



An Analysis of Youth Restiveness in Nigeria: The Kogi Experience.

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Abstract

Youth restiveness is now a reoccurring phenomenon in Nigeria. This ugly trend has resulted in the loss of lives and properties worth millions of Naira. Efforts put by security operatives to put to rest this problem has not yielded reasonable result. This study attempts an analysis of the problem of youth restiveness in Nigeria with a focus on Kogi State. The study used the Broken Window Theory (BWT) as a theoretical framework while the survey research design was adopted as the methodology with data obtained from both primary and secondary sources. Data was analyzed through the use of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) with percentages, mean and standard deviation as statistical tools for analysis. Findings revealed that the commonest types of youth restiveness activities include: herdsman/farmers clash, religious violence, protest, ethnic/tribal clash and political clash. Findings also revealed that there are several causes of youth restiveness which include poor socialization, unemployment, lack of social amenities, insecurity, migration and ethnic tribal crisis. The study recommend that Government should sanction any politician or people who engage these young persons as political thugs with severe punishment. This will deter both the culprits and intending offender(s). Because these young people have become just a mere tool in the hand of politicians who make use of them to perpetuate all forms of criminality in the society. The study further recommend that Government and non-governmental organization should educate the citizens on the dangers associated with political clashes. As politics is not a do or die affair.

Keywords: Youth, Restiveness, Causes, Crime, Kogi State.

Introduction

Youths in every society constitute a veritable force for socio-economic development. In Nigeria, the projected population as at the mid-year 2018 was 190 million and this population is expected to grow to 392 million by 2050 (Index Mundi, 2018). By then, Nigeria would have become the world's fourth most populous country (Index Mundi, 2018), with more than half of its people under 30 years of age (Jega, 2017). The number attributable to young people in Nigeria can be said to be higher since the definition of young people (parallel to the global trend) in Nigeria includes those within the ages of 15-17 years (World Youth Report, 2009). Despite definitional anomalies, Nigeria still has the largest population of young people in the world (Jega, 2017). In spite of the numerical strength or because of it, Nigerian youths are faced with



tremendous challenges of poverty, diseases such as sexual transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDs, unemployment, marginalization and exclusion in the political economy.

Additionally, as posited by Akande (2014), there seem to be a disjuncture between the old, the middle aged and the youth, in the lack of appropriate and serious platforms for solidarity, engagement and dialogue. Akande (2014) rested his argument using a comparative analysis to draw facts from the First Republic when the founding fathers ensured unity of purpose. The youths were not only empowered but also, mentored, carried along and were involved in governance more than now. For example, the Enahoros, the Maitama Sules, all became prominent politicians, Federal/Regional Ministers, etc., as young people. Akande (2014) further alluded that the founding fathers themselves were involved in students' unionism and other community affairs, political struggles and leadership roles quite early in their lives. However, somewhere along the line, a disjuncture seemed to have occurred; perhaps beginning under military rule, and especially under politics of the 2nd and subsequent republics, the youth came to be generally neglected and relegated to the background (Akande, 2014).

The developments of urban centres and the neglect of the rural areas prompted young people in Nigeria to migrate from the rural area to urban centre in search of greener pasture and social amenities, thereby neglecting the basic development such as agriculture, environmental and cultural facilities at the rural areas. Consequently, high population density in the urban centres grossly affected urban social amenities. Shanties started emerging with high rate of unemployment and environmental decay. In the face of unemployment, urban anonymity assisted in the emergence of young men who engaged in criminal acts in order to survive (Ikuomola, 2009).

Youth gangs and cults group started existing with all sort of criminal behaviors including causing the loss of life and properties. In the argument of Akparanta (1994), youth violence in urban centres assumed a multi-facet phenomenon as a result of post-civil war factors. Abundance of guns were left in private hands: the economy was not only shrinking, but poverty was also causing much hunger in the land. The deterioration in the standard of education, lack of self-substance training in agriculture and industrial sector that would have engaged hundreds of youths with employment exacerbated hardship. In the presence of those hardships, urban violence becomes common. Just as Albert (1994) identified causes of urban violence to include; high population growth rate with its attendant unemployment, poor wages, poor living conditions, urban culture shock and poor quality urban management. The consequences of this violence are located in rising crime rate in rural and urban areas of Nigeria, including militias and thuggery and negative dislocations in economy and life of the citizens (Akparanta, 1994).

The National Youth Development Policy (2001) maintains that youths are the foundation of Nigeria. This is because their energies, inventiveness, character and orientation can shape and define the rate of development and security of the country. Similarly, Kari (2014) held that through youth creative talents and labour power, a society achieves giant strides in socio-economic and political development. Additionally, Kari (2014) stated that in young people's dreams and hopes, a society finds its motivation, energies, strength as well as purpose and reason. These therefore implies that young people in any given society are the "heart beat" upon which the continuous existence of a society squarely lies (Alanana, 2015).



Despite all the encomium poured on young people, the trend in Nigeria has been that of relegation of young people's interests and roles, thereby pushing them more into poverty, alienation, and turning them into agents of destabilization and conflicts (Jega, 2017). This may be the main reason behind youth restiveness. The word "restiveness" according to Adams (2015) have become so commonly linked to young people in the last couple of years that it seems to have taken on a life of its own. In the last decade and more there has been a proliferation of cases all over the country and indeed the world, of youth agitations which have led to millions of deaths and destruction of valuable infrastructure as well as personal property (Adams, 2015). Against this backdrop, the study attempts an analysis of the problem of youth restiveness in Nigeria with a focus on Kogi State in North Central Nigeria.

Statement of the problem

Restiveness is a sustained protestation embarked upon to enforce a desired outcome from a constituted authority by an organized body of young people (Peter, 2013). Such phenomenon can result in the breakdown of law and order, low productivity due to disruption of productive activities, increased crime rate, intra-ethnic hostilities, and harassment of prospective developers and investors, and other criminal tendencies (Adam, 2015). Nigeria has become a theatre of youth violence as several parts of the country have witnessed one form of youth violence or the other. For instance, in 2003 the ancient city of Ilorin in Kwara state was plagued by violence perpetrated by young people. Most time, the electoral process in Nigeria is characterized with unprecedented build-up of armed youths, recruited and trained by politicians to win election at all cost with violence (Ofehe, 2008). Youth restiveness in Niger Delta area is not out of sight as witnessed in recent time, where vandalization of oil pipeline, wanton destruction of lives and properties has become the slogan of the day. Lam (2016), observed that the following ills in Kogi state were perpetuated by the youths; the killings of nineteen worshippers in 2012, manufacturing of bombs in Okene, OkehiAdavi and Kabba which were discovered by the security agencies as well as the jail break in KotonKarfe prison where several Boko Haram sect members were freed.

Furthermore, in 2009 over 600 deaths were recorded in series of youth related violence in places like Lagos, Ibadan, Jos, Nassarawa and Bauchi (Mohammed, 2017). The activities of Boko Haram in the north east, which have resulted in the deaths of thousands of Nigerians and several properties worth millions of Naira lost is still unresolved. There is alarming rate of youth violence in Africa and other parts of the world today, where many young people engaged in armed conflict and various forms of protestation to press home their demand. Consequently, this youth violence emanated as a result of the growing extreme poverty, unemployment, limited access to infrastructure and services particularly in developing nations. The recent uprisings witnessed in Libya, Tunisia and Egypt were largely fueled by youth restiveness as a result of several factors such as corruption, unemployment, poverty, inequality and bad governance (United Nations, 2015). The youths in these places led mass protest where large number of people marched and even occupied the streets, this result to change of government in those countries mentioned above.

However, youth violence in any society has its attendant consequences apart from the destruction of life and properties; there is economy production loss both for individual and group in the society. It sometimes leaves the victims with long term psychological and medical trauma.

Based on the above identified problem, this study attempts to answer the following questions. what are the types of youth restiveness experienced in Kogi state? what are the causes of youth restiveness in the state? and what criminal activities are witnessed in the state as a result of youth restiveness?

Literature Review

The concept of youth Restiveness

Attempts have been made by several scholars to give meaning to the word youth restiveness. According to Peter (2013), youth restiveness is a sustained protestation embarked upon to enforce a desired outcome from a constituted authority by an organized body of young people. He further maintained that it is the combination of any action or conduct that constitutes unwholesome, socially unacceptable actions engaged in by the young people in any community. That is to say, it is a social political activity and actions largely perpetuated by group of young people through which they demand their rights and most times life and properties are loss in the community. It is a phenomenon which in practice can led to a near breakdown of law and order, low productivity due to disruption of productive activities, increased crime rate, intra-ethnic and harassment of prospective developers and investors and other criminal tendencies (Adams, 2015).

Similarly, Elegbeleye (2012) posit that youth restiveness is a social behavior engaged in by young people which is marked by violence and disruption of lawful activities in society. This is in line with Alaibe's (2008) submission, that youth restiveness is the uncontrolled, violent and unpleasant ways by which youths communicate their dissatisfaction to the government or people in authority over a perceived neglect of their demands and expectations. However, in the last decade and more there has been a proliferation of cases all over the country and indeed the world, of youth agitations which have led to millions of deaths and destruction of valuable infrastructures as well as personal property (Adams, 2015). This has become a device mostly used by the young people to get what they want from the constituted or relevant authority in any community.

Youth restiveness has long existed from time immemorial till date. Also, Chika and Onyene (2010) observed that youth resistance to issues, conditions and unwelcomed leadership regime in Nigeria dates back to 1934 during when Hebert Macaulay raised a political party to stand against the dependency with fellow elite youths that had contact with the West. Since then there has been youth agitations in Nigeria till date as evident in the formation of youth associations like students' union, ethnic militia group amongst others in order to press home their demands from relevant authority.

According to Abdullahi and Issah (2016), the occurrence and persistence of youth restiveness has ostensibly undermined and threatened social security in the country. They further maintain that, apart from militancy in the Niger-Delta region and act of terrorism in north eastern Nigeria, other common youth violence includes clashes among cult members, political clashes, land disputes, communal clashes, religious clashes, herdsmen/farmers clash as well as ethnic and tribal violence. Most of the perpetrators of this violence are youths who feel marginalized, aggrieved and frustrated in society. And at times been used as mere tools by politicians to achieve their selfish interest. Undoubtedly, the activities of cultists in institutions of learning are



no longer nocturnal but carried out in broad day light and many members have lost their lives during inter cult shoot out and clashes (Ekong, 2012).

Similarly, Igbo and Ikpa (2013) posit that other forms of youth restiveness are demonstration, riots and civil disturbances through which youths make their demands. This component of youth restiveness has given rise to different militant groups and in extreme case they result to criminal activities such as kidnapping, assassination, robbery, arson, insurgency among others. Ofehe (2008) observed that youth restiveness has been expressed in the form of bombing of oil installations and kidnapping of foreign workers. Just as Ikoh (2016), posit that the existence of sub-culture and youth violence did not only result to cult activities, but also, in kidnapping, formation of militias group, vandalism, armed robbery and destruction of social amenities. Consequently, the prevalence of youth restiveness has created undeletable mark of fear, anxiety and panic in Nigeria as well as other nations where it exists.

Causes of Youth Restiveness.

A number of studies have identified factors responsible for youth restiveness. Elegbeleye (2005) identifies three major factors: the peer motivated excitement of being recognized in society, the jingoistic pursuit of patriotic ideas, and perceived victimization arising from economic exploitation. Another study carried out in Niger Delta region by Ofem and Ajayi (2008) identified lack of humanitarian and social welfare, lack of good governance, corrupt practices of government officials, inadequate training programmes, unemployment, inadequate recreational facilities, lack of quality education, near absence of infrastructural facilities and amenities, amongst others, as the reasons for incessant youth restiveness. These factors bring a sense of disillusionment among the youths and any little opportunity they have, they tend to express their anger through a violent means.

Certain constant factors breed and nurture youth restiveness in Nigeria, several scholars has identified these factors as follows

Influence of peer group: Peer group pressure and the age factor play an important role in determining youth involvement in violence. The average age group of youth is between 15 and 25 years. Many youths of this age grade are vulnerable and they tend to imitate easily. Thus, they are more easily manipulated and influenced by their peers, who encourage them to commit delinquent acts on the grounds that it enhances their status and commitment in the society (Tamuno, 1991).

Culture of drug abuse: The prevailing culture of drug abuse has in no small way contributed to the upsurge in youth violence. Hard drugs such as heroin, marijuana and cocaine are often found in the possession of youths. Violent clashes often occur under the influence of alcohol and other mind disturbing drugs. Ifaturoti (1994) attests to the fact that abuse of drugs, such as cocaine, and over-indulgence in alcoholic drinks, such as gin and whisky, alter the state of the user's mind and predispose it to violence.

Ethnic nationalism and the formation of ethnic militias: The desire to wrestle power coupled with other considerations have led to increased ethnic nationalism among the minority ethnic groups, while the larger ethnic groups are equally strongly attached to their peculiar beliefs necessitating increased nationalism within them. Sometimes their activities are carried out in a manner that has led to violence. The cases of Odua People's Congress OPC (Yoruba) and Movement for the Advancement of Sovereign State of Biafra MASSOB (Igbo) represent a good



example of this perspective, while various minority ethnic groups such as Ijaw Youth Council (IYC), Middle Belt Forum among others, have been challenging the activities of the dominant ethnic groups. These competitions have ended up in ethnic militant attacks and ethnic clashes. However, it has been revealed that the youths constitute the bulk of these ethnic militias (Akinboye, 2001).

Marginalization: The notion appears to have gained ground that the youths resort to restiveness because of their perceived marginalization by the 'selfish' elders in the scheme of things in the communities (Udeh, 2010). In order to get their share of the benefits accruing to the society they resort to taking on their elders headlong, culminating in the restiveness rampant in most of our communities today.

Poverty: Poverty connotes inequality and social injustice and this traumatizes the poor. More than 70 percent of people in Nigeria are in abject poverty, living below the poverty line, and one-third survive on less than US \$1 dollar a day. This figure includes an army of youths in urban centres in Nigeria who struggle to eke out a living by hawking chewing sticks, bottled water, handkerchiefs, belts, etc. The sales-per-day and the profit margin on such goods are so small that they can hardly live above the poverty line. Disillusioned, frustrated, and dejected, they seek an opportunity to express their anger against the state. Scholars have overtime agreed that there is a link between poverty, loss of livelihood, inequality, and youth restiveness as evidenced by the numerous violent protests against the wielders of power in Nigeria (Ekong, 2012).

Dimensions of Youth Restiveness in Nigeria

According to Opene (2014), youth restiveness manifests itself in the forms of bombing oil installations, kidnapping of foreign oil workers national, kidnapping of Nigerians in exchange for ransom, political thuggery amongst others. Similarly, Elegbeleye (2012) maintained that youth restiveness manifests criminal behaviors in the forms of looting, robbery attack, violent demonstrations and tribal conflicts.

In the words of Nlerum (2012), there are differences between urban and rural youths in every society. That is to say there are certain features possessed by the rural youths which cannot be found among the urban youths. Just as Oviwigbo (2004) and Adesope (2007) posits that the characteristics of rural youths are depicted from the point of traditional view, group identity and industry.

Again, Oviwigbo (2004) further maintain that from traditional view, rural youths graciously adhere to issues of cultural heritage and traditions than their urban counterpart. For instance, the traditional ways of doing things such as farming, dancing, wrestling competition amongst others differs from urban traditions. Industrially, most rural youths are workaholic and usually involved in multiple income generating activities such as hunting, farming, fishing, trading and hired labour. This is to say, it is evident that rural youths are more organized and coordinated in the society.

Similarly, Ofuoku, Aghamu, Emah and Nnodim (2006) opined that youthrestiveness in rural areas are manifested in form of destruction of rural public utilities such as electrification lines, schools, health centers, worship centers, houses and roads. Others are disruption of oil and gas exploration and exploitation, disruption of farming, fishing, hunting activities, rape, and vandalization of pipe line. All these largely affect lives and properties of the people in society.



Akanu (2015) posit that youth restiveness manifests in gross disregard and disrespect to constitutional and customary laws and norms. This he believes as being responsible for restiveness among the youths in the contemporary Nigerian society. That is to say, youth restiveness largely depicts in various criminal behaviors which are contrary to society laws and order.

Theoretical Justification: Broken Window Theory (BWT)

The theory was developed by James Q. Wilson and George Kelling in 1982, they adopted the analogy of “Broken Window “to outline how minor fierce act may lead to major violent act if not legitimately attended to by security agencies. Wilson and Kelling (1982) posited that if a broken window in a building is not repaired, people would assume that nobody cares about the building and more windows would be broken. Thereby, before long the building would have no window.

The assumptions of the theory to the understanding of crime and violence is that, where any fierce act of demonstration has gone unchallenged, unchecked, or not legitimately managed by the appropriate security agencies, it would create more violent acts (Kelling & Coles, 1996, Skogan, 1990). The theory further argued that, signs of physical disorder (such as abandoned vehicle, vacant/ dilapidated buildings, illegal dump site, lack of security patrol and unplanned structures) in a neighborhood can predispose such neighborhood to violence. Also, the social disorder typified by noisy neighborhood, public drinking, gambling, brothels and group of youths congregating on street. All these activities will attract and promote criminal enterprises and elevate level of crime and violence in the neighborhood (Sherman & Eck, 2002; Skogan, 1990). Similarly, Zimbardo (2004) opined that the prevalence of disorder in a neighborhood would create fear in the minds of people who are convinced that the area is unsafe. That is to say, disorder causes crime and in turn crime causes further disorder with huge socio-economic consequences.

Arising from the assumptions of BWT, youth restiveness in urban and rural areas of Kogi state could be attributed to the idleness of able body youths who roam the street without any meaningful job as a result of unemployment. Such youths are predisposed to criminal enterprises like prostitution, gambling, drug peddling etcthereby exposing their neighborhood to crime and violence. Consequently, some politicians and business tycoons may engage these youths in criminal activities such as thuggery, arson, robbery, and vandalization amongst others in order to create illegitimate crisis in the state because of their selfish interests.

Again, the theory suggests that physical disorder such as vacant and dilapidated buildings in a neighborhood can predispose such neighborhood to crime and violence (Wilson & Kelling, 1982). The presence of abandoned and dilapidated buildings in urban and rural areas of Kogi state, sometimes serve as hide out for the criminal groups, where kidnapped persons are kept before demanding for ransom. Even rape activities and storage of illegal weapons by the criminal groups are performed in such buildings, thereby exposing the neighborhood to crime and violence. This partly explain the reason why, the Kogi state government on 25th May, 2017 demolished some abandoned buildings in the state which were used by the criminal groups to perpetuate crime.



Also, if proper security measures are not taken like regular patrol by the security personnel within and around those violent neighborhoods, there is likely tendency for the escalation of crime and violence from one neighborhood to another. The case of protesting youths from Kogi east, who held motorists for several hours on 28th November, 2015 is a case in point. After some months the protesting youths from Kogi central blocked major roads, keeping motorists for several hours before the intervention of the security personnel. However, this was as a result of unchallenged, unchecked and poor response from the security organizations. Nevertheless, BWT is not without criticism, the theory is accused of having little evidence, that disorder when left unchallenged causes crime in society. Bratton and Kelling (2006), Grauth and Silver (2008), Xu, Fiedler and Flaming (2008) raised the argument that no window can be broken without a cause. They further suggested that the relationship between disorder and youth violence is indirect and asymmetric, because socio-physical or physical disorder in a disadvantaged neighborhood would only build trepidation of violent acts in the neighborhood, which in turn decreases social control and leave the neighborhood defenseless against criminal invasion.

Methodology

The study adopted the survey research design which allows for representative samples in the collection of data and allows for generation of certain primary information from their original sources. The multistage sampling technique was used in sampling the respondents. Data were sourced from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data were sourced through copies of questionnaires distributed while secondary data were sourced from textbooks, journals, newspapers and magazines. The method of data collection was majorly through the use of questionnaire which was done personally by the researcher with the help of trained research assistants. Data were analyzed through the use of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) with percentages, mean as well as standard deviation as statistical tools.

Results and Discussion of Findings

Socio –Demographic characteristics of respondents

Categories	Frequency	Percentage	- X	SD
Age (years)				
<20yrs	59	10.6	28.3	5.067
21-25	93	16.7		
26-30	201	36.0		
>30	205	36.7		
Sex				
Male	388	69.5		
Female	170	30.5		
Marital Status				



Married	234	41.9		
Single	312	55.9		
Widowed	7	1.3		
Separated	5	0.9		
Educational qualification				
Primary	20	3.6		
Secondary	164	29.4		
Tertiary	362	64.9		
No formal education	12	2.2		
Occupation				
Farmer	56	10.0		
Trader	64	11.7		
Student	218	39.1		
Civil servant	135	24.2		
Others	76	13.6		
Religion				
Christianity	209	37.5		
Islam	349	62.5		
Location				
Urban	242	43.4		
Rural	316	56.6		
Monthly Income				
<18,000	83	19.6	79713.16	65973.86
18,001-22,000	75	17.7		
22,001-26000	12	2.8		
26,001-30,000	11	2.6		
>30,001	243	57.3		

Source: Field Work (2020)

The table above shows the socio-demographic details of the respondents such as age, sex, marital status, level of educational attainment, occupation, location and personal monthly income. All respondents in the study falls within the ages <20 and >30, also, two in every three of the study participants were male corresponding to 69.5% of the total study group. This shows that men usually participate in youth restiveness than women in the study area. The table also, revealed that more than half are single (55.9%). This means that since they are not married, they have more time to engage in youth restive activities than the married ones. And, a vast majority of the respondents have tertiary (64.9%) educational qualification suggesting a high level of educational attainment among the youths in the study area. This shows that they are knowledgeable on the subject matter. There are more students (39.1%) than other occupations in this study, a majority of the respondents practice Islam (56.6%). This means that the study area is predominantly dominated by Muslims. Also, the respondent's location revealed rural (56.6%) indicating that youth restiveness predominantly occurs in rural area than urban center in the



study area. And, a majority of the respondents (57.3%) earn monthly income of over 30,000 Naira.

Types of youth restiveness in Kogi State.

Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Herdsmen	364	65.2
Cult group clash	290	52.0
Rural banditry	244	43.7
Political clash	43	7.7
Protest	344	61.6
Riot	308	56.2
Communal clash	322	57.7
Ethnic/tribal clash	360	64.5
Religious violence	188	66.3
Road block	309	55.4
Demonstration	322	57.7
Inter-gang violence	258	46.2

Source: Field work (2020)

This section presented results on the types of restive activities engaged by youths.

From the table above, the views of respondents on the various types of youth restive activities in the study area revealed that majority of the respondents (65.2%) agreed that herdsmen/farmer clash being one of the youth restive activities in the study area. This is significant because youth restiveness predominantly occurs in rural area of the study where herdsmen and farmers reside. Also, in the recent time the country has witnessed herdsman/farmer clash particularly in the north central where the study area is located. Also, a majority of respondents (92.3%) reported political clash. This implies that due to the multi-party system in the study area where various political parties struggle for power, there is tendency for political clashes among political parties in quest of power as witnessed in the study area recently. (64.5%) of respondents maintained that ethnic/tribal clash is one of the youth restive activities. This could be as a result of the heterogeneous nature of the study area where the three major ethnic groups (okun, igala and ebira) dominates other minor ethnic groups. On the other hand, (66.3%) respondents opined that religious violence is one of the youth restive activities. This is true because the country has witnessed religious clashes in recent time where places of worship are destroyed in general and particularly in the study area and where lives and properties were lost due to religious violence.

Causes of youth restiveness in Kogi State.

Causes	SA (%)	A (%)	U (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
Poor socialization	346(62)	101(18.1)	47(8.4)	49(8.8)	15(2.7)
Lack of civil education	238(42.7)	193(34.6)	74(13.3)	46(8.2)	7(1.3)
Peer group/cult influence	217(38.9)	242(43.4)	48(8.6)	27(4.8)	24(4.3)



Lack of social amenities	278(49.8)	124(22.2)	70(12.5)	69(12.4)	17(3)
Insecurity	228(40.9)	172(30.8)	54(9.7)	93(16.7)	11(2.0)
Proliferation of arms	214(38.4)	101(28.9)	99(17.7)	62(11.1)	22(3.9)
Broken homes	234(41.9)	201(36.0)	75(13.4)	33(5.9)	15(2.7)
Political instability/frustration	288(51.6)	193(34.6)	33(5.9)	18(3.2)	26(4.7)
Alcohol/drug abuse	338(60.8)	155(27.8)	30(5.4)	31(5.6)	4(0.7)
Illiteracy	237(42.5)	212(38.0)	50(9.0)	32(5.7)	27(4.8)
Economic related causes					
Poverty	349(62.5)	143(25.6)	24(4.3)	42(7.5)	0(0)
Unemployment	398(71.3)	133(23.8)	15(2.7)	8(1.4)	4(0.7)
Unequal distribution of natural resources	219(39.2)	192(34.4)	78(14.0)	25(4.5)	44(7.9)
Land/boundary dispute	135(24.2)	148(26.5)	145(26.0)	63(11.3)	67(12.0)
Inadequate farmland	82(14.7)	158(28.3)	132(23.7)	109(19.5)	77(13.8)
Environmental related causes					
Dwindling land availability	73(13.1)	184(33.0)	169(30.3)	74(13.3)	58(10.4)
Over population	50(9.0)	157(28.1)	146(26.2)	87(15.6)	118(21.1)
Environmental degradation	45(8.1)	225(40.3)	152(27.2)	109(19.5)	27(4.8)
Under-population	45(8.1)	98(17.6)	124(22.2)	145(26.0)	146(26.2)
Poor rural/urban planning	212(38.0)	184(33.0)	85(15.2)	62(11.1)	15(2.7)
Migration	106(19.0)	164(29.4)	125(22.4)	103(18.5)	60(10.8)
Cultural related causes					
Religious crisis	91(16.3)	204(36.6)	99(17.7)	103(18.5)	61(10.9)
Ethnic/tribal crisis	189(33.9)	191(34.2)	35(6.3)	105(18.8)	38(6.8)
Language differentiation	130(23.3)	160(28.7)	94(16.8)	126(22.6)	48(8.6)

Source: Field work (2020)

This section dealt with results on the causes of youth restiveness in the study area.

The table above revealed that majority of the respondents (80.1%) agreed that poor socialization was responsible for youth restiveness. This implies that when young people fail to learn the basic norms and values of their society, they become agents of anti-social behavior. As such both the family, School and other agent of socialization need to teach young people the basic norms and value of the society. Similarly, 86.2% identified political instability /frustration as one of the causes of youth restiveness. This could be as a result of the multi- party system in the study area, where young people are recruited as political thugs to service the interest of politicians. Again, a majority of the respondents (95.1%) maintained that unemployment was the cause of youth restiveness. This shows that large numbers of unemployed young people who roam the street are predisposed to youth restive activities in their neighborhood. Similarly, (88.4%) of the respondents argued that alcohol/ drug abuse was responsible for youth restiveness. This shows that when young people indulged in alcohol intake and drug abuse, they become mentally unbalanced which predispose them to criminal behavior.

Criminal activities witnessed as a result of youth restiveness

Categories	SA (%)	A (%)	U (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
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Violent culture	158(28.3)	149(26.7)	96(17.2)	114(20.4)	41(7.3)
Kidnapping	373(66.8)	128(22.9)	35(6.3)	11(2.0)	11(2.0)
Vandalism	226(40.5)	211(37.8)	51(9.1)	60(10.8)	10(1.8)
Arson	182(32.6)	176(31.5)	136(24.4)	56(10.0)	8(1.4)
Cult activities	200(35.8)	235(42.1)	67(12.0)	35(6.3)	21(3.8)
Armed robbery	258(46.2)	207(37.1)	45(8.1)	41(7.3)	7(1.3)
Destruction of farm products	134(24.0)	165(29.6)	136(24.4)	87(15.6)	36(6.5)
Destruction of social amenities	181(32.4)	215(38.5)	68(12.2)	65(11.6)	29(5.2)
Thuggery	368(65.9)	145(26.0)	33(5.9)	12(2.2)	0(0%)
Demonstration/protest	145(26.0)	258(46.2)	80(14.3)	57(10.2)	18(3.2)
Rape	101(18.1)	192(34.4)	149(26.7)	79(14.2)	37(6.6)
Assassination	263(47.1)	222(39.8)	41(7.3)	11(2.0)	21(3.8)
Burglary	156(28.0)	317(56.8)	46(8.2)	26(4.7)	13(2.3)
Insurgency	134(24.0)	207(37.1)	103(18.5)	72(12.9)	42(7.5)
Armed conflict	102(18.3)	226(40.5)	124(22.2)	80(14.3)	26(4.7)
Wanton destruction of lives and properties	147(26.3)	207(37.1)	119(21.3)	71(12.7)	14(2.5)
Looting	195(34.9)	206(36.7)	118(21.1)	31(5.6)	8(1.4)
Terrorism	176(31.5)	206(36.9)	114(20.4)	42(7.5)	20(3.6)
Farmers/herders crisis	146(26.2)	212(38.0)	102(18.3)	64(11.5)	34(6.1)

Source: Field work (2020)

This section captured the results on criminal activities that emerged as a result of youth restiveness.

The table above, revealed that majority of the respondents (89.7%) agreed that kidnapping have been witnessed in the study area as a result of youth restiveness. Even the country has been ravaged with the incident of kidnapping. People are kidnapped on daily basis even while on transit, particularly in the northern part of the country where the study area is located. Similarly, 86.9% of the respondents identified assassination as one of the criminal activities. Killings of prominent persons for political, religious or monetary reason have bedeviled Nigeria in general and particularly the study area in recent time. Also, majority of the respondents (83.3%) maintained that armed robbery has been witnessed in the study area as a result of youth restiveness. People are robbed of their valuable things on daily basis even while on transit along the study area. Similarly, (91.9%) of the respondents argued that thuggery was one of the criminal activities witnessed. This shows that politicians also recruit young people as political thugs to promote their selfish interest and perpetuate crime in the study area. Majority of the respondents (86.9%) opined that burglary have been witnessed as a result of youth restiveness.

Summary of findings/ Conclusion



The study found that the commonest types of youth restive activities are herdsmen/farmers clash, religious violence, protest, ethnic/tribal clash as well as political clash. This is in line with the findings of scholars like Alaibe (2008), Odoh (2015) and Elegbeleye (2012) that youth restive activities have become a growing phenomenon through which young people achieve their aspiration and demand from constituted authority. This ugly scenario should be urgently tackled so as to forestall further occurrence. The study found that there are several factors responsible for youth restiveness and this includes, poor socialization, political instability/ frustration, unemployment, lack of social amenities, insecurity, migration and ethnic/tribal crisis.

Poor socialization has negative impact on individual and society at large, because if an individual lacks proper socialization, he/she is predisposed to anti-social behavior which is inimical to the society. It is a known fact that socialization begins in the family setting, when family fails to socialize their children in becoming good citizens, their children end up becoming a threat to peace and harmony of the society.

The study also found that the commonest criminal activities experienced in the study area as a result of youth restiveness are, kidnapping, thuggery, assassination and armed robbery. This is in line with the findings of Ekong (2012) that youth restiveness usually results to other criminal activities like armed robbery, kidnapping, arson, rape and stealing. Similarly, Ikoh (2016), maintained that the existence of sub-culture of violence does not only result to cult activities but also in kidnapping, robbery and formation of militias group. Kidnapping has become a trending nightmare in the country, where both the rich and poor are kidnapped for ransom before their release. The situation does not tell good of a developing country like Nigeria clamoring for foreign investors from the international community.

Recommendations

1. Government should sanction any politician or people who engage these young persons as political thugs with severe punishment. This will deter both the culprits and intending offender(s). Because these young people have become just a mere tool in the hand of politicians who make use of them to perpetuate all forms of criminality in the society.
2. Government and non-governmental organizations should educate the citizens on the dangers associated with political clashes. As politics is not a do or die affair.
3. Both government and individual groups should provide employment opportunities for the teeming youths and create skills acquisition programs for these young people as a measure to engage them in one trade or the other. This will curtail restiveness among the youths in society.
4. Government should provide adequate security measures for her citizens. This will help to combat any criminal activities that may arise as a result of youth restiveness such as political thuggery, banditry, arson amongst others.



5. School authorities, religious bodies, traditional rulers and the mass media should intensify efforts in the campaign against youth restiveness. This will help to discourage the active participation of the young people in any youth related violence in the society.

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