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EXAMINING THE CONSEQUENCES OF UNEMPLOYMENT AMONGST YOUTHS IN ABIA STATE, NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

Unemployment has been a major issue confronting most developing countries due which Abia State in Nigeria is part of thereby experiencing the associated effect from it. This study attempted to assess the consequences of unemployment amongst the youths in Abia State, Nigeria. The study adopted survey design whereas chi-square was used to analyse the data collected. The study used a total of three hundred respondents; hundred respondents were selected each from the three senatorial districts in the State using stratified sampling technique. A well-structured questionnaire was used to collect primary data for the study with a pilot study conducted to test the validity of the instrument used. The empirical result shows that youth unemployment has significant effect poverty level in Nigeria. The study also discovered that significant efforts has made by the government to eradicate the high rate of poverty in Nigeria. These results were arrived at by analysing the data generated via a well-structured questionnaire administered on indigenes and non-indigenes resident in the three senatorial districts of Abia North, Abia Central and Abia South of Abia State. The study recommended that government among other things should establish industries to ensure that jobs are created for the teaming unemployed youths as well as a review of previous policies that were implemented to eradicate unemployment so as to enable policy makes know the loopholes which existed in such policies.

Introduction

Unemployment is a global trend which occurs mostly in developing countries of the world with attendant social, economic, political and psychological impact. The existence of massive youth unemployment in any country is an indication of far more complex problem. The International Labour Organization report (2021) asserts that the proportions of world unemployment are steadily increasing and that the number of those without job remained at an all-time high of more than 195 million, or 6.3 percent. Unemployment among youths in Abia State has increasingly become a critical socio-economic problem with diverse implications for individual livelihoods, community security, and regional development. Available data shows that Abia State is among the states with a high level of unemployment rates in Nigeria, with a significant proportion of its working-age youth unable to secure gainful employment amidst limited opportunities in formal sectors such as trade, manufacturing, and agriculture.

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This ugly situation has persisted for long thus making joblessness not to only limits economic prospects but also amplifies broader social challenges within the state's youthful population (BusinessDay NG, 2024). Though it seems difficult get an harmonize data on unemployment in Nigeria, the National Bureau of Statistic (2024), posited that about 80 million Nigerian youths are unemployed, underscoring the alarming crisis of wasted potential in Africa's most populous Country. However, Nigeria's unemployment can be grouped into two categories: (1) the unemployed labour force who lost their jobs through retrenchment, redundancy, bankruptcy, recapitalization or privatization of companies; (2) the younger unemployed most of whom have never been employed (Ifeanyichukwu, 2025). This clearly indicates the presence of large army of unemployed youths in Nigeria, which is a clear case of failure of leadership to utilize abundant human and natural resources in the country to create jobs that will engage the youths in productive and meaningful economic activities (Adejumobi, 2021). It is assumed that exception of epileptic power supply, poor infrastructure and insecurity, youth unemployment is the fourth biggest challenge confronting our nation, especially, in Abia State which seen as the industrial capital of Nigeria. This phenomenon is the root cause of poverty, youth restiveness, gangsters, bank-robbery, kidnapping, assassination, lawlessness, touting and all sorts of deviant behaviors (Abdullah, et. al. (2022).

Despite being a commercial nerve centre through the industrial city of Aba, Abia State confronted with a staggering youth unemployment rate that exceeds the national average of 33.3 percent, leaving thousands of energetic graduates and artisans without a source of livelihood. This persistent joblessness has transitioned from an economic deficit to a severe security and public health crisis. Recent data from NBS (2022) indicates that approximately 62 percent of those involved in cybercrime, stealing and kidnapping in Umuahia and Aba are unemployed youths aged 18–35 (Okafor, 2023). Furthermore, the lack of productive engagement has led to an explosion in substance abuse, particularly the "Mkpuru Mmiri" (methamphetamine) epidemic, which has devastated the mental health and social stability of local communities (Adebayo & Ogunrinola, 2021; PMC, 2024). More so, Faturohim, Akbar, Hidayat, & Saksono (2023) found that four factors contribute to poverty which are education level, economic growth, health, and labor force participation rate. The level of education is the most dominant factor that plays a role in the occurrence of poverty and unemployment in any City.

Based on the report of NBS (2023), 64 million of the population of Abian are unemployed, while 1.6 million are under-employed. It is also believed that the neglect of the agricultural sector is one of the causes of the high level of unemployment since in most States, agriculture has been totally abandoned, while the youth look up to oil and politics (Okafor, 2023). The search for employment and decent livelihood has made the youth to relegate agriculture to the background thereby causing an upsurge in the unemployment rate in Nigeria (NBS, 2023). Almost all the markets and skilled business in Abia State lie waste as a result of lack of government empowerment to serve as an incentive for employment generation. National Bureau of Statistics (2024), posited that the level of unemployment in Abia State reduced from 25.1 per cent in 2007 to 11.9 per cent in 2008 but increased further to 22.8 per cent in 2010 with a drastic reduction to 11.2 per cent in 2011 compare to a State like Akwa Ibom with 18.4 per cent within the same period despite the huge revenue allocation they received from the federal government while unemployment increased to 16.25 per cent in 2014 compare to 11.9 per cent in Anambra within the same period. Relatively, the rate of increased was higher than that of Akwa Ibom State, Anambra which surrounding states thereby indicating that unemployment remains a major challenge the Abia State which confronts almost every household. Surprisingly, unemployment kept increasing on a yearly basis, this is

because as at 2023 the state of Abia registered the highest unemployment rate in Nigeria at nearly 19 percent (NBS, 2024), this has increased also in the year 2024. Therefore, this study adopts chi-square to examined the consequences of unemployment amongst youths in Abia State. In addressing this major objective, the study provided answers to the following questions; i) What is the consequence of youth unemployment on poverty in Abia State? ii) Has the government attempted to eradicate the challenges of youth unemployment in the State?

Literature review

2.1 Empirical literature

Several studies have assessed the consequences of unemployment amongst the youths both outside and within Nigeria, for instance, Waziri (2025) examined the socio-economic effects of youth unemployment in Yola South Local Government Area of Adamawa State, Nigeria. The study recognize that youth unemployment is increasingly recognized as a major obstacle to Nigeria's economic development. The study was to determine whether the high rates of poverty and crime in the area are linked to unemployment among youths. Primary data were collected through 500 questionnaires administered to youth respondents, and results were analysed using simple percentages and chi-square tests. Findings reveal that unemployment significantly contributes to drug abuse, criminal behavior, and widespread poverty among the youth population. The study concluded that youth unemployment has detrimental impacts on socio-economic development by lowering living standards and fostering social instability. In a similar study, Wani and Ahmed (2024) focused on the psychological well-being of youth and their personal experiences with the unemployment. The study draws on primary sources to provide an in-depth understanding of the effects unemployment among youth in Anantnag, Kashmir. The primary data include narratives, which are a qualitative approach that specifically emphasizes the stories of those who were unemployed. Demographic form and an interview guide were used to collect the data. An unstructured interview schedule was employed with 25 youths with ages ranging from 21 to 32 years. Data were collected from July to August 2023. Participants were selected using the snowball sampling method. All of the participants were from Anantnag, the district in Jammu and Kashmir. As per the findings of the study, unemployment causes youth to feel worthless, lose self-identity, feel shame, and experience stress. Given the possible detrimental effects of youth unemployment, efforts should be made to increase psychological support for unemployed youth to address mental health issues.

Ebimiedei, Eromhonsele and Mezieuzor (2023) examined the dynamics of the emerging problem of unemployment and cybercrime in South-East and South-South Geo-Political Zones in Nigeria. The study is an explorative study that is based on secondary data; the data were discussed with thematic content analysis. The study analytically assessed the relationship between Unemployment and Cybercrime in South Eastern and South-South Geo-Political Zones in Nigeria; Reported cases of cybercrime in South East and South-South Geo-Political Zones in Nigeria and Consequences of Cybercrime in SouthEast and South-South Geo-Political Zones in Nigeria. This study adopted both Robert K.Merton's Strain Theory (1938) and Donald McClelland Theory of Needs (1961). The findings showed that cybercrime is very high in South-East and South-South Geo-Political Zones especially in Imo state, Rivers State and Edo State. The discussion also showed that unemployment leads most youths to engage in cybercrime.

Duisekora, Keribayeva, Mustafin, Mussakhanova,Turgarmbayeva and Stukas (2022) assessed the difference between the incidence of working and unemployed youth. The study involved 536 people, from 18 to 29-years-old, among whom women - 69.2%, men - 30.8%, from all regions of Kazakhstan. The results of the work showed that the level of youth unemployment increased during the pandemic by an average of 1% in the world and in Kazakhstan, young people had limitations in receiving medical and social assistance due to financial constraints, deficiency of health insurance and personal reluctance. It was also found that social status is a significant predictor of vaccination (beta = −0.225, R2 = 0.0507, p < 0.001) and a predictor of alcohol consumption (beta = −0.0908, R2 = 0.00824, p = 0.037). More often unemployed youth noted health problems over the past year (42.3%) than in other social groups (35.6–37.8%), a similar situation was observed when assessing the frequency of chronic diseases (p = 0.365). The result show that the decline in health by virtue of unemployment is likely to be significant, since our estimated effect implies that the health of young people is almost 10% worse (in absolute terms) due to unemployment compared to the employed population.

Kumar and Shobana (2024) investigated the various factors, such as educational mismatches, economic transformations, and demographic pressures, that contribute to the high levels of unemployment among young people in India. Youth unemployment has significant ramifications, affecting the overall welfare of individuals, the stability of the economy, and the cohesion of society. The severe consequences include heightened dependency ratios, mental health disorders, and the possibility of social upheaval. The study also examines other policy measures taken to alleviate teenage unemployment, including skill enhancement programmes, incentives for entrepreneurship, and active labour market regulations. The study seeks to analyse these interventions in order to uncover efficacious tactics and optimal approaches to tackle youth unemployment in India. investigated the socio-economic impact of unemployment among the youths in the Federal Capital

Kenneth and Faith (2019) investigated the socio-economic impact of unemployment among the youths in the Federal Capital City of Abuja-Nigeria: using Abaji Area Council as a case study. The research also examines; the Socio-economic characteristic of the youths in Abaji Area Council; trend of unemployment rate; factors responsible for the unemployment as well as the effects of unemployment among the youths in the study area. Data were derived directly from the field using questionnaire administration method as well as field interview. At the end of the research, it was revealed that; lack of technical know-how, political affiliations, population explosion amongst others were the main causes of unemployment among the youths in Abaji Area Council. The study also showed that; increased crime rates, pressure on infrastructures and basic amenities, hunger and poverty, loss of confidence towards the government and social vices are consequences of youth unemployment in the study area.

2.2 Theoretical framework

The classical theory of unemployment was propounded by Adam Smith and Pigou in the year 1776 and the theory posited that unemployment has been looked upon in terms of aggregates since free market ensure full employment. The theory maintained that involuntary unemployment was a short-term phenomenon resulting from a disc-discrepancy between the price level and the wage level and explained further that unemployment was the result of high real wages. At times the wage level in the classical view would be reduced and there would be no unemployment except for frictional search unemployment caused by time delay between quitting one job and starting another. The theory related with the study

largely due to the believe that unemployment is a fallout of poor renumeration. Similarly, the Keynesian theory of unemployment postulated by John Maynard Keynes in 1930s helped revolutionized thinking in several areas of macroeconomics including unemployment, money supply, and inflation which is seen in his publication of 1936 as the general theory of unemployment interest and money". The theory viewed unemployment as demand deficient driven, its occurs when there is no aggregate demand in the economy. It is relevant in the study in the sense that unemployment occurs when the demand for output of the firm reduced.

The efficiency wage theory which was propounded by Stiglitz, Akerlof and Yellen in the 70s suggest that firms pay higher than market wages to boost productivity and reduce turnover in other to encourage gainful employment. In other words, some people are lazier than others and are therefore less likely to work harder. The effort is a function of costly monitoring i.e. if you are being closely monitored than if you not. An employer cares about the cost of labour (the wage rate). This indicates that wages is a key factor that drives unemployment generally.

The search theory of unemployment was propounded by Stigler in 1961 and the theory was later developed into dynamic models by John McCall in 1970. The theory identified unemployment as rational, information seeking process, the further argued that unemployment is a result of employers quitting their job to search for a new and better-paid job. This involves a certain optimum time spent searching in order to find the best paid job while searching, the worker is employed. This theory is relevant to the study because it that unemployment occurs due to lack of information on the opportunities available for unique skill linking employers and employees.

3 Methodology

3.1 Research design

The study employs survey design which requires the use of questionnaire collect data that will enable the researcher draw conclusion. Inferences about interactions amongst variables are made without direct intervention from concomitant variation of independent and dependent variables. The study was conducted in Abia State. Abia was created out of former Imo State in 1997. It comprises of eighteen Local Government Areas which is divided into three (3) senatorial districts, namely; Abia North, Abia Central and Abia South. The three local government areas were carefully selected from the three senatorial districts of the state to enhance effective representation. In the Northern senatorial district, Ohafia was selected, in the central senatorial district, Isiala Ngwa North and in the South, Aba North Local Government Areas were chosen. This selection was intended to ensure effective representation of the entire state in the study. The purposive sampling technique was used to randomly select 300 respondents from the indigenes and non-indigenes resident in the three local government areas. This population is drawn from the total population of about 4.1 million in Abia State as Projected by NBS (2024) based on 2006 census. This was to ensure equal representation for the youths in the three senatorial districts.

3.2   Sampling technique

The sampling technique adopted in the study is the stratified sampling method. The method involved dividing the population into its strata from which random samples are drawn from the population. It was appropriate as it helped the researcher to divide it's the sample audience across the

three senatorial districts of the state. According to McCombes (2023), sampling technique means allows the researcher to give every member equal and independent opportunity of being selected. However, to select three local government areas, one from each senatorial district, the research used the purposive sampling method. This was characterized by the use of judgment and deliberate effort to obtain representativeness of the areas chosen. As such, three local government area selected are very vital in its senatorial district. The main purpose of using simple random sampling technique is to compose a sample that will yield research data that can be generalized to larger population.

3.3   Sample

To ensure the achievement of the objective of the study, purposive sample was used in combination with stratified sample to select three hundred (300) respondents randomly from the three Local Government Areas to represent the three senatorial districts of the state out of the 4.1 million population of Abia State. A breakdown of the figure shows that (100) respondents were randomly selected from each of the local government area representing the three senatorial districts.

3.4   Instrumentation

The study made use of a well constructed questionnaire designed by the researcher with the help of an experts for a pilot survey and the main study. The questionnaire was divided into two main sections. Section A was design to collect the respondents' personal data such as sex, age, qualification and marital status etc. Section C contains a ten (10) item closed-ended questions that were asked for the respondents to tick either Yes or No. The choice of questionnaire was important in this study because it does not call for personal identification, there was greater impersonality. It also helped the researcher to elicit more candid and objective information from the respondents.

3.5 Method of data analysis

The data collected through a questionnaire was analysed using chi-square (χ^2) method. The usefulness of chi-square method in this study is due to the fact that the method is designed to test the significance of the difference between a set of observed frequencies expected on the basis of a set of hypotheses concerning the population of study. The expected frequencies are most often those which would be found if the population is assumed to consist of chance events or observations. By formula, the chi-square (χ^2) is given thus; $X^2 = \frac{\Sigma(OE-EF)}{\Sigma EF}$

Where: OE   =   the observed frequencies; EF = the expected frequencies

Σ =   the sum; χ^2 =   the Chi-Square.

The chi-square method compares the deviation of the sample frequencies per class or category from the hypothetical frequencies for each class or category studied.

Presentation of data and discussion of findings

4.1. Data presentation

This is concerned with the presentation and interpretation of data obtained from the field. The data used were obtained from the questionnaires administered and coded to allow for analysis. Due to the nature of the research and the target population, it was possible to administer three hundred (300) questionnaires and two hundred and fifty were returned. The table below shows the number of questionnaires administered those that were successfully filled and returned and the ones that were not filled at all and no returned.

Table 1: Summary of respondents

Questionnaires	Responses According to Category		Total	Percentage Responses
	Indigenes	Non-Indigenes		
Returned	138	112	250	83.33%
Not Returned	21	29	50	16.67%
Total No.	**159**	**141**	**300**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

According to Table 1 above, it is evidence that of the one hundred and fifty-nine (159) questionnaires administered to indigenes of Abia State, one hundred and thirty-eight (138) were returned and twenty-one (21) were not returned. It further revealed that one hundred and fourty-one (141) questionnaires administered to non-indigenes of Abia State, one hundred and twelve (112) were returned while twenty-nine (2) were not returned. Thus, bringing the total number of questionnaires returned to two hundred to fifty. This means that 83 percent of the questionnaires were returned while 17 percent were not returned.

Table 2: Statistical Distribution to question 7 of the questionnaires:

Is unemployment the major cause of poverty in Abia State?

Responses	Responses According to Category		Total	Percentage Responses
	Indigenes	Non-Indigenes		
YES	115	84	199	79.6%
NO	23	28	51	20.4%
Total No.	**138**	**112**	**250**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

From Table 2, it indicates that out of two hundred and fifty (250) respondents, 199 representing 79.6 percent of the sample size agreed that unemployment causes poverty in Abia State while 51 respondents representing 20.4 percent answered that it does not.

Table 3: Statistical distribution of response to question 10:

Does youth unemployment increase criminality, poverty and vulnerability in the state?

Responses	Responses according to Category		Total	Percentage Responses
	Indigenes	Non-Indigenes		

YES	124	104	228	91.2%
NO	14	8	22	8.8%
Total No.	138	112	250	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

Table 3 above shows that out of two hundred and fifty questionnaires retuned, two hundred and twenty-eight representing 91.2 percent of the sample size agreed that youth unemployment apart from leading to increases in poverty, also leads to an increase in criminality and vulnerability in the state while the remaining twenty-two (22) which represents 8.8 percent are of the view that it does not.

Table 4: Statistical Distribution of Respondent to Question 4:

Has the government shown significant willingness to tackle unemployment through the establishment of industries?

Responses	Responses according to Category		Total	Percentage Responses
	Indigenes	**Non-Indigenes**		
YES	65	52	117	46.8%
NO	73	60	133.	53.2%
Total No.	138	112	250	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

According to table 4 as presented above, out of the two hundred and fifty (250) respondents, one hundred and seventeen (117) representing 46.8 percent of the sample size agreed that government has shown significant effort to tackle unemployment through the establishment of industries while 133 respondents representing 53.2 percent disagreed with the view that government has shown significant efforts at tackling unemployment through the establishment of industries.

Table 5: Statistical Distribution of Respondent to Question 5:

Should government be blamed for youth unemployment in Abia State?

Responses	Responses according to Category		Total	Percentage Responses
	Indigenes	**Non-Indigenes**		
YES	120	86	206	82.4%
NO	18	26	44	17.6%
Total No.	138	112	250	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2026

From table 5 above, it indicates that 206 of the respondents' representing 82.4 percent agreed that government should be blamed for youth unemployment in Abia State while 44 representing 17.6 percent maintained that government should not be blamed for the persistence level of unemployment in Abia State.

4.2 Analysis of result and test of hypotheses

4.2.2 Analysis of result

In table 2, the higher number of respondents representing 79.6 percent of the sample size responded to the question positively indicating that unemployment is the major cause of poverty in Abia State, while the other 20.4 percent of the sample size responded negatively showing that they disagree with the view that unemployment is the major cause of poverty in Abia. More so, in table 3, 91.2 percent of the respondents responded that youth unemployment increases criminality, poverty and vulnerability in the state while the remaining 8.8 and of the respondents responded that youth unemployment does not increase criminality, poverty and vulnerability in the state.

4.2.2 Test of hypotheses

Test of hypotheses refers to procedures which enables the researcher to accept or reject hypothesis, or to determine whether observed samples differ significantly from expected result. In testing a given hypothesis, there is bound to be wrong decision or error in judgment. In this research work, 5 percent level of significance is chosen in designing the test of hypothesis. This implies that the researcher is 95 percent confident of making the right decision. The decision rule is to accept the null hypothesis only when the tabulated value of the test statistics is greater than the calculated value of chi-square distribution with the approximate number of degrees of freedom i.e. Accept H_0: if $\chi_T^2 > \chi_C^2$ - Reject H_1

Accept H_1 $\chi_C^2 < \chi_T^2$ - Reject H_0

Test of Hypothesis One

H_0: Youth unemployment has no significant effect on the poverty level of Nigeria especially in Abia State.

To test this hypothesis, question 7 and 10 were asked to solicit information relating to the above hypothesis. Percentage responses in answer to the questions are given in the table below;

Table 6: Observed χ2 Table (fo)

Question No.	Responses		Total
	YES	NO	
7	199	51	250
10	228	22	250
Total	427	73	500

Source: Author's Computation, 2026

From the above table, the expected frequencies (*fe*) are computed using the formula:

$$fe = X^2 = \frac{RT \ x \ CT}{GT}$$

Where; RT = Row Total; CT = Column Total; GT = Grand Total (Total Respondents)

Item 1 =	e of 199	=	$\frac{427 \times 250}{500}$	=	213.5
Item 2 =	e of 51	=	$\frac{73 \times 250}{500}$	=	36.5
Item3 =	e of 228	=	$\frac{427 \times 250}{500}$	=	213.5
Item 4 =	e of 22	=	$\frac{73 \times 250}{500}$	=	36.5

Source: Author's computation, 2026

Table 7: Expected Frequencies (*ƒe*)

Question No.	Responses		Total
	YES	NO	
7	213.5	36.5	250
10	213.5	36.5	250
Total	427	73	500

Source: Author's computation, 2026

Table 8: Computed Chi-Square (χ^2)

Call	O	E	O-E	(O-E)2	(O-E)$^{2/E}$
1	199	213.5	-14.5	210.3	0.985
2	51	36.5	14.5	210.3	5.762
3	228	213.5	14.5	210.3	0.985
4	22	36.5	-14.5	210.3	5.762
χ_C^2 = **13.494**					

Source: Author's computation, 2026

Degree of Freedom (*df*) = *(Row Total -1) (Column Total -1)*

= (2-1) (2-1) = 1 x 1 = 1

At 5 percent level of significance and 1 degree of freedom, the critical value (tabulated value) is $\chi_T^2 = 3.84$ since the χ_T^2 (tabulated value) of 3.84 is less than the χ_C^2 (computed value) of 13.494. We reject H0 and conclude that youth unemployment has significant effect on the poverty level of Nigeria especially in Abia State.

Test of Hypothesis Two

H$_0$:   There is no significant effort by Nigeria government to reduce/eradicate youth unemployment.

To test this hypothesis, question 4 and 5 were asked to solicit information relating to the above hypothesis. Percentage responses in answer to the questions are given in the table below;

Table 9: Observed χ2 Table (*fo*)

Question No.	Responses		Total
	YES	NO	
4	117	133	250
5	206	44	250
Total	**323**	**177**	**500**

Source: Author's computation, 2026

From the above table, the expected frequencies (fe) are computed using the formula;

$$f e \quad = \quad \frac{RT \times CT}{GT}$$

Where; RT   = Row Total; CT = Column Total; GT = Grand Total (Total Respondents)

Item 1 =	e of 117	=	$\frac{323 \times 250}{500}$	=	161.5
Item 2 =	e of 133	=	$\frac{177 \times 250}{500}$	=	88.5
Item 3 =	e of 206	=	$\frac{323 \times 250}{500}$	=	161.5
Item 4 =	e of 44	=	$\frac{177 \times 250}{500}$	=	88.5

Source: Author's computation, 2026

Table 10: Expected Frequencies (ƒe)

Question No.	Responses		Total
	YES	NO	
4	161.5	88.5	250
5	161.5	88.5	250
Total	**323**	**177**	**500**

Source: Author's computation, 2026

Table 11: Computed Chi-Square (χ2)

Call	O	E	O-E	(O-E)2	(O-E)$^{2/E}$
1	117	s161.5	-44.5	1980.3	12.26
2	133	88.5	44.5	1980.3	22.38
3	206	161.5	44.5	1980.3	12.26
4	44	88.5	-44.5	1980.3	22.38
χc^2 = 69.28					

Source: Author's computation, 2026

Degree of Freedom (*df*)   =   *(Row Total -1) (Column Total -1)*

= (2-1) (2-1) = 1 x 1 = 1

At 5 percent level of significance and 1 degree of freedom, the critical value (Tabulated Value is χT2 = 3.84. Therefore, since the computed value of 69.28 is greater than the tabulated value of 3.84, we reject the null hypothesis (H0) and accept the alternate hypothesis (H1) which states that Nigeria government has made significant effort at reducing/eradicating youth unemployment in the country.

4.4.   Discussion of findings

Unemployment has been a major challenge confronting developing countries like Nigeria. In Abia State as observed the rate of unemployment has been on the increase over the years, which has raised serious concerns due to the associated effects of unemployment especially in a country like Nigeria where more than 60 percent of the populations are the youths. This implies that as youth unemployment increases, the challenges confronting the economy will be increased. This marked the major reason the study was focused on the consequence of unemployment in Nigeria using Abia State as a case study. From the analysis, it has been revealed that youth unemployment is the major factor that leads to poverty in Abia State, this supports the findings of Adebayo & Ogunrinola, 2021; PMC, 2024 that youth unemployment is one of the contributing factors to the high level of poverty in Abia State. This may be attributed to the fact that the youth constitute a higher percentage of the population of the State in particular. Therefore, with the high level of unemployment in the state, especially among the youth, dependency ratio significantly increases, leading to high level of poverty in the long run. This high level of poverty also translates into societal ills like high crime, prostitution, kidnapping, insurgency etc.

However, the study discovered that in spite of the high rate of unemployment in the state as corroborated by Okafor (2023), government have made significant efforts towards the creation of jobs through SURE-P, YOUWIN, Entrepreneurship Development centres (EDC) and the recent small and micro-enterprises

loan scheme all by the federal government. Though the state and local governments have also implemented programs aimed at employment generation but the level of unemployment is far from reducing (Abdullah, et. al., 2022). Based on the existing realities, it means either a greater percentage of the unemployed youths are not willing to identify with these programs or the program implementations have loss focus in tackling the problem of youth unemployment in the State.

Summary and conclusion

The study aimed at assessing the consequence of youth unemployment in Nigeria using Abia State as a case study. In order to achieve this objective, a well-structured questionnaire was administered to generate data required for analysis. Chi-square was adopted to analyse the data generated and the result reveals that youth unemployment has significant effect on the poverty level in Abia State and that Nigerian government has made significant efforts at eradicating youth unemployment. These means that unemployment is one of the factors that affect Abia State government, private sector and other development partners' needs to work assiduously together towards ameliorating the menace of unemployment in Nigeria and Abia State in particular. The issue of unemployment has continued to be a major concern to successive government in Nigeria and to the international community. This is imperative due to the associated effects of unemployment especially in the developing countries which lacks social insurance scheme to cushion this effect. This study attempted to assess the implications of unemployment in Abia Sate and from findings, the study discovered that the high incidence of poverty in Abia State is attributed to the level of unemployment in the state. Apart from that, it has been revealed that government has made significant efforts to eradicate this evil called unemployment. Hence renewed vigor is imperative to stem the tides of unemployment in Abia State.

Policy recommendation

Base on the findings of the study, the study recommended that i) Government needs to establish industries to ensure jobs are created for our teaming youths. These industries will help engage our youths in meaningful and more rewarding activities. ii) Government needs to review precious attempts to eradicate unemployment in the country so as to understand the challenges. This will enable them assess the performance of those policies as well as identify areas that requires improvement. iii) Government must take census of the number of youths in need of employment and the kind of jobs they are interested in this will enable government know the kind of industries or vocational skills required for these set of people. iv) The youths should he made an integral part of government policies so as to enable government and other development partners know their challenges so as to strategies on how to tackle them.

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