

**POVERTY AND YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT  
(A CASE STUDY OF OYE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF  
EKITI STATE, NIGERIA)**

**BY**

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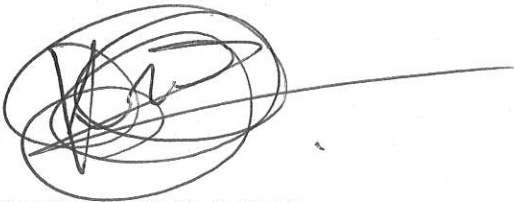
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**CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that this research work was carried out by **Olaleye, Olalekan Joseph** (Matriculation Number: **SOC/14/2085**) of the Department of Sociology Faculty of social Science, federal University Oye-Ekiti.

  
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## DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to Almighty God, the builder of my destiny, who, in his mercy, saw me through all the years I stayed in the university, and to the entire members of my family for their endurance and encouragement, my siblings and friends.

## ACKNOWLEDEMENT

That you once failed does not mean you are out of the track of success but an indication that with more efforts, success will be attained, I am most grateful to God Almighty for seeing me through my university education, I wish to express my profound gratitude to my project supervisor for his advice, assistance and tireless effort and understanding in given me the necessary directions and guidelines in accomplishing this project work, you are truly an epitome of wisdom, a man with an impeccable character, you are best sir.

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## ABSTRACT

This study attempts to examine the consequences of poverty and youth unemployment in the local government area. It was found that low level of education, inadequate manufacturing industries, inadequate job creation by the government, and the neglect of the agriculture sector are largely responsible for the increase in poverty and youth unemployment in the local government area. The study also found that low standard of living and crime rates are the direct results of poverty and youth unemployment. The study recommends the diversification of the economy to enhance the generation of full and part time job opportunities, including the revitalization of collapsed local industries to absorb the growing number of poverty and unemployed youth.

Data generated from the data collection through questionnaire was analyzed and interpreted quantitatively to bring out required results. The research question of poverty and youth unemployment in the local government area were answered by the findings through analysis of the data collected which relieved the following factors to be responsible for the poverty and youth unemployment in the local government area, low level of education, inadequate manufacturing industries, inadequate job creation by the government, etc. conclusively, at the end of the study, it was noted that poverty and youth unemployment would be a good stepping stone when government, individuals and the society at large enhance the generation of full and part time job opportunities, including the revitalization of collapsed local industries to absorb the growing number of poverty and unemployed youth.

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background to the study

The youths are regarded as future leaders and are usually acknowledged as the bedrock on which the society is anchored. They are possibly and essentially the utmost asset for a country's development (UN: 2007). Therefore, any society or country that plays with the welfare and development of its youths could be said to be playing with its future and survival (Alanana 2003). However, in Nigeria, the youths have not only been abandoned and left to their fate but have been inflicted by so many ills, among which are spiral unemployment and abject poverty (Kahraman, 2011). In fact, it is an understatement to state that the Nigerian youths today have no future, as there is no serious social programs or economic policy to cater for the interests and needs of the youths, despite the existence of some agencies in Nigeria, such as the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), National Economic and Empowerment Development Scheme (NEEDS), National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) etc., in order to alleviate the suffering of the youths. Still, in Nigeria, youths are confronted with problems of poverty, illiteracy, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, crime, prostitution and fraudulent activities which are all associated with unemployment (Freedom, 2008). This is not only true for individuals; families face an inter-generational poverty trap. Families face the choice between sending their children and young family members to school and sending them to earn much-needed income. The social aspects of the problem lie in the association of unemployed youth with the sense of social exclusion.

Structural unemployment and widespread poverty are believed to be the basis for the activities of miscreants such as militant youth in the Niger Delta and the present deadly

Boko-Haram in Northern Nigeria upsetting the seemingly peaceful and stable political situation. The activity of Boko-Haram has resulted in many deaths and destruction of property worth millions of dollars.

Unemployment and poverty are so intertwined that one can easily confuse one for the other. Although, it is possible for one to be employed and still poor, this is likely to be a case of underemployment. Thus, by unemployment, it includes those underemployed. Unemployment and underemployment reflect the failure to make use of an important factor of production, labor, for fostering economic growth in Nigeria. Low returns to labour as well as high unemployment indicates poverty. Poverty makes it difficult to make investments in education and health that would increase a person's productivity, Unemployment breeds social alienation and frustration among youths which can become a catalyst for criminality and violence. The current situation of Nigerian youths is as a result of the failure of the past and present government policies which aimed at tackling the problem of the youths (Ahonsi-Yakubu: 2001).

The current youth unemployment condition in Nigeria originated in the country's economic development policies and performance ever since Nigeria independence in the year 1960. It continued with subsequent policies. Between 1960 and 2000, the pattern of unemployment and the status of unemployment shifted very significantly. The unemployed of the 1960's and 1980's were mainly secondary school leavers, who constituted the majority of the nation's educated people. University graduates were certain of getting jobs on the completion of their programs. But from 1990's up to 2000's the unemployment problems expanded to include those with tertiary education and emerged as the most important problem in this respect. With the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Programs (SAP) in 1986, the problem eventually degenerated into a free for all situation as it began to affect even those who had the jobs, and the

rural and urban informal sectors, thus triggering retrenchments in both the public and private sectors (Ikebude, 2008). In 1995, the Nigerian government had invited the International Labour Organization (ILO) to assist in the formulation of comprehensive national employment policy that would aim at accelerating employment generation, reduce the high rate of unemployment and ultimately attain full productive and freely chosen employment (Effoduh, 2014). In 1998, a national workshop was organized on national employment policy in Abuja which comprised politicians, economists, social partners and stakeholders to discuss the adequacy and effectiveness of the national employment policy framework aimed at reducing unemployment and poverty rate in Nigeria (The Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2005).

Despite all these efforts, unemployment and underemployment are still the major challenges to national development with consequences manifesting in the economic welfare, social stability and human dignity of the people. The solutions, therefore, does not lie in creating these policies, but in the faithful implementation. Similarly, as indicated earlier, the efforts of the international organizations will not succeed unless the local communities and the public authorities become committed (Adebayo, 1999).

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Driven by the topic, it is said that the deficiencies of poverty and unemployment in developing countries' such as Nigeria are due to bad governance, corruption, and religious crises which has led to the inability of government to create suitable jobs and to reduce the rate of poverty and unemployment among the youth in the society, Available figures from the bulletin of the federal bureau of statistics (2008) show that Ekiti state as a whole has a population of 2,398,957 with majority of her population unemployed or underemployed. The major occupation

of Ekiti state includes farming, petty trade, and transportation services while others are civil servants. The high level of unemployment in Ekiti state as resulted into some of her youths indulging in negative activities such as internet fraud (419), theft, kidnapping, etc. This shows that unemployed youths are alienated and government as a body has not been able to come up with an effective policy aimed at tackling youth unemployment and poverty reduction. Nwagbara (2012) in his assessment of poverty, environmental degradation and sustainable development argues that the poor have traditionally taken the blame for causing society's many problems due to their inability to contribute to the national growth of the country.

### 1.3 Research questions

In order to achieve the objective of this study, the following research questions must be answered.

- i. How is poverty explained by the people?
- ii. What are the causes of poverty and youth's unemployment among the people of Oye, Ekiti State?
- iii. What are the effects of poverty and youth unemployment on the people of Oye-Ekiti State?
- iv. Is there any relationship between poverty and youth unemployment?
- v. What are the causes and effects of youth unemployment on the people of Oye, Ekiti State?
- vi. What are the challenges of youth unemployment and poverty in Oye Ekiti State?

#### **1.4 Objective of the study**

The main objective of this study is to understand the implication of poverty and unemployment among youth in Nigeria using Oye Local Government as a case study. The specific objectives are to;

- i. Examine the meaning of poverty from the general populace;
- ii. Identify the causes of poverty and youth's unemployment among the people of Oye, Ekiti State;
- iii. Explore the effect of poverty and youth unemployment in Nigeria economy
- iv. Establish if there is relationship between poverty and youths unemployment in Oye, Ekiti State;
- v. investigate the causes and effects of youth unemployment in Oye, Ekiti State and;
- vi. Explore the challenges posed by youth unemployment and poverty in Oye, Ekiti State in general.

#### **1.5 Significance of the study**

In Nigeria poverty and youth unemployment is really assuming a crises level. Therefore the study will be relevant in that it will provide an insight into the relevant literature, it will help to lay and bare the causes and effects of poverty and youth unemployment in Nigeria.

It will help the general populace to appreciate the fact that poverty and youth unemployment is twin scourge that need to be faced in order to achieve economic growth and development, it is expected that through the findings and subsequent recommendations of this study, poverty and youth unemployment will be reduced or eradicated, and finally it is the opinion of the researcher because it will serve as a spring board for further research.

## **1.6 Research hypotheses**

For the purpose of analyzing the data that will be generated in the course of the study, the following hypotheses' will be tested:

**HO:** There is a positive significant relationship between poverty and unemployment on Nigerian economy.

**HO:** There is a positive significant relationship between poverty and youth unemployment.

## **1.7 Scope and limitation of the study**

This study seeks to examine the impact of poverty and unemployment in the economic growth and development of the people of Oye local government area of Ekiti State. The performance of Nigeria's economy since 1981 to 2015 shall be evaluated in details so as to measure the gap it has on the local government area of Nigeria. However, effects of poverty and unemployment reduction policy shall be examined. The study may be limited by time factors, lack of sufficient data particularly on poverty which greatly affected the study in terms of carrying out a direct and detailed data analysis on the variables. A study of this nature cannot be completed without the researcher experiencing some constrains. The first major limitation of the study to be experienced by researcher was lack of time. This is due to the fact that both academic course work and the study were taking place simultaneously; the findings of the study are identified by the instrument of the study and its validity and reliability.

## 1.8 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This study is divided into five chapters, chapter one focuses on the background to the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, the research question and hypothesis, significance of the study, scope of the study, organization of the study and definition of terms while chapter two reviews relevant literature. Chapter three examines the methods utilized to gather the data requirements of the study and chapter four present the data and analysis. Finally, chapter five present the summary, conclusion and recommendation to the study.

## 1.9 DEFINITION OF TERMS

**UNEMPLOYMENT:** The International Labor Organization defined unemployment as the share of the labor force without work but available for and seeking employment (World Bank, 2015).

### KINDS OF UNEMPLOYMENT

✓ **Fricative unemployment**

It is when one part of economy goes towards progress and the other goes towards getting down which leads to demanding special jobs and works.

✓ **Hierarchical Unemployment**

It is the change in the ways of production by having new technology to replace the man power.

✓ **Seasonal unemployment**

This is resulted from the setback of economic and weather conditions in some seasons which lead to an inactive work.

✓ **Cynical unemployment**



It includes all sectors of economic activity which resulted from some conditions as wars, general inactive economy.

✓ **Disguised unemployment**

It is the increasing of workers in the institution in which each one has a sub work does not offer him his basic needs. The man is the first in economy, so each economic progress depends on man's academic qualification to contribute effectively in development of the community. The unemployment underestimates the value of the individual as an economic resource. The unemployed are converted in to lost energies which affect the economy badly;

✓ **YOUTH:** The African Youth Charter defined youth to mean “every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years” while the United Nations (2015) defines ‘youth’, as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. However, The Nigerian National Youth Policy (2001) defines the youth as all young persons of ages 18-35 years.

✓ **YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT:** Youth unemployment can be described a situation whereby people between the ages of 18-35 years who are willing and ready to work cannot find work. The International Labor Organization (ILO, 2007) describes underemployment as a situation whereby people are employed only on part time or at work that is ineffective or unproductive, with a correspondingly low income that is insufficient to meet their needs.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1.Introduction

This chapter reviews the literature on the issues of poverty and youth unemployment as a societal problem in Oye-Ekiti local government area of Ekiti State while also considering Nigeria at large. Theoretical frameworks were highlighted and explained to discuss the role of each theory on the variables of study. Therefore, each theory provides explanation about some characteristics of human behavior and therefore allows for predictability. This is followed by discussions on the definitions and explanations of the various concepts and the empirical literature from past studies and researchers.

#### 2.2.Theoretical Framework

A sociological model was used to lay emphasis on the issue of unemployment, poverty and development in Oye local government area of Ekiti State, Nigeria. One of such sociological model that carefully explains the context of unemployment is the theory of Surplus Value by Marx and Engels (1848) and McLellan (2009). Marx believed that capitalist societies like Nigeria always had and would have high levels of unemployment. He believed such economies went through cycles-periods of expansion in which there was full employment which were followed by periods of crises during which unemployment rose. Recoveries from crises were only temporary. Marx asserted that capitalist economies worked in a way of favoring the few elites at the expense of the large proletarians, working non-property class. In Marx's assertion:

*"It is in the very nature of the capitalist mode of production to overwork some workers while keeping the rest as a reserve army of unemployed paupers". Marx (1848)*

According to Marx, unemployment is inherent within the unstable capitalist system and periodic crises of mass unemployment are to be expected. The function of the proletariat within the capitalist system is to provide a "reserve army of labor" that creates downward pressure on wages. This is accomplished by dividing the proletariat into surplus labor (employees) and under-employment and unemployed as well (McLellan 2009). These reserve army of labor fight among themselves for scarce jobs at lower and lower wages. At first glance, unemployment seems inefficient since unemployed workers do not increase profits. However, unemployment is profitable within the global capitalist system because unemployment lowers wages which are costs from the perspective of the owners. From this perspective low wages benefit the system by reducing economic rents but, it does not benefit workers. Capitalist systems unfairly manipulate the market for labor by perpetuating unemployment which lowers laborers' demands for fair wages. Workers are pitted against one another at the service of increasing profits for owners. In Nigeria context, the Nigerian super-rich politicians together with super-rich capitalists formed a cabal and logically established economic imperialism. Economic and social policies formulated by the government are not in any way of benefit to the common Nigerians.

The concept of "monkey dey work, baboon dey chop" (shrewd-capitalism) is well pre-eminent in the country (as cited in Alabi, 2014). Workers are living at the mercy of the rich. This has directly and indirectly continued to widen the gap between the rich and the poor. Young people with skills, certificates and energies have nothing to offer as a result of mass unemployment, but dance to the tune of the politicians who in turn used them to manipulate, rig and destabilized elections. In most cases, after they have been used by their politician, they are dumped or left to face their fate whenever the law catches up with. The few available jobs for the battalion of youth job-seekers are politicized. Unless the job seeker is connected to a political

god father he may not get the job. According to Marx, the only way to permanently eliminate unemployment would be to abolish capitalism and the system of forced competition for wages and then shift to a socialist or communist economic system. For contemporary Marxists, the existence of persistent unemployment is proof of the inability of capitalism to ensure full employment. In a similar vein, for a better theorizing on poverty as a social discourse, Townsend (1970) dug into history of early men and proposed three alternatives. These are: Subsistence, basic needs and relative deprivation standards. Therefore, in order to have a better conceptual explication, the paper x-rays these three interlocutory thoughts on poverty. Absolute poverty means the inability of a person or group to provide the material needs for physical subsistence and protection of human dignity. These materials are food, clothing, shelter, water, health services, basic education, transportation, and work because the persons or groups do not have jobs or income (UNDP1996). Similarly, the idea of subsistence as subscribed by Townsend to mean “families were in poverty when their income were sufficient to obtain minimum necessities for the maintenance of merely physical efficiency” and “family was treated as being in poverty if its income minus rent fell short of the poverty line” (Rowntree, 1901:86).

The yardsticks for poverty line were equally stipulated as at that time in question, Townsend stressed. Rhetorically, in Nigerian context of the N18, 000 minimum wages: does it really meet up to the “subsisting” or “absolute” definition of poverty? If one should pay all necessary rents (such as accommodation, transportation) just to mentioned a few, what would remain for food, shelter and clothing? Absolute Poverty: is defined in terms of the minimal requirements necessary to afford minimal standards of food, clothing, healthcare and shelter. This proposition on “subsistence” or “absolute” definition of poverty is not left out without criticisms. The paper observed the main criticism from scholars, is that the physical needs such

as food, shelter and clothing should rather be social needs. Because human beings are “social beings” rather than physical beings. Townsend (1981), quickly wrote a rejoinder to this criticism, is that different approach in principle has to be adopted, non linear measures or approaches to it. Relative poverty on the other hand is the inability of certain sections of the society to satisfy their basic needs as well as other needs. Equally, it has a long historical antecedent.

Drewnowski and Scott (1966) expressed that Basic needs include two elements. First, they include certain minimum requirement of a family for private consumption: adequate food, shelter and clothing, as well as certain household furniture and equipment. Second, they include essential services provided by and for the community at large, such as safe drinking water, sanitation, public transport and health, education and cultural facilities. Townsend (1970) added that the concept of basic needs should be placed within the “context of a national independence, the dignity of individuals and peoples and their freedom to chart their destiny without hindrance” (ILO, 1976:20 –25).

This above assertion reminds one, of the music of legendary Late Fela Anikulapo Kuti’s song titled: “suffering and smiling”, where he expressed that “99 standing, 56 sitting” in a lousy commuter bus, popularly known as “Molue” used mostly in Lagos State in the Late ‘80s and early 2000. The contention of this submission is that, it is supposedly the responsibility of government to provide essential social amenities that are befitting to the citizenry. This consideration should be based on the economy strength of the nation. And of course, with abundant wealth been generated from numerous natural resources, Nigerians have no cause been poor. The problem that is very much likely to arise with this proposition which apparently happens to be its major criticism, is the disproportionate poverty and deprivation as been

experiencing by over 320 ethnic groups in Nigeria, considering the geographical terrain of various ethnic groups among their others social needs.

Furthermore, Material poverty is seen as the absence of ownership control of physical assets as lands, and all other resources that land produce or that subsists on land as birds and animals and mineral resources (UNDP, 1996). Townsend (1970) contributions to this, is what he tagged “Relative Deprivation”. To him, the implied poverty line or threshold is relative to the contemporaneous conditions or resources in particular national societies; suffices to say, people do experience poverty based on geographical location they might find themselves and this is very “relative”. The social needs and availability of resources to meet those needs are peculiar. Hence, the paper adds “irrespective of geographical division in the federation, and in as much as the citizens are within the ambit or geographical entity of a given country. Consideration and assessment of poverty should be peculiarly assessed”. “Relativity” applies to both resources and to material and social conditions, Townsend (1993) further stated. Relative deprivation or Relative poverty measurement is further defined by reference to the living standards of majority in a given society that separates the poor from the non-poor.

### **2.3. Empirical Literature**

Apata, et al., (2010) examine the determinants of rural poverty in South-Western Nigeria. The study uses a decent model on a sample of 500 smallholder farmers to establish factors that influences probability of households escaping chronic poverty. The study found that access to micro-credit, education, participation in agricultural workshops/seminars, livestock asset, and access to extension services significantly influence the probability of households existing chronic poverty. On the other hand, female headed households’ and distance to the market increases the

probability of persistence in chronic poverty while gender disparities in property rights in favor of women empowerment through legal rights to property act as key chronic poverty ameliorating factors among the farming communities.

A couple of recent studies have attempted to examine the contributions of Informal Sector to employment generation. Ajibefun and Daramola (2003) using a sample of 180 people examine the efficiency of micro enterprises in the Nigerian economy. The study reported evidence of a wide variation in technical and allocation efficacies, both within and across industries. They also found that education of owner of a business enterprise was a significant factor influencing efficiency, an indication of the need for more proactive actions to raise the level of efficiency and thus employment and reduce unemployment among the firms in the sample. Sanda (2006) uses a sample of 360 firms in Kano and its environs to examine whether or not, in comparison to large firms, small firms are relatively better at creation of employment opportunities. Their results were positive in that small firms were found to be relatively better, and the conclusion they derived was that a policy that gives special preference to small firms is justified. Muhammad, et al., (2011) examines the role played by unemployment on the making of the Nigerian Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for a period of nine years (2000 -2008). Using the regression analysis, findings showed that unemployment has an enormous effect (over 65 percent) on the making of the Nigerian GDP and there exist an inverse relationship between the model (unemployment) and the GDP -increase in the model leads to decrease on the GDP and vice versa.

Ibrahim and Umar, (2008) assess the determinants of poverty as well the poverty coping strategies among farming households in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The study employed simple random sampling to select 150 farming households and used Costs of Calorie method and

Discriminative Analysis to determine the incidence of poverty as well as its determinants respectively. The incidence of poverty among the sampled households was found to be high and the major determinants of poverty include household size, number of income sources of the household head, number of household members employed outside agriculture and the number of literate adult males and females in the household. The major poverty coping strategies include skipping of meals, reduction in the quantity of meals served and engaging in wage labor. The study recommends that the farming households should be effectively involved in the formulation of strategies for imparting knowledge on family planning to the farming households. Bakare (2010) examines the determinants of the urban unemployment in Nigeria. The variables for include level of unemployment and demand for labor, supply of labor, population, inflation, capacity utilization, gross capital formation and nominal wage rate. Using time series secondary data and parsimonious error correction mechanism, the study found that the rising nominal wages and the accelerated growth of population which affected the supply side through a high and rapid increase in labor force relative to the absorptive capacity of the economy appear to be the main determinant of high unemployment in Nigeria.

Bello and Abdul, (2010) examine poverty situation in Nigeria by employing the data of economic growth and millennium development goals (MDGs) expenditure. The methodology employed was panel data analysis consisting of pooled model, fixed-effects, random-effects and weighted least square. The results revealed that, a unit increase in per capita GDP led to 0.6 percent increase in poverty. Similarly, a unit increase in MDG expenditure resulted in 11.56 units increase in relative poverty in the pooled model. The study concluded that economic growth and MDG spending has not substantially reduced poverty over the sample period.



## 2.4. Concepts of Poverty

The concept of poverty is not easy to define. As a result, a range of definitions exist, influenced by different disciplinary approaches and ideologies. The dominant Western definition since World War II has defined poverty in monetary terms, using levels of income or consumption to measure poverty and defining the poor by a headcount of those who fall below a given income/consumption level or poverty line' (Grusky and Kanbur, 2006). However, this economic definition has been complemented in recent years by other approaches that define poverty in a more multidimensional way (Subramanian, 1997). These approaches include the basic needs approach (Streeten et al, 1981), the capabilities approach (Sen, 1999) and the human development approach (UNDP, 1990). Their acceptance is reflected in the widespread use of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI), which is a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: (i) life expectancy, (ii) educational attainment and (iii) standard of living, measured by income in terms of its purchasing power parity (UNDP, 2006).

It is also reflected in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) conceptualization of multidimensional poverty, defined as interlinked forms of deprivation in the economic, human, political, sociocultural and protective spheres (OECD, 2006). For our purposes here, poverty is also defined by a sense of helplessness, dependence and lack of opportunities, self-confidence and self-respect on the part of the poor. Indeed, the poor themselves see powerlessness and voicelessness as key aspects of their poverty (Narayan et al., 2000). Further, the acknowledgement of the multidimensionality of poverty is reflected in the range of both quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches adopted to conceptualize and measure poverty (Handley, et al., 2009).

The poverty situation in Nigeria is quite disturbing. Both the quantitative and qualitative measurements attest to the growing incidence and depth of poverty in the country (Okunmadewa, et al., 2005). This situation however, presents a paradox considering the vast human and physical resources that the country is endowed with. It is even more disturbing that despite the huge human and material resources that have been devoted to poverty reduction by successive governments, no noticeable success has been achieved in this direction. Although, predicted poverty reduction scenarios vary greatly depending upon the rate and nature of poverty related policies, actual evidence suggests that the depth and severity of poverty is still at its worst in Nigeria and South Asia (Okunmadewa et al., 2005). Within these regions, poverty is largely a rural phenomenon with an average of between 62 and 75 percent of the population living on less than a dollar a day and also tends to be deeper than urban poverty in these regions (Apata et al., 2010). Besides, it has become increasingly evident that within the African region the poor are heterogeneous and that some element of dynamics does exist with a clear distinction between chronic and transitory poverty (Barret et al., 2000).

Chronic poverty is considered the component of total poverty that is static and transitory poverty component that is attributable to the inter-temporal variability (Jalan and Ravallion, 1996). The isolation of the process underlying chronic and transitory poverty is considered essential in understanding the extent to which each poverty type may obscure the other or even distort the effects of government anti-poverty programmes. A national poverty survey carried out indicates that the high tropic areas have moderate poverty while the northern regions have poverty levels that are as high as 60 percent (NBS, 2009). The average national poverty incidence indicates that this situation has not improved during the last 20 years in a majority of SSA countries.

According to Garcia, Kohl, Ruengsorn and Zislin (2006), Nigeria's main challenges include, reducing poverty, diversifying its economy from the oil and gas sector towards more labor intensive sectors, and improving health and education. The oil has increased economic volatility and inflation while those living in poverty being most vulnerable to volatility and inflation. To add to it, instability of government revenues and a crowding out of agriculture (which provides the source of income to the poor) have made the situation worsen. The oil industry does not employ a sizeable number of unskilled workers, thereby contributes little to reducing poverty.

Ford (2007) discusses the oil crisis in the oil producing region of Nigeria. He states that poverty has been linked to high crime rates, especially in the Niger Delta region where there is a sharp contrast between the rich and the poor. The masses cause social unrest because the wealth gotten from their territory does not get to them. In the Nigerian society, the best way to acquire wealth is to enter the political sphere. Most of the time political success is tied to criminal activities. He ends the article by stating that the link between economic and political power must be broken for progress to be made.

## **2.5. Concepts of Unemployment**

One of the greatest challenges facing the Nigeria economy is unemployment which has maintained a rising trend over the years. The total labor force in Nigeria is made up of all persons aged 15-64 years excluding students, home keepers, retired persons, and stay at home to work or not interested. Unemployed refers to people who are willing and a capable of work but are unable to find suitable paid employment. The classical school of thought that provided the earliest thinking on economic issues did not fail to give a central point of reflection on the undesirability of unemployment. The Keynesian revolution of the 1930's, which commanded the

explosive attack on economic orthodoxy apparently, treated unemployment as a central issue of great concern. Following the path of the predecessors, economists at all times and in all ages have expressed various degrees of concern over the threat of the monster called unemployment. The population of every economy is divided into two categories, the economically active and the economically inactive. The economically active population (labor force) or working population refers to the population that is willing and able to work, including those actively engaged in the production of goods and services (employed) and those who are unemployed (Njoku and Okezie, 2011).

The next category, the economically inactive population refers to people who are neither working nor looking for jobs. There seems to be a consensus on the definition of unemployment. The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines the unemployed as numbers of the economically active population who are without work but available for and seeking work, including people who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work (World Bank, 1998:63). Examples include housewives, full time students, invalids, those below the legal age for work, old and retired persons. However, the application of this definition across countries has been faulted, especially for the purpose of comparison and policy formulation, as countries characteristics are not the same in their commitment to resolving unemployment problems (Akintoye, 2008). More so, the preponderance of housewives who possess the ability and willingness to work, the definition of the age bracket all stand as limitations to the definition by ILO (Douglason and Gbosi, 2006).

The unemployment rate is expressed as a percentage of the total number of persons available for employment at any time. This paper will focus on the relationship between unemployment and poverty as they relate to growth of Nigerian Economy. Unemployment has

been categorized as one of the serious impediments to social progress. Apart from representing a colossal waste of a country's manpower resources, it generates welfare loss in terms of lower output thereby leading to lower income and well-being (Raheem, 1993). Unemployment is a very serious issue in Africa (Rama, 1998) and particularly in Nigeria (Umo, 1996). The need to avert the negative effects of unemployment on poverty has made the tackling of unemployment problems to feature very prominently in the development objectives of many developing countries.

## **2.6. Youth in Nigeria**

Youth-hood can be defined as that phase or period of life in which one passes from childhood to maturity. Maturity on the other hand refers to a situation whereby one becomes fully developed. In Nigeria, the youth usually fall into the 18–35 years age bracket, that is, both genders (male and female). Abdullahi (2008) affirmed National Youth Policy conceptualization of youth as defined in Nigeria context. Generally, youths are the one of the greatest assets that any nation can have and therefore, need to be developed and empowered. They serve as a good measure of the extent to which a country can reproduce as well as sustain itself. The youth have been described as the greatest in any nation, are the greatest investment for a country's development (National Youth Policy of Nigeria, 2001).

Over the years, various regimes came up with programmes for youth empowerment and skill acquisition for self-reliance and sustainable livelihood (Project YES 2003). At this point, it is observe that despite all governmental efforts at youth empowerment, through some of her institutions like the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and Ministry of Women and Youth Development, the Nigerian Youth still command high position in the statistics of unemployment and poverty.

## **2.7.The Nature of Poverty in Nigeria**

It has been argued by some scholars that poverty in Nigeria is a result of high inequality which manifests in unequal income distribution, differing access to basic infrastructure, education, decent housing, training and job opportunities, corruption and bad governance (NISER, 2013). Since 2004, Nigeria has consistently recorded a GDP growth of over 6 percent, but this growth has not translated into better well being nor decreased the level of poverty or inequality in the country. The Nigeria Bureau of Statistics reported that poverty incidence in Nigeria appears to be increasing, suggesting that inequality may be worsening (National Bureau of Statistics, 2012). Reports from the national policy dialogue showed that the incidence of poverty doubled between 1980 and 2004 but this has been more of rural poverty than urban poverty. The report further shows that the poverty incidence increased from 46 percent in 2004 to 48 percent in 2009. Relative poverty increased from 54.4 percent in 2004 to 69 percent in 2010. Poverty may have further risen slightly to about 71.5 percent in 2011 (NISER, 2013). This alarming rate of poverty has further widened the social inequality gap as many more people, especially the vulnerable such as the aged, women and children, are finding it difficult to access their basic needs including healthcare.

## **2.8.Causes of Poverty in Nigeria**

An International Monetary Fund assessment of African economies reported that the macroeconomic growth recorded by many African countries had not translated into better living conditions for the vast majority of Africans as poverty is still rife. The consensus by many scholars is that Africa has returned to growth averaging 5-6 percent per year since the 1990s (Mosley, 2013; Martin, 2013 and the World Bank, 2013). However, according to the World

Bank, extreme poverty (at below 1 dollars per day) has only declined by 3 percent from 51 percent to 48 percent since 1981. For Nigeria, despite impressive growth of 6 percent since 2000, its poverty rate has increased from 43 percent in 1992 to 69 percent in 2012 (Mosley, 2013; Central Bank of Nigeria, 2012). The biggest problem for Nigeria is its crude oil which caused the political class to embark on profligacy through contract system which, rather than create jobs increased corruption as many of the contracts were inflated. In addition, over 90 percent of the projects were concentrated in the cities to the utter neglect of the rural areas where the majority of the people reside.

The contract system has created a class of super-rich Nigerians especially from the political class and technocrats who benefit from the “generosity” of contractors. The result is that cities such as Abuja, Lagos, Port-Harcourt and Kaduna are awash with oil money and infrastructure whereas the rural areas are bereft of the basic amenities to help alleviate poverty. Agriculture which provides basic subsistence to over 70 percent of the population attracts just 1.7 percent of the Federal budget while states spend a total of 2.8 percent which invariably does not get to small farmers. Corruption is a major factor as evidenced by the fuel subsidy scandal where it was alleged that some marketers were paid without supplying oil to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation. Even those indicted for defrauding the country are yet to be sanctioned. The decline of the expenditure on education from 1.4 to 0.9 percent over the period 1990 to 2010 has brought about massive decay in education and a huge gap between the north and the south especially the north-east which is the hub of terrorism since 2009. The decline in education was a major cause of the crisis between government and university teachers resulting in almost six months of closure by public universities.

## 2.9. Youth Unemployment in Nigeria

Nigeria's population is said to have reached about 167 million people in 2012 (National Bureau of Statistics). The National Population Commission (NPC, 2013) states about half of the population is made of youth, defined as individuals between 18 and 35 years of age. Akande (2014) further stressed that, unfortunately, as the youth population grows so does the unemployment rise. In fact, unemployed youth numbered about 11.1 million in 2012. There are number of trends in youth unemployment in Nigeria. The tables below indicate the trends over the years.

**Table 1: National Youth Unemployment Figures by Gender.**

Year	Percentage of Unemployed that are Female and Male	
	Female	Male
2008	58.50	41.50
2009	57.82	42.18
2010	54.52	45.58
2011	50.85	49.15
2012	55.42	44.58

**Source:** NISER, 2013

Available statistics, from the table 1 as indicated above show that a majority of unemployed youth are female. Women accounted for more than 50 percent of unemployed youth between 2008 and 2012. Many reasons have been adduced for female gender unemployment. Empirical evidences have revealed that the female gender generally experience poverty more than male gender as a result of unemployment.



Payne (1991:87) and Abdullahi (2004) observe that (female) specific risk of poverty emanates from the structuring of (female) economic dependency, within families and marriage and in the sexual division of labor that come together to create a gendered vulnerability to poverty and deprivation.

**Table 2: Graduate Unemployment Rate 2003 –2011 by Residence (Rural/Urban)**

Year	Rural	Urban	Total
2003	8.3	17.3	25.6
2004	12.8	25.2	38
2005	13.3	19.0	32.3
2006	13.4	18.8	32.2
2007	13.4	18.7	32.1
2008	21.7	15.8	27.5
2009	19.8	19.2	39
2010	20.7	22.8	43.5
2011	25.6	17.1	42.7

**Source:** The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2012)

Table 2 indicates that the problem of youth (graduate) unemployment is critical in both urban and rural Nigeria. The major significance inferences from the table shown above is that, for a period of nine years compared in totality, graduate youth unemployment was high six years in urban as compared to the rural areas. This could be attributed to migration indices –pull and push factors. In addition, considering 42.7 percent as the total population of unemployed youth (Graduate) as at 2011 compare with the current population of about 50 percent (unemployed youth) of the total population of Nigeria (167 million) gives credence to the statistics revealed as

at 2011 as credible simply because, the total population of Nigeria as at 2015 have increased compared to that of 2011. Therefore, there could be possibilities.

## **2.10. Reasons for the Failure of Government Programmes as regard Poverty and Unemployment in Nigeria.**

By and large, youth's unemployment in Nigeria is a consequence of several factors. One major factor is that of population growth. There is a high population growth rate – 2.8 per annum, according to the World Bank (2014) which accompanies an already national population of over 167 million people, Akande (2014) asserted. Nigeria has continued to experience high rate of population growth. This increasing population growth has produced an overwhelming increase in the youth population thereby resulting in an increase in the size of the working age population. Related to the rapid population growth is the massive rural-urban migration by the youth. According to the United Nations (UN) Report (1999), the high degree of geographical mobility of youth in Africa is in form of rural to urban which has been influencing youth unemployment.

In Nigeria, youth migrate to the cities more than other migrants and in the cities, job opportunities are very limited. Thus, the rate of urbanization of the youth has continued to create unemployment. In addition, lack of employable skills due to inappropriate school curricula is another factor contributing to the rising youth unemployment. Analysts have argued that in Nigeria generally, the skills that job seekers possess do not match the needs and demands of employers (Mcgrath, 1999; Kent and Mushi, 1995). The trio affirmed that the education system in Nigeria has its liberal bias which indeed over supplies the labor market with graduates who do not possess the skills required by employers. Many graduates in Nigeria lack entrepreneurial skills to facilitate self-employment (Oladele, Akeke and Oladunjoye, 2011).

Similarly, the perception of policy makers and the youth themselves about employment is another factor. To the policy makers and the youth, employment means a job with salary and working for someone else. It is this perception that has continued to influence the institutions in Nigeria that provide skills and training. Based on this, curricula and training programmes are generally tailored towards preparing young people for formal sector jobs. Since these jobs do not exist, there is often a mismatch between the skills possessed by the job seekers and the available jobs. In this regard, evidence shows that Nigeria is committed to education reforms.

The promulgation of Decree 9 of 1993 created rooms for the establishment of private institutions in the country. Following the deregulation of education in Nigeria, government has encouraged the opening of private schools and universities. As at May, 2012, the total of approved universities in Nigeria was 137, comprising of 37 federal government-owned, 50 states' government-owned and 50 privately-owned universities. The aggressive creation of more private and publicly-funded universities and colleges of technology has inadvertently created an adverse disparity in job creation efforts. This is because Nigeria has not pursued a commensurate job absorption strategy for the many graduates from these educational institutions. Whereas universities have grown geometrically, jobs and employers have grown at arithmetic progression. This gap in Nigeria strategic approach to job creation has led to the supply of skilled graduates being higher than the demand in the economy thus driving down wages and further increasing unemployment.

Related to this, among other factors responsible for youth unemployment are poor governance, ineffective targeting of the poor resulting in resources being thinly spread among competing projects, overlapping of functions, poor coordination and lack of sustainable measures (Musari, 2009). In response to the alarming unemployment situation, Nigerian governments at

various times have made several attempts to solve the nagging unemployment problem by setting up various solution agencies. Notable among these agencies are the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP). However, it is on record that these attempts have not made much significant impact on youth unemployment (Omorodion, 2010)

## CHAPTER THREE

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.0 Introduction

The aim of this study is to investigate the rate of poverty and youth unemployment in Oye Local Government Area of Ekiti State. In order to collect the necessary data needed for the study, it is important to explain the research methods to be used. Therefore, this study will make use of qualitative and quantitative research to collect the data from the field. Research plays a vital role in society because it facilitates new discoveries and enables ideas to be confirmed or refuted. Given this background, Thomas (2003) describes qualitative research as being multi-method in focus, involving an interpretive, naturalistic approach to its subject matter. Furthermore, the study will use questionnaire survey and structured interviews to collect the data requirements of the study.

#### 3.1 Study Area

This study was limited to the study of the poverty and youth unemployment in Oye local government area, Ekiti state. Oye local government area was carved out from the defunct Ekiti North Local Government on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 1989. Oye Local Government is bounded by Ilejemeje Local Government to the North, Irepodun/Ifelodun to the South, Ikole Local Government to the East and Ido/Osi Local Government to the West. It comprised of the following towns and villages: Oye-Ekiti, Ilupeju Ekiti, Ayegbaju Ekiti, Ire Ekiti, Itapa Ekiti, Osin Ekiti, Ayede Ekiti, Itaji Ekiti, Imojo Ekiti, Ilafon Ekiti, Isan Ekiti, Ilemoso Ekiti, Opamu Ekiti, Ijelu Ekiti, Oloje Ekiti, and host of others. There are no distinctive ethnic groups in local government as a greater percentage of the people residents are of the Yoruba Language race. Nearly, all the people speak

Yoruba Language with negligible dialectical variations (Ekiti state pocket fact finder by Wole Adedoyin, 2012)

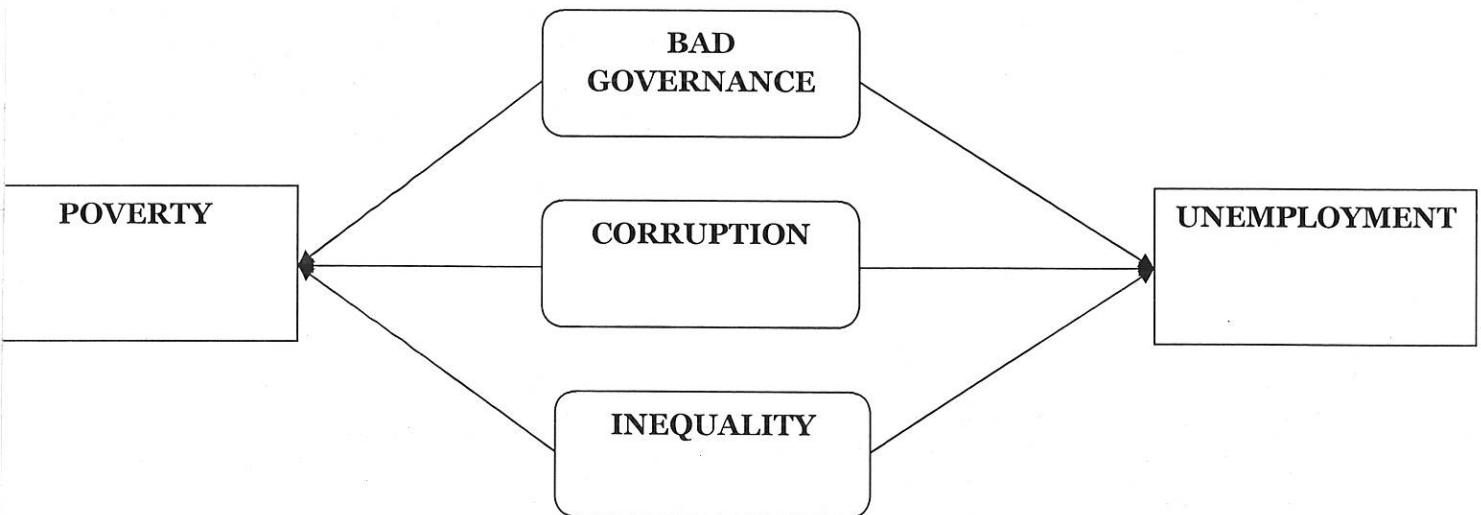
### **3.2 Source of Data**

Data for the study was acquired from women actively involved in participation of politics or political behaviour. The study area selected for the study is Ekiti State. The population in 2006 was 308,621. This area covers a land area of 293 square kilometres. The people of Ekiti state are mainly of a sub-ethnic group of the Yoruba. Cotton is grown for weaving. Ekiti state is situated in a land that has been continuously inhabited /occupied by human communities from time immemorial. Available research such as “Today and Tomorrow” by (Prof. Isola Olomola, 1984) shows that human societies of unknown antiquity occupied this neighbourhood about eleven thousand (11,000) years ago. Ancient inhabitants that were probably the same or progenitors/ancestors of Igbon near Ogotun, Erijiyan, Ijero, Ulesun and Asin (near Ikole) who were probably autochthones because available traditions shows that they had lived in and near their abodes from time immemorial.

The research adopted a survey design to obtain the views of people concerning the rate and prevalence of poverty and youth unemployment in Oye Local Government Area. Survey design was adopted as the research work requires the systematic collection of data from the sample population through the use of personal interview and scaled questionnaire. There was however no evidence of manipulation among the research participants of the study. The research design was essential as the researcher seeks to have a smattering idea of the phenomenon of interest and to get an inexpensive approximation of the true tendency of the research phenomenon. Also, this was achieved as the group of respondents had been identified earlier prior to the research study and what the researcher did was to select all members of the group by

giving them questionnaires to complete in order to acquire their opinions and what they feel about the nature of the research work.

### 3.3 Model Specification



**Source:** ‘Model Specification based on the suggestions in the literature: (Poverty and Youth Unemployment in Nigeria by J. Aiyedogbon & Bright Ohwofasa, 2018)’

The model summary above states that poverty and unemployment are caused by bad governance, corruption and inequality.

### 3.4 Identification of Variables

The variables of study consist of the following:

- ✓ Poverty: A sense of helplessness, dependence and lack of opportunities, self-confidence and self-respect on the part of the poor.
- ✓ Unemployment: The act at which those individuals who are willing and a capable of work but are unable to find suitable paid employment.
- ✓ Corruption: The act of impairing integrity, virtue or moral principle; the state of being debased; loss of purity or integrity; depravity; bribery.

- ✓ Bad Governance: The specific system by which a political system and decision rights, processes is been ruled abruptly and in a negative manner.
- ✓ Inequality: Unequal power relations between men and women where the latter is seen and been stereotyped to lesser activities in the society and also under-represented in political governance at both national and local levels.

### **3.5 Estimation Techniques**

The population of the study comprises of people who are asked to report on the rate and prevalence of poverty and unemployment. The study centred on people based in Oye-Ekiti Local Government Area. A simple random sampling technique was used in selecting participants for the study. This was achieved via the selection of 150 participants which constitute the total sample size obtained from the sixteen (16) local government areas of Ekiti state. The sample size is however minimal and is limited due to constraints in carrying out a wider survey.

The participants of the study consist of youths of age between 15 to 35 years old. About 5 individuals were interviewed while 150 people took part in the questionnaire survey. Data collected for the study was analysed using simple percentage to determine the prevalence rate of poverty and unemployment. Chi-square was used to determine association among the study variables, while Pearson correlation was used in examining the relationships that exist between study variables.

### **3.6 Validity and Reliability**

Validity and reliability was very importance and necessary in the research. The research carried out had to be valid (i.e. it must measure what it is expected to measure) and it was reliable (i.e. the result must be able to replicate is carried out again on the same population). This validity and reliability was dependent on different thing like the research instrument.



### **3.7 Ethical Consideration**

The respondents in this study participated voluntarily. The privacy of the respondents was protected and anonymity of respondents in the research ensured with honesty and transparency. Respondents were briefed about the objective(s) of the research in a clear and straight forward manner devoid of misleading information. The questionnaire was designed in a clear and straight forward language. The use of offensive, discriminatory, or other unacceptable language was avoided in the questionnaire.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS AND DATA INTERPRETATION

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter is primarily on the analysis and interpretation of the quantitative data collected via the administration of questionnaire to the respondents.

#### 4.1 Respondents Data

**Table 1: Age of Respondents**

Age range	Frequent	Percent
15-20 years	43	28.5
21-25 years	74	49.0
26-30 years	25	16.6
31-40	07	4.6
41 years and above	02	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above frequency table shows that, out of 151 respondents, 43(28.5% are of the age bracket 15-20), 74(49.0% are of age bracket 21-25), 25(16.6% are of age bracket 26-30 years, 7(4.6% are of age bracket 31-40 years) while 2(1.3% are above 41 years). This indicate that majority of the respondents 77.5% ranges between the age of 15 – 25 years.

**Table 2: Sex of the Respondents**

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	66	39.7
Female	86	57.0

No Response	05	3.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Out of 151 respondents, 66(39.7% are male), 86(57.0% are female) while 5(3.3% made did not respond). It means female have interest in social research than their male counterparts.

**Table 3: Marital status**

Option	Frequency	Percent
Married	34	22.5
Single due to	39	25.8
Never married	73	48.3
Separated	3	2.0
Divorced	1	7
Widowed	1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The table above shows that out of 151 respondents, 34 (22.5% are married), 39(25.8% are single due to) 73(48.3% were never married), 3(2.0% are separated), 1(7% are divorced), whereas, 1(7% are widowed). It can be concluded that most of the respondents even though relatively young are married. They have responsibilities they shoulder in their respective homes.

**Table 4: Educational qualification of the respondents**

Types of Education	Frequency	Percent
No formal education	11	7.3

Primary education	1	7
Secondary education	34	22.5
NCE/ND education	18	11.9
B.SC / HND	84	55.6
No response	3	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>100.0</b>

A total of 151 respondents shows that 11(7.3% have no formal education), 1(7% have primary education), 34(22.5% have secondary education), 18(11.9% have NCE/ND education), 84(55.6% have B.SC/HND) while 3(20% made no response). It shows that over 70.0% of the respondents were literate in different levels.

**Table 5: Religious Affiliation of the Respondents.**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Christian	113	74.8
Muslim	30	19.9
Traditional thinker	7	4.6
Free thinker	1	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The frequency table below shows that out of 151 respondents, 113(74.8% are Christian), 30(19.9% are Muslim), 7(4.6% are traditional thinkers), 1 (7% are free thinkers). Most of the respondents were Christians; this is because the study was carried out in Christian dominated

place with less Muslims. Also, it is interesting to note that some people are still practicing traditional religion.

**Table 6: Ethnicity of the respondents**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yoruba	115	76.2
Igbo	23	15.2
Hausa	12	7.9
No response	1	7
Total	151	100.0

A total of 151 respondents gave the following responses: 115(76.2% are Yoruba), 23(15.2% are Igbo), 12(7.9% are Hausa), while 1(7% gave no response). This depicts that the study location is dominated by Yoruba speaking people simply because it is part of the western part of the country.

**Table 7: Occupation of Respondents**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Student	99	65.6
Civil servants	11	7.3
Traders/business	12	7.9
Unemployed	12	7.9
Self-employed/artisan	16	10.6
No response	1	7

Total	151	100.0
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Out of 151 respondents, 99(65.6% are students), 11(7.3% are civil servants), 12(7.9% are traders/business), 12 (7.9% are unemployed), 16(10.6% are self employed/artisan), whereas, 1(7% gave no response). From the above analysis, it simply shows that most of the respondents are students because the location of the study is institutionalized.

#### 4.2: : Examine the meaning of poverty

This section talks on the knowledge of the respondents on the meaning of the concept of poverty. The responses were analyzed and interpreted below.

**Table 8: Respondent's meaning of Poverty**

meanings of Poverty	SA	A	I	D	SD
Poverty is the absence of money	74(49.0%)	53(35.1%)	20(13.3%)	2(1.3%)	6(4.0%)
poverty is the absence of food	51(33.8%)	51(33.8%)	22(14.6%)	22(14.6%)	5(3.3)
Poverty is the total absence of basic necessity of life	96(63.3)	43(28.5%)	5(3.3%)	4(2.6%)	3(2.0%)
Poverty is when someone does not have car or house	35(23.2%)	33(21.9%)	13(8.6%)	44(29.1%)	26(17.2%)
poverty is lack of literacy	54(35.8%)	37(24.5%)	10(6.6%)	10(6.6%)	31(20.6%)

A total of 151 respondents gave the following responses to money is the absence of poverty, 74(49.0% strongly agreed), 53(35.1% agreed), 14(9.3% were indifferent), 2(1.3% disagreed), 2(1.3% strongly disagreed), while 6 made no response). The frequency table above shows the response of 151 respondents to poverty is the absence of food, 51(33.8% strongly agreed), 51(33.8% agreed), 14(9.3% are indifferent), 22(14.6% disagreed), 5(3.3% strongly disagreed), whereas, 8(5.3% gave no response). Out of 151 respondents, their responses to the question above are as follows: 96(63.3% strongly disagreed), 43(28.5% agreed), 2(1.3% was

indifferent), 4 (2.6% disagreed), 3(2.0% strongly disagreed), whereas, 3(2.0% gave no response). The response of 151 respondents to the question above shows that: 35(23.2% strongly agreed), 33(21.9% agreed), 13(8.6% are indifferent), 44(29.1% disagreed), 16(10.6% strongly disagreed), however, 10(6.6% gave no response). The frequency table above shows that out of 151 respondents, 54(35.8% strongly agreed), 37(24.5% agreed), 10(6.6% were indifferent), 22(14.6% strongly disagreed), 19(12.6% strongly disagreed), whereas, 9(6.0% gave no response). The above responses showed that the concept of poverty means a lot of things to the respondents. Therefore, all the indices on the meaning of poverty were strongly agree. But the respondents disagreed with the statement that poverty is when someone does not have car or house.

#### 4.3: The causes of poverty and youth’s unemployment

This section focuses on the causes of poverty and youths unemployment in the study area. The analyses are demonstrated below.

**Table 9: Do you believe there is poverty in your area or Nigeria and whether there are Youths without Jobs?**

Option	If there is poverty in Nigeria?		If there are Youths without Job?	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Yes	178	98.0	144	95.4
No	1	0.7	2	1.3
Don't know	2	1.4	5	3.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Out of 151 respondents, 178(98.0 believe there is poverty in Nigeria), 1(0.7% does not believe there is poverty), 1(0.7% don't know if there is poverty or not), while, 1(0.7% gave no response). The frequency table above shows that out of 151 respondents, 144 (95.4% believe there are youths without jobs), 2(1.3% believe there are no youths without jobs, 3 (2.0% don't know if there are youths without jobs or not) while, 2(1.3% gave no response).

**Table 10: Causes of youth's non-empowerment in Nigeria.**

causes of Unemployment	Frequency	Percent
Lack of money	27	17.9
Lack of education	16	10.61
Lack of good health	2	1.3
Corruption	41	27.2
Lack of employment opportunity	50	33.1
Lack of skills	15	9.1
Total	151	100.0

The following are the responses of 151 respondents to the cause of corruption in Nigeria: 27(17.9% said it's lack of money), 16(10.61% said it's lack of education), 2(1.3% said it's lack of good health), 41(27.2% said it's corruption), 50(33.1% said it's lack of employment opportunity), while 15(9.1% said it's lack of skills). The above table depict that there are many causes of poverty and unemployment but it is important to note that employment opportunities are not available in Nigeria. This is simply because corruption has etch deep into the social system. Those looting the wealth of this nation take it to another nation to save or invest thereby making Nigeria economy to stagnant or unstable.

**Table 11: Can unemployment lead to poverty?**

Option	Frequency	Percent
Yes	142	94.0



No	9	6.0
Total	151	100.0

Out of 151 respondents, 142(94.0% said unemployment can lead to poverty) while 9(6.0% said unemployment cannot lead to poverty). This implies that unemployment is very capable of causing unemployment. That is why poverty level in Nigeria is very high and most people are living below a dollar each day.

#### 4.4: The effect of poverty and youth unemployment in Nigeria economy

Effects of Poverty and Unemployment on Nigeria Economy	SA	A	I	D	SD
Unemployment is a major social issue in Nigeria	103(68.2%)	47(31.1)	1(0.7%)	-	-
Nigeria's economy is unstable because of high rate of unemployment	62(41.1%)	79(52.3%)	3(2.0%)	7(4.6%)	
Poverty is cable of affecting Nigeria economy	70(46.4%)	56(37.1%)	13(10.6%)	11(7.3%)	1(7.0%)
Nigerian youths are not contributing to economy because they don't have job	67(44.4%)	57(37.7)	14(9.3%)	9(6.0%)	4(2.6%)
Poverty and youths unemployment can negatively affects Nigeria's economy	70(46.4%)	50(33.1%)	18(11.9%)	9(6.0%)	4(2.6%)

The frequency table of 151 respondents above shows that 103(68.2% strongly agreed that unemployment is a major social issue in Nigeria), 47(31.1% agreed) whereas, 1(0.7% gave no response). The above frequency table shows that, out of 151 respondents, 62(41.1% strongly agreed that Nigeria's economy is unstable because of youth unemployment), 79(52.3% agreed), 7(4.6% disagreed), while 3(2.0% gave no response). Conclusion drawn from 151 respondents'

states that 70(46.1% strongly agreed), 56(37.1% agreed), 7 (4.6% were indifferent), 11(7.3% disagreed), 1(7% strongly disagreed), whereas, 6(4.0% gave no response) to the above question that poverty is capable of affecting Nigeria's economy. From the frequency table above of 151 respondents, it was observed that, 67(44.4% strongly agreed), 57 (37.7% agreed), 11(7.3% were indifferent), 9( 6.0% disagreed), 4 (2.6% strongly disagreed), 3(2.0% gave no response) to the above question. The above observation shows that, out of 151 respondents, 70(46.4% strongly agreed), 50(33.1% agreed), 15( 9.9% were indifferent), 9(6.0% disagreed), 4(2.6% strongly disagreed), while 3(2.0% gave no response) to the above question. This indicates that the effects of unemployment in Nigeria cannot be quantified. That is, it has gross adverse effects on the people in all ramifications. This in a long run affects the economy of Nigeria as a nation.

#### 4.5: The challenges posed by youth unemployment and poverty

<b>Challenges of unemployment and poverty</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>
Corruption is a major challenge of poverty and unemployment in Nigeria	93(61.6%)	48(31.8%)	5(3.3%)	3(2.0%)	2(1.3%)
Bad leadership style in Nigeria is a problem of unemployment and poverty	75(49.7%)	65(43.0%)	7(4.6%)	2(1.3%)	2(1.3%)
Self centeredness of our leaders is problem of unemployment and poverty	77(1.0%)	57(37.7%)	9(5.9%)	6(4.0%)	2(1.3%)
Poor governance in all tiers of government is a problem of unemployment and poverty	63(41.7%)	57(37.7%)	11(7.2%)	13(8.6%)	7(4.6%)
lack of continuity in governance is problem of unemployment and poverty in Nigeria	61(40.4%)	54(25.8%)	15(9.9%)	10(6.6%)	11(7.3%)

The frequency table above shows that 93 (61.6% strongly agreed), 48(31.8% agreed), 1 (0.7% was in different), 3(2.0% disagreed), 2(1.3% strongly disagreed) while 4(2.6% gave no

reply) to corruption is a major challenge of poverty and unemployment in Nigeria, out of 151 respondents. The response of 151 respondents to the above question are as follows 75(49.7% strongly agreed), 65(43.0% agreed), 3(2.0% were indifferent), 2(1.3% disagreed), 2(1.3% strongly disagreed), whereas 4(2.6% did not respond) to bad leadership style in Nigeria is a problem of unemployment and poverty. Out of 151 respondents, 77(51.0% strongly agreed), 57(37.7% agreed), 7(4.6% were indifferent), 6(4.0% disagreed), 2(1.3% strongly disagreed), whereas 2(1.3% gave no reply) to self centeredness of our leaders is problem of unemployment and poverty. The frequency table of 151 respondents to the question above shows that 63(41.7% strongly agreed), 57(37.7% agreed), 7(4.6% gave indifferent response), 13(8.6 disagreed), 7(4.6 strongly disagreed), while 4(2.6% gave no response). The frequency table above shows the response of 151 respondents to the question above: 61(40.4% strongly agreed), 54(25.8% agreed), 11(7.3% were indifferent), 10(6.6% disagreed), 11(7.3% strongly disagreed) whereas 4(2.6% gave no response to lack of continuity in governance is problem of unemployment and poverty in Nigeria. It can be concluded that all the above measuring the challenges of youths' unemployment and poverty are strongly agree to, this is why it is said that poverty and unemployment are intertwined and they both have negative multiplier effects on the people.

## CHAPTER 5

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 5.0 INTRODUCTION

The main objective of this study has been to investigate the effect and causes of poverty and youth unemployment in Oye local government area and also to ascertain if poverty and youth unemployment has a negative effect on the society or not. Therefore, the focus of the present chapter is to present the summary, conclusion and recommendation to the study.

#### 5.1 SUMMARY

Chapter one focuses on the introductory aspect while chapter two reviews relevant literature. Chapter three presents the methodology and research design. The data for this study was derived mainly from primary sources. The primary data was collected through the use of questionnaires, face to face interview and focus group discussion. A total of 150 questionnaires were administered in the study area to 72 males and 78 females. Chapter four presents the data and analysis of findings; both descriptive and inferential statistics were employed.

The research questions of poverty and youth unemployment in Oye local Government were answered by the findings. Hence, proving as proposed earlier that those factors such as: low level of education, inadequate manufacturing industries, and inadequate job creation by government to be responsible for poverty and youth unemployment; The other effects of the above factors can also be seen in low standard of

living, poverty, and increase in social vices among the unemployed youth, as its' test of relationship was significant at 5% level of significance.

The above result are consistent with the in-depth face to face interview and focus group discussion as some of the respondents reported that poverty and youth unemployment in the local government is caused by inadequate manufacturing industry and folding up of the existing ones, neglect of agriculture, poor planning and government policies towards the generation of employment, unconducive marketing environment and the likes. The effects have led to a large number of unemployed youth in Oye local government embracing fraud as a means of livelihood, and this as consequently led to a whole lot of social vices, in the area.

## **5.2 CONCLUSION**

The study conducted a thorough investigation into poverty and youth unemployment in Oye local government area and found the following factors to be responsible for poverty and youth unemployment ; low level of education, inadequate manufacturing industries, inadequate job creation by government, neglect of the agriculture sector, faulty planning and poor government policies towards employment creation. Despite government efforts to mitigate the impact of poverty and youth unemployment in Oye local government area, the problem still persist because of corruption, inconsistent policies, poor planning, complex structures and inadequate funding, unqualified resource personnel handling employment training programmers and poor economic strategy. This as consequently, as already stated in the preceding chapters

led to poverty, low standard of living and social vices, because idle hands are the devil's workshop.

### 5.3 RECOMMENDATION

Base on the findings of this study, the following recommendation are made;

- ✓ The Ekiti state government should diversify the economy for the purpose of generating both full time and part time job opportunities.
- ✓ Effort should be made by the government to encourage and support youth to practice mechanized farming in Oye local government area since it is an agrarian environment with palatable weather condition for the cultivation of various crops.
- ✓ The invigoration of the collapsed local industrial production and the establishment of new ones should be a major priority of the state government. These factories will provide employment opportunities that will absorb the idle youth and feed many hungry mouths.
- ✓ It has been ascertained that there is a strong link between poverty and youth unemployment such that creating employment will certainly reduce the level of poverty.
- ✓ Government should provide the necessary infrastructures needed to lay a solid foundation for investment to thrive; this can be done by not only increasing its capital expenditure but investing it in projects which will generate more externalities than it will consume like energy and transportation.

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# *Research Questionnaire*

**Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences**

**Federal University Oye-Ekiti**

I, Olaleye Olalekan Joseph a final year student of Department of Sociology in the above mentioned citadel of learning is presently collecting data on the title, "Poverty and Youth's Unemployment in Nigeria: A Case Study of Oye-Ekiti. I implore you to please attend to all the questions in this questionnaire with all sincerity. I promised that all your responses will be protected.

Answer all questions as appropriated.

## **Section A: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

1. Your age as at your last birthday

- (a) 15 – 20 Years ( )
- (b) 21 – 25 Years ( )
- (c) 26 – 30 Years ( )
- (d) 31 – 40 Years ( )
- (e) 41 years and above

2. Sex of the Respondents

- (a) Male ( )
- (b) Female ( )

3. Marital Status:

- (a) Married ( )
- (b) Single due to ( )
- (i) Never married ( )
- (ii) Separated ( )
- (iii) Divorced ( )
- (iv) Widowed ( )

4. Educational Qualification of Respondents

- (a) No formal education ( )
- (b) Primary Education ( )
- (c) Secondary Education ( )
- (d) NCE/ND Education ( )
- (e) B.SC/HND ( )

5. Religious Affiliation of the Respondents

- (a) Christianity ( )
- (b) Muslim ( )
- (c) Traditional Religion ( )
- (d) Free thinker ( )

6. Ethnicity of the Respondents

- (a) Yoruba ( )
- (b) Igbo ( )
- (c) Hausa ( )

7. Occupation

- (a) Student ( )
- (b) Civil Servant ( )
- (c) Trader/Business ( )
- (d) Unemployed ( )
- (e) Self-employed/Artisan ( )
- (f) Others Specify.....

**Section B: Examine the Meaning of Poverty**

Tick the most appropriate option to each question: SA-Strongly Agreed, A-Agreed, I-Indifference, D-Disagreed, SD-Strongly Disagreed

	Meanings of Poverty	SA	A	I	D	SD
8	Poverty is the absence of money					
9	Poverty is the absence of food					
10	Poverty is the total absence of basic necessity of life					
11	Poverty is when someone does not have car or house					
12	poverty is lack of literacy					

**Section C: The Causes of Poverty and Youth's Unemployment**

13. Do you believe there is poverty in your area or Nigeria?

A. Yes ( )

B. No ( )

C. Don't Know ( )

14. List three causes of poverty in Nigeria

i.....

ii.....

iii.....

15. Are there youths without job?

A. Yes ( )

B. No ( )

C. Don't Know ( )

16. State three causes of youth's unemployment in Nigeria

i.....

ii.....

iii.....

17. Can unemployment leads to poverty?

A. Yes ( )

B. No ( )

C. Don't Know ( )

### Section D: The Effect of Poverty and Youth Unemployment in Nigeria Economy

Tick the most appropriate option to each question: SA-Strongly Agreed, A-Agreed, I-Indifference, D-Disagreed, SD-Strongly Disagreed

	<b>Effects of Poverty and Unemployment on Nigeria Economy</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>
18	Unemployment is a major social issue in Nigeria					
19	Nigeria's economy is unstable because of high rate of unemployment					
20	Poverty is cable of affecting Nigeria economy					
21	Nigerian youths are not contributing to economy because they don't have job					
22	Poverty and youths unemployment can negatively affects Nigeria's economy					

### Section E: The Challenges Posed by Youth Unemployment and Poverty

	<b>Challenges of Unemployment and Poverty</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>
23	Corruption is a major challenge of poverty and unemployment in Nigeria					
24	Bad leadership style in Nigeria is a problem of unemployment and poverty					
25	Self centeredness of our leaders is problem of unemployment and poverty					
26	Poor governance in all tiers of government is a problem of unemployment and poverty					
27	Lack of continuity in governance is problem of unemployment and poverty in Nigeria					