JOURNAL OF POLITICAL DISCOURSE
ISSN Print: 2992-2763 – ISSN Online: 2992-4618 | Vol. 2, Issue 4, No. 1 / December 2024
https://www.jopd.com.ng

UNEMPLOYMENT AMID EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN KATSINA STATE, NIGERIA: AN ANALYTICAL REVIEW

Isiyaku Adamu
Department of Political Science
Federal University Dutsin-Ma
isiyaku.adamu001144@gmail.com
08055553546

Abstract
This study is conducted to analytically examine the employment opportunities in agricultural sector in Katsina State as well as the challenges faced by the citizens of the State, especially youth, in grabbing the opportunities. By utilizing content analysis method where published academic writings were reviewed, the study found that Katsina State has an available farmland area of about one million, six hundred and forty thousand hectares (1,640,000 ha) with an identifid *Fadama* land area of thirty six thousand, one hundred and thirty-nine thousand hectares (36,139 ha). And that the suitability of the land for farming also makes it possible and suitable for rearing livestock such as sheep, cattle, camels, goats, and paultry. In addition, there existed several irrigation sites distributed all over the State and more areas are reported to have been being developed for dry farming to serve as complement to rain-fed agricutlrue. However, the high level of insecurity in the form of armed banditry affecting the State, especially the rural areas where the agricultural activities takeplace, makes it impossible for many unemployed people to take the opportunity of engaging into the agricultural sector. Thus, it is recommended among other recommendations that government should device means that ensure the end of armed banditry activities or at least render it ineffective for people to be able to utilize the available farmland and be self-employed

Keywords: Unemployment, Employment Opportunities, Agriculture, farmland, and Insecurity

Introduction

Since unemployment is a social problem that leads to poverty and undermines a stable and expanding economic system. It is a global phenomenon and crises that every government attempts to address as unemployed youth account for 60% of Africa's jobless population (Ademike, 2021). According to Falade and Babatunde (2020), it is a circumstance in which a person or a government is unable to possess or provide a wage service, rendering the productive class unproductive. They further stated that Nigeria's high rate of political and socioeconomic crimes is what led to the country's current high unemployment rate. According to Adelowokan, Maku, Babasanya, and Adesoya (2019), economic development and growth, which were predicted to encourage a decline in the unemployment rate, have instead led to even worse social and economic consequences. According to them, the government's inability to address Nigeria's persistently high unemployment rate by taking into account the number of graduates produced annually by all postsecondary institutions across the nation exacerbates the vulnerability-causing circumstances (Adelowokan, Maku, Babasanya, & Adesoya, 2019). According to Aiyedogbon and Ohwofasa (2012), Nigeria's high unemployment rate is one of the major socioeconomic issues the nation faces, given the country's expanding workforce and thousands of new graduates each year. There are not enough jobs available to accommodate the growing number of young people without jobs. Abubakar (2021) claims that the high rate of unemployment in Nigeria has hindered young people's ability to make significant

contributions to the country's development. The national unemployment rate in Nigeria conceals notable differences in the unemployment rates of the various states.

Despite Nigeria's abundant natural resources and green landscape, the nation is confronted with the pressing issues of unemployment and poverty. Approximately 70% of the population lives on less than 0.7 US$ per day, and the youth unemployment rate hovers around 90% (Abang & Ayamba, 2021). Abang and Ayamba argue that the development of agriculture serves as a crucial tool in addressing the challenges of unemployment among Nigerians. Etale, Suwari, and Adaka (2021) suggest that a country that effectively enhances its agricultural sector can overcome significant obstacles it faces. They note that Nigeria, a third world nation in Sub-Saharan Africa, possesses substantial agricultural potential with a land area of around 98 million hectares, 72.4% of which is arable and 27.6% non-arable. Considering the pivotal role of agriculture in the advancement of humanity and its contribution to providing livelihoods, the sustainable agriculture is a paramount concern for governments globally. Adeola and Oluwafemi (2014) emphasized the necessity for governments at all levels to prioritize enhancement of agriculture. They highlighted various initiatives in Nigeria such as the National Accelerated Food Production Programme (NAFPP), Green Revolution, and Operation Feed the Nation (OFN), aimed at boosting agricultural productivity. Nonetheless, these efforts have not yielded significant outcomes. Manyong, Ikpi, Olayemi, Yusuf, and Idachaba (2003) underscored the importance of identifying and addressing the constraints and obstacles hindering the success of agricultural programmes through strategic investments in the sector.

Katsina State, situated in the North Western region of Nigeria, boasts a population of 9,300,382 by the year 2023 as projected by the National Population Commission (City Population, 2024). This Nigerian State is positioned entirely within the tropical zone, experiencing a distinct division between rainy and dry seasons spanning from May to October and November to April, respectively. Encompassing a total land area of 24,192 square kilometers, Katsina State allocates 67% of this expanse, equivalent to 1.60 million hectares, for agricultural purposes. The primary factors influencing agricultural productivity in the State include the availability of suitable land and an adequate water supply, facilitating year-round cultivation of diverse crops and livestock (Katsina Investment Promotion Agency, 2023).

The agricultural commodities produced in the State offer a substantial foundation of raw materials for a diverse array of sectors including oil and flour processing, textile production, and dairy manufacturing. This assertion is grounded on the recognition that the State is renowned for its significant cultivation of guinea corn, millet, groundnut, beans, maize, wheat, rice, and notably, serves as the leading contributor to cotton production nationwide (Katsina State Investor's Handbook I, 2016). Despite the presence of arable land in Katsina State, which is deemed sufficient to sustain a comfortable livelihood for its inhabitants and even facilitate exports to other states and neighboring countries such as Niger Republic, and 61 bodies of water that are suitable for irrigation (the majority of which has a combined water surface area of 558Cum situated at Jibia, Sabke and Gwaigwaye (Katsina State Government, 2016), there persists a pronounced unemployment rate within the State. As highlighted by Ladan (2019), this dilemma is particularly evident among numerous young individuals, notably recent graduates from institutions of higher learning, who eagerly await opportunities for employment by the state government - an entity that stands as the predominant employer in the State, primarily due to the scarcity of industrial enterprises. This is the foundation for the study's exploration of the myriad covered opportunities for self-employment that exist for Katsina State's teaming youth.

Conceptual Clarification

Unemployment, especially among the youth, is a global issue that affects both advanced and less advanced nations alike. However, according to Adebinpe, Adetunji, Nwachukwu and Hieu (2021), while the advanced nations are in the position to take the threat posed by the menance of unemployment seriously and restructuring their social and educational security systems to abate its growth and avoid the eminent catastrophic retrenchments, less advanced nations seem not to be doing enough about the issue. Adamu (2023) defines unemployment as a condition whereby individuals who are willing and capable to work are unable to get a suitable job that would sustain their lives. Based on this definition, it is obvious that once an individual is engaged in doing anything that brings in income to sustain one's life that person is said to be employed. However, to Abdulrahman and Abdulyakeen (2021), Unemployment is not only limited to a situation where those who are willing and able to work cannot find a job, but also include those employed but are either placed in a lower position or are paid less than what persons with their skills and qualifications earn. Unemployment, as indicated by Ibrahim and Ojetola (2022), is one of the major economic and social challenges of this decade across the globe and specifically in the African continent. The long spells of which can posed a serious longterm effects for its victims such as social exclusion and reduced earnings.

Okoye and Obi (2022) defined unemployment as a term refering to people who are employable, and at the same time seeking a job, but are unable to find one. However, Oseni and Oseni (2015) argued that not all people who are willing and capable of working but are unable to find one are considered unemployed rather, only those who fall within the category and are between the age of 15 and 64. This means that those who are either blow the age of 15 or above the age of 64 cannot be regarded as unemployed. To Okoye and Obi, in less developed nations and especially Nigeria, the issue of unemployment is a very serious one as it occupied a central place in economic discuss. This assertion was earlier indicated by National Bureau of Statistics as that unemployment is one of the most critical problems Nigeria is facing. And in spite of all the efforts by the previous administration at reducing the level of unemployment, the rate is still increasing (National Bureau of Statistics , 2010). The National Bureau of Statistics reported that the only percentage of those who ae eligible to work and are fully employed is only 36.75% (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). United Nations reported that during the previous Common Country Analysis (CCA) in 2016, the unemployment rate stood at 14.2% which subsequently increased to 23.1% in 2018, when the labour force survey ahead of the COVID-19 pandemic was conducted. The rate of unemployment for people between the ages of 15 and 24 has increased from 36.5% in 2018 from 25.2$ in 2016 (United Nations, 2022).

According to Egunjobi (2014), the problem of unemployment in Nigeria is recently deep and widespread, that cut across all aspects of age groups, educational strata, and geographical entities. Unemployment has been classified as one of the serious hindrances of social development. Apart from it representing a lot of waste of a country's human resources, it generates welfare loss in terms of lower income and well-being of the citizens. In addition to the economic waste it brings to the nation and constitutes political unrest for the country, it increases the rate of poverty as well (Adamu, 2023). Ibrahim and Ojetola (2022) observed that unemployment in Nigeria is resultant of various factor – one of which is the population growth. The increase in the population resulted in an overwhelming increase in the ablebodied population thereby giving birth to an increase in the size of the working age population. They also indicated that lack of employable skills resulting from inappropriate school curricula form part of the major factors that increase the rate of unemployment in Nigeria.

Methodology

This research utilized exclusively secondary data derived directly from published academic journals, online articles, newspaper sources, and other pertinent documents relevant to the subject under investigation. In the selection of the documents required for this research, the researchers confined their focus to those pertaining to the dimensions of employment and unemployment, particularly within the context of Nigeria and specifically Katsina State, as well as those emphasizing the identification of opportunities within the agricultural sector.

Enpirical Review of Literature

Various studies, such as those mentioned below, have been conducted to examine the level of unemployment in Nigeia in genral and Katsina State in particular. The researcher, however, has not encountered any literature focusing on the exploration of concealed job opportunities for individuals in Katsina State in the agricultural secotr; thus, this has served as the rationale behind this investigation. Adelowokan, Maku, Babasanya, and Adesoya (2019) delved into the nexus among unemployment, poverty, and economic development in Nigeria spanning from 1985 to 2015. Their findings revealed the absence of a sustained correlation between unemployment, poverty, and economic advancement in the country. Nyong (2013) conducted a study titled "Unemployment Convergence among the 36 States in Nigeria" with the objective of scrutinizing the distinctions and resemblances in poverty levels across the federating states. The research ultimately posited that 30 out of the 36 states exhibit unemployment rates aligning with structuralist theory, as they remain stationary with intermittent breaks. Falade and Babatunde (2020) conducted an examination into the impacts of government expenditure on both unemployment and poverty within Nigeria spanning from 1980 to 2017. The outcomes of the investigation suggest that poverty is deeply rooted in Nigeria and displays notable variations in the consequences of distinct elements of public expenditure on unemployment. A scrutiny carried out by Nwagwu (2014) sought to explore the relationship between unemployment, poverty, and the insecurity of lives and properties in Nigeria. The primary objective of the research was to determine whether the escalating trend of violence in Nigeria stems from unemployment, with the results indicating a direct association between unemployment, poverty, and security challenges in the nation.

Osinubi (2005) conducted a study aimed at examining the interplay between unemployment, poverty, and economic growth in Nigeria; as well as proposing strategies for fostering growth that leads to a reduction in unemployment and poverty within the country. In a similar vein, Siyan, Adegoriola, and Adolphus (2016) undertook a research endeavor to explore the impact of unemployment and inflation on poverty levels in Nigeria spanning from 1980 to 2014. The findings indicated a bidirectional relationship between unemployment and the prevalence of poverty, along with a unidirectional relationship between the unemployment rate and inflation rate. Emmanuel (2018) carried out a study titled 'Unemployment, poverty, and corruption in Nigeria' with the purpose of investigating how unemployment and poverty contribute to corruption in Nigeria during the period from 2006 to 2016. The results of this investigation demonstrated a positive correlation between unemployment, poverty, and corruption. Lawal, Usman, and Muhammad (2023) investigate how the unorganized sector helps Katsina State, Nigeria, lower unemployment and boost economic growth. The obtained result showed that unemployment in the study area and the informal sector are positively correlated. Emeh (2012) looks into the strategies for addressing youth unemployment in Nigeria's Lagos State. The findings of which demonstrated that youth unemployment is concerning, that youth empowerment and development can reduce youth unemployment, that high unemployment exists in Lagos State as a result of the migration of people seeking better opportunities across the nation, and that the state government of Lagos State has implemented numerous youth empowerment and development initiatives to address youth unemployment in the State.

Muhammad and David (2019) investigate the nature of the connection between the twin issues of poverty and unemployment in Niger State, Nigeria, Andow and Umaru (2019) found that the Nasiru El-Rufai administration in Kaduna State was aiming to address poverty and unemployment as two socioeconomic issues. In a similar vein, Olotu, Salami, and Akeremale (2015) found that the number of graduates produced each year and the Nigerian labor market's inability to provide gainful employment have caused the country's unemployment rate to rise to an alarming level over the past ten years. The relationship between public debt, poverty, and unemployment in Nigeria was examined by Okoye and Obi (2022). Egunjobi (2014) sought to ascertain the nature of the connection between unemployment and poverty from 1977 to 2010. Odeh and Okoye (2014) investigated the dynamics between youth unemployment in Nigeria and policies aimed at reducing poverty. Ademike (2021) looked at how unemployment, poverty, and insecurity interacted in Nigeria and how unemployment and poverty responded to the start of the country's conflict. Okorie and Anowor (2017) investigated the connection between poverty incidence and unemployment rates in Nigeria. The aforementioned makes it clear that, despite the best efforts of researchers, no studies have been done to investigate the range of employment options available to Nigerians, particularly those in Katsina State.

To fill this gap, the study employs an opportuity cost theory/comparative advantage theory which is an economic theory that refutes the idea of having it all when resources are limited. The term opportunity cost was first developed by Professor Friedrich von Wieser (1914) who was a member of the Austrian School of Economics. Other proponent of the theory include David Ricardo and Heckscher-Ohlin. Opportunity cost, as suggested by these scholars, represents the value that is relinquished by the government, corporation, or individual when opting for one alternative over another, whether it involves a financial loss or the expenditure of time and effort (Caldwell, 2024). This implies that the framework is established on the premise that governments, corporate entities, and individuals encounter diverse demands that cannot all be met simultaneously due to limited resources; consequently, in prioritizing the most esteemed ones, others must be sacrificed, which are identified as opportunity costs. This theoretical framework offers a solution to various governments when it comes to determining which among their numerous initiatives should be prioritized for implementation and which should be deferred temporarily.Katsina State benefits from a significant amount of farmlands, accounting for 67% of the State's landmass, equivalent to 1.60 million hectares, coupled with sufficient water supply to support year-round cultivation of a variety of crops and livestock (Katsina Investment Promotion Agency, 2023). Therefore, it is recommended that the government prioritize agriculture during resource allocation by providing modern farming methods and cutting-edge agricultural technologies. Involvement in agricultural pursuits by the government, often perceived as activities for rural and uneducated individuals, has the potential to attract the interest of the youth in the State, enlightening them about the inherent benefits within their reach. This initiative would not only offer employment opportunities to unemployed youth and migrants but also generate revenue for the government to address unmet needs.

Impact of Unemployment on Nigerian Economic Growth and Development

The level of economic growth and development of any nation is by and large dependent upon the degree to which the various potentials of its youth are utilized and harnassed by the government (Abubakar, 2021). Abubakar argued that youth are the engineers for positive changes in both urban and rural areas; their vigour, energy, character, inventiveness, and orientation define the pace of development of any socieity. according to him, however, in Nigeria, the increasing level of unemployment has contributed in no small measure in undermining effort of youth to meaningfully contribute to natonal development (Abubakar, 2021). Adelowokan, Maku, Babasanya and Adesoya (2019) emphasized that a

high rate of unemployment is considered one of the most critical economic problems facing Nigeria. This is because, while the workforce of the country's economy continues to grow day-in-day-out, the labour market does not increase to the degree of absorbing the rising number of unemployed youth. And a considerable number of those who were lucky to be in the labour market are underemployed who are underpaid even though the work longer hours and engage in hazardous jobs. This situation, as outlined by Tello and Alimi (2016), leads to a number of economic challenges that resulted in the increase in the number of poor people in the country. Similarly, Nyong (2013) argued that the high level of unemployment in Nigeria is the major factor that behind the promotion and propogation of not only high rate of poverty, but also insecurity and different forms of crime among youth includng kidnapping and armed robbery.

Unemployment, as reflected by the labour market, is the broadest indicator of economic activities (Nwagwu, 2014). According to him, the Nigerian Youth Empowerment Action Plan (NIYEAP) showed that within the period of 2009 to 2011, the number of unemployed youth seeking for jobs was within the region of 13 million. The results of this rapid growth of youth unemployment are grave and manifested in youth militancy and restiveness such as Movement for Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra, Niger Delta Avengers, Oduduwa People's Congress, Boko Haram, and many others (Nwagwu, 2014). Emmanuel (2018) emphasizes on the impact of unemployment on the nation's economy where he indicated that unemployment causes frustration, extreme anxiety, sadness, and relience upon friends and family members. He further explaind that this precarious condition has left the youth in a vicious cycle of poverty that continue to erodes their confidence and bright future. This bad experience can easily indoctrinated them into illigal activities that always brought the nation down to its knees (Emmanuel, 2018). Lawal, Usman and Muhammad (2023), explained that as a result of the increasing unemployment rate in Nigeria, there have been adverse effects on both the economy and the socieity. according to them, the consequences of unemployment in the countries include an increase in the rural-urban migration, reduction in the national ouput of both goods and services, increase in the number of dependent people, high level of poverty, and high rate of crimes leading to current insecurity in the country (Lawal, Usman, & Muhammad, 2023).

In spite of the fact that various programmes and policies targeted at reducing the level of unemployment in Nigeria were implemented to provide viable solutions to the menace, the level of unemployment in the counry is still on the increased (Nyong, 2013). Of the most notable policies implemented to address the problem of unemployment in Nigeria as stated by Hussaini (2014), and Onah and Olise (2019), the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) which was established in 1986 with the main aim of creating employment opportunities for the Nigerian youth; the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NEEDS) established in 2003, the Small and Medium Scale Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), and the National Social Investment Programme (N-SIP) in 2016 which was made up of four sub-programme all targeting, in one way or the other, at creating employment opportunities - Government Enterprise Empowerment Programme (GEEP), Home Grown School Feed (HGSF) programme, Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), and N-Power Programme (Onah & Olise, 2019). According to Siyan, Adegoriola and Adolphus (2016), situation in Nigeria is disturbing as the various economic policies brought about by the government were unable to reduce the rate of unemployment that lead to a sustained economic growth and development. They further argued that the persistent high rate of unemployment in Nigeria is traceable to the governmental policy error that is mainly cuased by the failure of the government to alter and fine tune the received economic doctrine to suite the Nigerian context and complexity.

Employment Opportunities and Challenges in Katsina State

Nigeria possesses vast expanses of fertile land, leading to agriculture emerging as a critical sector in the economy, presenting significant opportunities for employment, ensuring food security, and contributing to poverty alleviation. According to a report by the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (2024), while subsistence farming traditionally dominated the sector, the introduction of enhanced seed varieties, modern agricultural techniques, and more accurate weather predictions has resulted in a steady increase in agricultural productivity. Additionally, agriculture not only contributes 25% to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but also employs 48% of the country's workforce (Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission, 2024). However, in spite of this God-given opportunity for Nigerians to get gainful employment, various youth and other able-bodied remain unemployed and underemployed in other sectors of which contributions towards the development of the nation remain shrouded. as put forward by Abubakar (2021), instead of developing the agricultural sector that is capable of employing more than half of the citizens especially the rural dwellers, the successive governments in Nigeria resort to coming up with various programmes which are targeted at providing employment opportunities to the citizenries. According to him, most of these programmes failed to acheved their set objecties; in some cases, the unemployment level seemed to be increasing instead of decreasing (Abubakar, 2021).

Located between the longitude $6^{0}52$, $9^{0}20$ E, and latitudes $11^{0}8$, $13^{0}22$N and cover a large land area of within the region of twenty-four thousand one hundered and ninety-four square kilometres, Katsina State has two major seasons – wet and dry seasons (Gambo, Zahran, & Sidahmed, 2016). The State is an extention of the tropical grassland alias Sudan Savannah and Arid Zone in the North; as a result it is blessed with fair rainfall with the rainy season longer in the southern part as it lasts for up to six (6) months, while in the northern part of the State, it normally lasts for around five months (Katsina State Investor's Handbook I, 2016). As reported by KTARDA (2014), Katsina State has an available farmland area of about one million, six hundred and forty thousand hectares (1,640,000 ha) with an identifid *Fadama* land area of thirty six thousand, one hundred and thirty-nine thousand hectares (36,139 ha). The suitability of the land for farming also makes it possible and suitable for rearing livestock such as sheep, cattle, camels, goats, and paultry. In addition, there existed several irrigation site distributed all over the State and more areas are reported to have been being developed for dry farming to serve as complement to rain-fed agricutlrue. This is made possible due to the existence of certain major dams in the State that include Jibia, Zobe, Sabke, Daberan, Ajiwa, Mairuwa, Gangara, Raddawa, and Ruwan Sanyi dams (Katsina State Investor's Handbook I, 2016).

The fertile land the State is endowed with make it suitable for the production of various food and cash crops that are always marketable in both local and international markets. These include maize, sorghum, rice, sugar cane, beans, soyabeans, cotton, cassava, fruits, vegetables, fodder crops, groundnut, potatos, and millet (Wudil & Haruna, 2021). Regarding the livestock production, the State as indicated by Wudil and Haruna (2021) has the capability, due to its favourable weither condition, of excelling in aminal rearing such as cattle, sheep, goats, and camel; thus, becomes one of the leading supplies of live animals and animals related products in Nigeria. It is reported that there are various trunk-A roads in the breadth and length of the State that ensures easy access to alll parts of the State (Katsina State Investor's Handbook I, 2016). Therefore, all agricultural production areas in the State are sufficiently connected with road networks; and in addition cover other parts of the country as well as neighbouring Niger Republic. This will make it easier for the produced goods to reach the available market where they are needed for local consumption and for exportion. There exist various local markets in the State – of which are international due to their location and facility exchange and trade. These markets where the agricultural produce can readily be

sold include Katsina-Dubai International Market, Katsina Central Market, Mai'adua International Market, Jibia International Market, Charanchi Market, Yar'Gamji Market, Dutsinma Market, Kafur Market, Bakori Market, Yargoje Market, Dandume Market, Rimaye Market, Dayi Market, Kankara Market, and Sheme Market (Katsina State Investor's Handbook I, 2016).

According to IFAD-CBARDP (2013), there are various other income earning activities available for people in the State which include trading; crafts work such as mat and basket weaving, blacksmithing, and wood carving; fishing and hunting. In spite of all the agricultrual opportunities at the disposal of youth to grab, majority of the youth in the State remain unemployed and underemployed in other economic sectors (Ibrahim & Ojetola, 2022). The issue is associated with lack of working capital as indicated by Ladan and Bakiyawa (2011). according to them, many youth are interested in developing themselves informally in the agricultural sector yet, they have no farms and the needed capital to start operating. This is because the applying for loan from financial institutions such as banks requires a lot of procedures that are diffiuclt for many of the youth. And even if the loan is granted, the interest rate is invariably high for them to pay. Nevertheless, according to other recently conducted studies such as that of Ladan and Matawalli (2020), job opportunities as presented by the agricultural sector in the State is at its lowest ebb due to high level of insecurity, notably rural banditry. Rural banditry which is, as described by Okoli and Ugwu (2019), an incidence of armed robbery or allied violent crimes, which include kidnapping, cattle rustling as well as village or market raids by making use of force or threat to intimidate a person or a group of persons in order to rob, rape or kill has negatively affected farming activities in Katsina State. Therefore, if the current effort of the Government of Katsina State of establishing State's own security personnel to counter armed bandit activities is successful, youth will get more opportunities to get involved deeply into the agricultural sector in the State.

Conclusion

The paper examined the level of unemployment among people, especially youth, in Katsina State amid the existence of various employment opportunities for people acroos the State. It was observed that the State is blessed with abundant natural arable land, bodies of water, and suitable weather for farming and rearing of animal that can give employment to not only the denizens of the State, but to even visitors. However, the major abstacle to utilizing this opportunity was presences of armed bandits in most of the rural areas where the farming and rearing activities could takeplace.

Recommendations

It is, therefore, based on the findings of the study that the following recommendations are made:

i. Governments at all levels should device means such as increasing the number of armed forces that ensure the end of armed banditry activities or at least render them ineffective for people to be able to utilize the available farmland and be self-employed.
ii. State and local governments should allocate the unutilized land to the interested youth by collecting a small amount of money from them as rent that will be renewed annually. This will make it possible for many unemployed people to be engaged.
iii. Government should create outlets for the farm produce so the farmers can turn their produce into cash at any given period of time. This will raise their morale in engaging more in the farming activities.

REFERENCES

Abang, P. O., & Ayamba, I. O. (2021). Agricultural development programmes in Nigeria's fourth republic: Changing the narrative of food insecurity in Nigeria. *Journal of Good Governance and Sustainable Development in Africa (JGGSDA), 6* (3), 64 - 74.

Abdulrahman, A., & Abdulyakeen, A. (2021). Julius Nyerere's philosophy on education: A panacea to graduate unemployment in Katsina State of Nigeria. *Dutse International Journal of Social and Economic Research, 6* (1), 1 - 15.

Abubakar, S. (2021). Youth empowerment as a tool for socio-economic changes in Nigeria: A case study of Katsina youth craft village. *International Journal of Youth Economy, 5* (1), 19 - 27.

Adamu, I. (2023). *TraderMoni and poverty alleviation in Katsina State.* Katsina State Nigeria: Departemnt of Political Science, Federal University Dutsin-Ma.

Adebinpe, O. I., Adetunji, A. T., Nwachukwu, C., & Hieu, V. M. (2021). Covid 19 pandemic challenges: The youth unemployment in Nigeria. *Journal of Contemporary Issues in Business and Government, 27* (1), 2004 - 2012.

Adelowokan, O. A., Maku, O. E., Babasanya, A. O., & Adesoya, A. B. (2019). Unemployment, poverty and economic growth in Nigeria. *Journal of Economics and Management, 35* (1), 5 - 17.

Ademike, E. T. (2021). Poverty, unemployment and insecurity challenges in Nigeria. *Tanzanian Economic Review, 11* (1), 115 - 136.

Adeola, A. O., & Oluwafemi, R. A. (2014). A blueprint for agricultural development in Nigeria. *International Journal of Applied Agricultural and Apicultural Research, 10* (1&2), 112 - 128.

Aiyedogbon, J. O., & Ohwofasa, B. O. (2012). Poverty and youth unemployment in Nigeria 1987 - 2011. *International Journal of Business and Social Science, 3* (20), 269 - 279.

Andow, A. H., & Umaru, I. G. (2019). Baseline survey of prevalence and distribution of unemployment and poverty in Kaduna State. *Kaduna Journal of Postgraduate Research, 2* (2), 38 - 57.

Caldwell, A. (2024, April 2). *What is opportunity cost?* Retrieved May 8, 2024, from Oracle NetSuite: https://www.netsuite.com/portal/resource/articles/accounting/opportunity-cost.shtml#:~:text=An%20opportunity%20cost%20is%20the,to%20take%20on%20another%20project.

City Population. (2024). *Katsina State in Nigeria* . Retrieved April 17, 2024, from https://www.citypopulation.de/en/nigeria/admin/NGA021__katsina/

Egunjobi, T. A. (2014). Poverty and unemployment paradox in Nigeria. *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, 19* (5), 106 - 116.

Emeh, I. E. (2012). Tackling youth unemployment in Nigeria: The Logos State development and empowerment programmes initiatives. *Afro Asian Journal of Social Sciences, 3* (4), 1 - 30.

Emmanuel, W. O. (2018). Unemployment, poverty and corruption in Nigeria: Classical least squares double log and linear trend analysis models. *Online Journal of Multidisciplinary Subjects, 12* (1), 620.

Etale, L. M., Suwari, T. P., & Adaka, R. M. (2021). Empirical assessment of agricultural development and growth of the Nigerian economy. *East African Scholars Journal of Economics, Business and Management, 4* (11), 222 - 230.

Falade, O. E., & Babatunde, D. (2020). Functional government spending, unemployment and poverty reduction in Nigeria. *Journal of Economics and Development Studies, 8* (1), 111 - 125.

Gambo, D., Zahran, B. B., & Sidahmed, M. B. (2016). Socio-economic factors influencing the particpation of the marginalized and vulnerable farmers in the Ifad - community based agriculture and rural development programme in Katsina State, Nigeria. *Journal of Resoures Development and Management, 24*, 50-57.

Hussaini, M. (2014). Poverty alleviation programs in Nigeria: Issues and challenges. *International Journal of Development Research, 4*(3), 717 - 720.

Ibrahim, M., & Ojetola, A. J. (2022). Influence of entrepreneurship education on job creation among youths in Funtua Local Government Area of Katsina State, Nigeria. *African Scholars Journal of Business Development and Management Research, 25* (7), 349 - 354.

IFAD-CBARDP. (2013). *Programme completion report by Katsina State Programme Support Office.* Katsina: Katsina State Government.

Katsina Investment Promotion Agency . (2023). *Agriculture: Agricultural Productivity*. Retrieved April 17, 2024, from KIPA: https://kipa.kt.gov.ng/agriculture/

Katsina State Investor's Handbook I. (2016). *Basic facts about Katsina State.* Katsina State Government .

KTARDA. (2014). *Katsina State agricultural and rural development project.* Katsina State Government.

Ladan, S. I. (2019). Analysis of contemporary insecurity in Katsina State, Nigeria. *Direct Research Journal of Social Science and Educational Studies, 6* (7), 95 - 102.

Ladan, S. I., & Bakiyawa, U. L. (2011). Issues and challenges of industrial development in Katsina State. *Danmarna International Journal of Islamic Culture and Heritage, 4* (1), 38 - 53.

Ladan, S. I., & Matawalli, B. U. (2020). Impact of banditry on food security in Katsina State, Nigeria. *Direct Research Journal of Agriculture and Food Science, 8* (2), 439 - 447.

Lawal, A., Usman, A., & Muhammad, M. A. (2023). The role of informal sector in curbing unemployment in Katsina State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Innovative Human Ecology & Nature Studies, 11* (1), 33 - 42.

Manyong, V. M., Ikpi, J. K., Olayemi, S. A., Yusuf, R. O., & Idachaba, F. S. (2003). *Agriculture in Nigeria: Identifying opportunities for increased commercialization and investment.* Ibadan, Nigeria: International Institute of Tropical Agriculture and University of Ibadan.

Muhammad, U. F., & David, J. (2019). Relationship between poverty and unemployment in Niger State. *Journal Ilmu Ekonomi, 8* (1), 71 - 78.

National Bureau of Statistics . (2010). *National manpower stock and employment generation survey.* Household and Micro Enterprise .

National Bureau of Statistics. (2020). *Annual Abstract on Statistics, Summary of Survey Findings.* NBS.

Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission . (2024). *Opportunities agriculture* . Retrieved May 8, 2024, from NIPC: https://www.nipc.gov.ng/opportunities/agriculture/#:~:text=INVESTMENT%20OPPORTUNITIES,-The%20sector%20is&text=Broad%20categorization%20of%20these%20includes,Beef%20processing%20and%20packaging

Nwagwu, E. J. (2014). Unemployment and poverty in Nigeria: A link to national insecurity. *Global Journal of Politics and Law Research, 2* (1), 19 - 35.

Nyong, M. O. (2013). Unemployment convergence among the 36 states in Nigeria. *Finance and Economics Conference*, (pp. 1 - 37). Frankfurt am Main, Germany .

Odeh, M. A., & Okoye, C. O. (2014). Poverty reduction policy and youth unemployment in Nigeria. *Public Policy and Administration Research, 3* (4), 92 - 103.

Okoli, A., & Ugwu, A. C. (2019). Of marauders and brigands: Scoping the threat of rural banditry in Nigeria's northwest. *Brazilian Journal of African Studies, 4* (8), 201 - 222.

Okorie, G. C., & Anowor, O. F. (2017). Empirical appraisal of poverty-unemployment relationship in Nigeria. *International Journal of Economics and Financial Research, 3* (6), 91 - 97.

Okoye, B. O., & Obi, K. O. (2022). Nexus between public debts, poverty and unemployment rates in Nigeria: A Vector Auto-Regression (VAR) approach. *International Journal of Management Studies and Social Science Research, 4* (6), 116 - 127.

Olotu, A., Salami, R., & Akeremale, I. (2015). Poverty and rate of unemployment in Nigeria. *International journal of Management, 2* (1), 1 - 5.

Onah, R. C., & Olise, C. N. (2019). National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) and sustainable poverty reduction in Nigeria: Challenges and prospects. *Journal of Humanities and Social Science (JHSS), 24*(10), 20 - 31.

Oseni, E., & Oseni, E. F. (2015). Achieving inclusive economic growth and development in Nigeria through MSMEs. *Journal of Economic & Financial Studies, 3* (04), 30 - 40.

Osinubi, T. S. (2005). Macroeconometric analysis of growth, unemp;oyment and poverty in Nigeria. *Pakistan Economic and Social Review, XLIII* (2), 249 - 269.

Oyelude, O. (2021, August 19). Bandits attack Katsina community, kill four, injure five kidnap six. *Punch* .

Siyan, P., Adegoriola, A. E., & Adolphus, J. A. (2016). *Unemployment and inflation: Implication on poverty level in Nigeria* . Abuja, Nigeria : Munich Personal RePEc Archive.

Tello, S. A., & Alimi, O. Y. (2016). Grassroots banking, microcredit and poverty in developing countries: The case of Nigeria. *Confronting the Scourge of Poverty through Microfinance: Issues and Challenges 17th - 18th August, 2016.* Benin City, Nigeria: LAPO Institute.

United Nations. (2022). *Common Country Analysis* . United Nations Nigeria .