

Thought on Unemployment and Security Challenges in Africa Youthful Population

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Background of the Study:-Now a day's Unemployment and security challenges in Africa are two interrelated issues that have continued to plague the continent, hindering its socio-economic development and stability. Africa, with its vast natural resources and youthful population, has the potential to become a global economic powerhouse. However, the persistent high levels of unemployment, particularly among the youth, have become a significant barrier to achieving this potential (International Labour Organization ILO-2020). According to the African Development Bank (AfDB, 2021), youth unemployment rates in Africa are among the highest in the world, with over 60% of the continent's unemployed being under the age of 25. This alarming statistic underscores the urgent need for effective policies and interventions to address the unemployment crisis. The high unemployment rates in Africa are exacerbated by several factors, including rapid population growth, inadequate education systems, and a mismatch between the skills possessed by the workforce and the demands of the labor market (World Bank, 2019). Moreover, the informal sector, which employs a significant portion of the African workforce, often offers low wages, poor working conditions, and little job security, further compounding the problem (ILO, 2020). The lack of decent employment opportunities has led to widespread poverty, inequality, and social unrest, creating a fertile ground for various security challenges. Security challenges in Africa are multifaceted and include terrorism, insurgency, political instability, and organized crime. These security issues are often linked to the high levels of unemployment and poverty, as unemployed and disenfranchised youth are more susceptible to recruitment by extremist groups and criminal

organizations (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2018). For instance, the rise of Boko Haram in Nigeria and Al-Shabaab in Somalia has been attributed, in part, to the high levels of youth unemployment and economic marginalization in these regions (Onuoha, 2019). Similarly, the ongoing conflict in the Sahel region has been fueled by the lack of economic opportunities and the resulting frustration among the youth (African Union [AU], 2020). The relationship between unemployment and security challenges in Africa is complex and bidirectional. On the one hand, high unemployment rates contribute to insecurity by creating a pool of disenfranchised individuals who may resort to violence or criminal activities as a means of survival. On the other hand, insecurity deters investment, disrupts economic activities, and destroys infrastructure, thereby exacerbating unemployment and poverty (World Bank, 2020). This vicious cycle of unemployment and insecurity poses a significant threat to the stability and development of African nations.

Efforts to address unemployment and security challenges in Africa have been undertaken at both the national and regional levels. For example, the African Union's Agenda 2063 envisions a prosperous and peaceful Africa, with a strong emphasis on job creation and youth empowerment (AU, 2015). Similarly, several African countries have implemented youth employment programs and initiatives aimed at equipping young people with the skills needed to access decent employment opportunities (AfDB, 2021). However, the effectiveness of these initiatives has been limited by factors such as inadequate funding, poor implementation, and a lack of coordination among stakeholders (UNDP, 2019). In addition to policy interventions, there is a growing recognition of the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to addressing unemployment and security

challenges in Africa. This approach involves the collaboration of governments, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations in designing and implementing comprehensive strategies that address the root causes of unemployment and insecurity (ILO, 2020). For instance, public-private partnerships have been identified as a potential solution to the skills mismatch problem, with businesses playing a key role in providing training and employment opportunities for young people (World Bank, 2019).

Despite these efforts, the challenges of unemployment and insecurity in Africa remain daunting. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the situation, with millions of jobs lost and economic activities disrupted across the continent (ILO, 2021). The pandemic has also highlighted the vulnerabilities of Africa's labor market, particularly in the informal sector, where workers have little to no social protection (UNDP, 2021). As Africa strives to recover from the impact of the pandemic, addressing the twin challenges of unemployment and insecurity will be critical to achieving sustainable development and peace.

Definition of Terms:

Unemployment: The state of being without a paid job, despite being available and actively seeking work (ILO, 2020).

Security Challenges: Threats to the safety and stability of a region or country, including terrorism, insurgency, political instability, and organized crime (UNDP, 2018).

Youth: Individuals between the ages of 15 and 24, as defined by the United Nations (UN, 2018).

Informal Sector: Economic activities that are not regulated or protected by the state, often characterized by low wages, poor working conditions, and lack of job security (ILO, 2020).

Public-Private Partnerships: Collaborative efforts between the government and private sector to address socio-economic challenges, such as unemployment and skills mismatch (World Bank, 2019).

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The persistent high levels of unemployment and the associated security challenges in Africa have become a major concern for policymakers, researchers, and development practitioners. Despite the various interventions and initiatives aimed at addressing these issues, the problem remains pervasive, with significant implications for the socio-economic development and stability of the continent. The lack of decent employment opportunities, particularly for the youth, has led to widespread poverty, inequality, and social unrest, creating a fertile ground for various security challenges such as terrorism, insurgency, and organized crime. This study seeks to explore the relationship between unemployment and security challenges in Africa, with a focus on understanding the underlying causes, impacts, and potential solutions to these interrelated issues.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this study is to determine the relationship between unemployment and security challenges in Africa. Specific objectives include:

- To evaluate the impact of unemployment on security challenges in Africa.
- To determine the factors contributing to high unemployment rates in Africa.
- To find out the effectiveness of existing policies and interventions aimed at addressing unemployment and security challenges in Africa.

IV. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- a-What is the impact of unemployment on security challenges in Africa?
- b-What are the factors contributing to high unemployment rates in Africa?
- c-How effective are the existing policies and interventions aimed at addressing unemployment and security challenges in Africa?

V. RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

Hypothesis I

H0: There is no significant impact of unemployment on security challenges in Africa.

H1: There is a significant impact of unemployment on security challenges in Africa.

Hypothesis II

H0: There is no significant relationship between the factors contributing to high unemployment rates and security challenges in Africa.

H2: There is a significant relationship between the factors contributing to high unemployment rates and security challenges in Africa.

Hypothesis III

H0: There is no significant effectiveness of existing policies and interventions aimed at addressing unemployment and security challenges in Africa.

H3: There is a significant effectiveness of existing policies and interventions aimed at addressing unemployment and security challenges in Africa.

VI. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study is significant as it seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the relationship between unemployment and security challenges in Africa. By identifying the underlying causes and impacts of these issues, the study aims to inform policymakers, development practitioners, and other stakeholders on the most effective strategies for addressing unemployment and enhancing security in the continent. The findings of this study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on the subject and provide a basis for future research and policy interventions.

VII. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study focuses on the relationship between unemployment and security challenges in Africa, with a particular emphasis on the youth population. The study will cover selected African countries that have been significantly affected by both unemployment and security challenges, including Nigeria, Somalia, and the Sahel region. The study will also examine the effectiveness of existing policies and interventions aimed at addressing these issues, with a view to providing recommendations for future action.

VIII. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

One of the limitations of this study is the reliance on secondary data, which may not fully capture the complexities and nuances of the issues under

investigation. Additionally, the study is limited by the availability of recent and reliable data on unemployment and security challenges in Africa. The scope of the study is also limited to selected African countries, which may not be representative of the entire continent. Despite these limitations, the study aims to provide valuable insights into the relationship between unemployment and security challenges in Africa.

IX. CONCLUSION

Unemployment and security challenges in Africa are deeply intertwined and pose significant threats to the continent's development and stability. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach that tackles the root causes of unemployment, promotes inclusive economic growth, and strengthens security mechanisms. While progress has been made, much more needs to be done to ensure that Africa's youthful population can realize its full potential and contribute to the continent's prosperity and peace.

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