: Youth activism and the demand for police reform. *African Affairs*, 119(477), 1–9.
- Akinwotu, E. (2020, October 20). Nigerian protests: The young people who shook the nation. *The Guardian*.
- Akwara, A. F., Akwara, N. F., Enwuchola, J., Adekunle, M., & Udaw, J. E. (2013). Unemployment and poverty: Implications for national security and good governance in Nigeria. *International Journal of Public Administration and Management Research*, 2(1), 1–11.
- Aliyu, M. (2021). Youth unemployment and violent extremism in Nigeria. *Journal of*

- Contemporary African Studies*, 39(3), 402–418.
- Aliyu, M. K. (2021). Youth unemployment and insecurity in Nigeria: Implications for national development. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, 15(3), 45–56.
- Amnesty International. (2021). *Nigeria: The #EndSARS protests and state response*. London, England: Author.
- Amusan, L. (2020). Youth participation and peacebuilding initiatives in Nigeria. *African Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies*, 8(1), 54–70.
- Awodiya, M. (2021). Civilian Joint Task Force and community security in North-Eastern Nigeria. *Conflict Studies Quarterly*, 35, 25–41.
- Awogbenle, A. C., & Iwuamadi, K. C. (2010). Youth unemployment: Entrepreneurship development programme as an intervention mechanism. *African Journal of Business Management*, 4(6), 831–835.
- Ayinde, O. E., Muchie, M., & Olatunji, G. B. (2016). Agribusiness and youth employment generation in Nigeria. *African Journal of Agricultural Research*, 11(26), 2279–2285.
- Bamidele, A. (2022). Corruption and youth unemployment in Nigeria. *Journal of Public Administration and Governance*, 12(3), 54–70.
- Brown, P., & Davis, R. (2022). Hidden dimensions of youth unemployment in developing economies. *International Journal of Labour Studies*, 18(1), 33–49.
- Buzan, B., Wæver, O., & de Wilde, J. (1998). *Security: A new framework for analysis*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.
- Eastwood, R., & Lipton, M. (2011). Demographic transition in sub-Saharan Africa: How big will the economic dividend be? *Population Studies*, 65(1), 9–35.
- Ebobo, A., & Akujobi, C. (2023). Unemployment and urban violence in Nigeria. *Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies*, 9(1), 74–91.
- Egunjobi, L. (1999). Rural–urban migration and urban development in Nigeria. *Urban Studies Review*, 5(2), 112–126.
- Eze, M. (2012). Youth unemployment and social disorder in Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 2(17), 231–237.
- Federal Republic of Nigeria. (2019). *National Youth Policy*. Abuja, Nigeria: Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development.
- Galtung, J. (1969). Violence, peace, and peace research. *Journal of Peace Research*, 6(3), 167–191.
- Galtung, J. (1976). Three approaches to peace: Peacekeeping, peacemaking, and peacebuilding. In J. Galtung (Ed.), *Peace, war and defence: Essays in peace research* (Vol. 2, pp. 282–304). Copenhagen, Denmark: Christian Ejlers.
- Galtung, J. (1990). Cultural violence. *Journal of Peace Research*, 27(3), 291–305.
- Galtung, J. (1996). *Peace by peaceful means: Peace and conflict, development and civilisation*. London, England: Sage.
- Gbadamosi, A. (2021). Graduate unemployment and labour-market mismatch in Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Educational Planning*, 14(2), 45–61.

- Gurr, T. R. (1970). *Why men rebel*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Hartmann, C., & Biira, J. (2020). Africa's youth bulge and the future of development. *African Development Perspectives*, 5(2), 20–34.
- Hartmann, C., & Biira, J. (2020). Africa's youth population and the prospects for a demographic dividend. *African Population Studies*, 34(1), 4987–5001.
- Hassan, I., & Aliyu, S. (2020). Unemployment and insecurity in Nigeria: The Boko Haram experience. *Journal of African Security*, 13(4), 291–308.
- Hassan, I., & Aliyu, S. (2020). Youth unemployment and insecurity in Northern Nigeria. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 38(4), 521–536.
- Hope, K. R. (2012). Engaging the youth in Kenya: Empowerment, education, and employment. *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth*, 17(4), 221–236.
- Ibrahim, Y., & Ahmad, S. (2020). Kidnapping and insecurity in Nigeria: Causes and implications. *Journal of African Security Studies*, 8(4), 102–118.
- International Labour Organization. (1982). *Resolution concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment*. Geneva, Switzerland.
- Johnson, T. (2021). Structural causes of youth unemployment in Africa. *African Development Review*, 33(4), 210–225.
- Kouassi, K., & Cilliers, J. (2025). Population growth and employment crisis in Africa. *African Futures Paper Series*, 38, 1–24.
- Lawal, T. (2023). Public-private partnerships and sustainable youth employment in Nigeria. *Journal of Development Policy and Practice*, 8(1), 91–108.
- Lederach, J. P. (1997). *Building peace: Sustainable reconciliation in divided societies*. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press.
- Mercy Corps. (2016). *Motivations and empty promises: Voices of former Boko Haram combatants and Nigerian youth*. Abuja, Nigeria.
- National Bureau of Statistics. (2022). *Labour force statistics report*. Abuja, Nigeria.
- National Bureau of Statistics. (2023). *Labour force statistics report*. Abuja, Nigeria.
- National Population Commission. (2013). *Population and labour force report*. Abuja, Nigeria: Author.
- Ngboawaji, D. (2024). Cybercrime and youth unemployment in Nigeria. *International Journal of Criminology and Sociology*, 13(1), 56–72.
- Nwankwo, C. (2019). Unemployment and insecurity in Nigeria: Emerging dimensions. *Nigerian Journal of Social Studies*, 15(1), 66–82.
- Obasi, I. N. (2016). Youth unemployment and insurgency in Nigeria: The Boko Haram experience. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 6(1), 90–99.
- Obasi, N. (2016). The rise of violent extremism in Nigeria: Implications for

- security and development. *African Security Review*, 25(1), 45–58.
- Okafor, E. E. (2011). Youth unemployment and implications for stability of democracy in Nigeria. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, 13(1), 358–373.
- Okafor, U. (2024). Vocational empowerment and youth employment sustainability in Nigeria. *African Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation*, 6(1), 44–60.
- Okoli, A. C., & Atelhe, G. A. (2016). Nomads against natives: A political ecology of herder/farmer conflicts in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. *American International Journal of Contemporary Research*, 4(2), 76–88.
- Okolie, U. C., Igwe, P. A., Nwosu, H. E., & Mlanga, S. (2020). Enhancing graduate employability in Nigeria through curriculum innovation. *Industry and Higher Education*, 34(5), 329–340.
- Okunuga, R., & Ajeyalemi, D. (2018). Educational curriculum and employability challenges in Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Technical Education*, 10(2), 77–91.
- Olubusoye, O., Salisu, A., & Olofin, S. (2023). Structural dimensions of youth unemployment in Nigeria. *Nigerian Economic Review*, 28(3), 91–109.
- Oluwaseun, A., Adeyemi, T., & Balogun, K. (2023). Youth unemployment and urban insecurity in Ibadan metropolis. *Ibadan Journal of Social Sciences*, 9(1), 101–118.
- Oluwaseun, A., Adeyemi, T., & Balogun, K. (2025). Economic marginalisation and urban insecurity among youths in Nigeria. *Journal of African Urban Studies*, 12(2), 66–84.
- Onuoha, F. (2018). Youth unemployment and insecurity in Nigeria. *Conflict Trends*, 2, 28–35.
- Osakwe, C. (2013). Youth, unemployment and national development in Nigeria. *Journal of Sociology and Development*, 5(2), 45–58.
- Osei-Appaw, Y., & Christian, A. (2022). Youth unemployment and social instability in Africa. *African Journal of Economic and Social Studies*, 14(2), 88–103.
- Osei-Appaw, Y., & Christian, A. (2022). Youth unemployment and violent extremism in Africa: Examining the security implications. *African Security*, 15(2), 134–152.
- Oyefusi, A. (2008). Oil and the probability of rebel participation among youths in the Niger Delta of Nigeria. *Journal of Peace Research*, 45(4), 539–555.
- Oyesiku, O. (2002). From wasteland to blossoming city: The history of spatial growth of Ibadan metropolis. In M. O. Filani (Ed.), *Ibadan region* (pp. 99–129). Ibadan, Nigeria: Rex Charles Publications.
- Pitan, O. S., & Adedeji, S. O. (2012). Skills mismatch among university graduates in the Nigerian labour market. *US-China Education Review*, 2(1), 90–98.
- South African Institute of International Affairs. (2018). *Youth unemployment and instability in Africa*. Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Stolpe, O. (2019). Corruption, governance and youth unemployment in Africa. *African Governance Review*, 5(2), 122–139.

- Tarkaa, F. A. (2023). Drug abuse and youth violence in urban Nigeria. *Journal of Substance Use and Society*, 4(2), 88–101.
- Transparency International. (2022). *Corruption perceptions index 2022*. Berlin, Germany: Author.
- Umar, M. (2020). Youth unemployment and urban insecurity in Nigeria. *Journal of African Criminology*, 7(2), 112–126.
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2022). *World population prospects 2022*. New York, NY: United Nations.
- United Nations Development Programme. (2019). *Human development report 2019: Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond today*. New York, NY.
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2019). *Corruption and youth vulnerability in West Africa*. Vienna, Austria.
- United States Institute of Peace. (2013). *Youth and radicalisation in northern Nigeria*. Washington, DC.
- Utomi, P. (2011). Youth unemployment and economic development in Nigeria. *Lagos Business School Journal*, 3(1), 12–25.
- Wayas, A. (2018). Youth unemployment and insurgency in North-East Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Research*, 6(3), 77–89.
- World Bank. (2024). *Nigeria development update: Employment and economic growth*. Washington, DC.