

SPATIO-TEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN KWARA STATE

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Abstract

Unemployment is one of the major challenges confronting the Nigerian economy; it has led to social unrest and contributed to high crime rate among the people. Thus, this study investigated spatio-temporal analysis of unemployment in Kwara State. Descriptive research design was adopted and multi stage sampling procedure was used to select respondents that participated in the research. The instrument that was used to gather information for this study is a researcher's designed questionnaire tagged "Questionnaire on Spatio-temporal Analysis of Unemployment". It was validated by experts and reliability coefficient of 0.81 was obtained after a test of stability has been carried out on the instrument. Two research questions and six null hypotheses were answered and tested using percentage, mean and inferential statistics of t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) at 0.05 alpha level. The findings of the study revealed that the causes of unemployment are neglect of the agricultural sector, poor development of social facilities in the metropolis, rapid rural-urban migration among others. Also, it was revealed that the consequences of unemployment are high rate of drug or substance abuse, unproductive labour force in the metropolis, high dependence on work force among the youth among others. There was no significant difference in the causes of unemployment in Kwara State based on gender and educational status while significant difference was observed based on age. There was no significant difference in the consequences of unemployment in Kwara State based on gender and educational status while significant difference was observed based on age. Based on the findings of the study it was recommended that; the government should concentrate on reducing unemployment rate in state, government as a matter of urgency need to address all the operational challenges and threats confronting the manufacturing sectors and other investors in the state including agricultural sector should be given proper attention both in the state and the country at large.

Keywords: Unemployment, Causes, Consequences and Kwara State

Introduction

The most unpleasant challenges facing the Nigeria economy is unemployment, this has really affected the development of the nation. Unemployment is one of the major problems faced in the 21st century by Nigerian. Unemployment is a situation whereby people who are physically fit, capable, qualified and ready to work at any time are without jobs. The International Labour Organization (ILO) defined the unemployed as numbers of the economically active population who are without work but available for and seeking work, including people who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work (World Bank, 1998). Examples include housewives, full time students, invalids, those below the legal age for work, old and retired persons. The unemployment rate is expressed as a percentage of the total number of persons available for employment at any time (Azoluka & Okezie, 2011). Onwanchukwu (2015) examined the impact of unemployment on the economic growth in Nigeria from 1985 to 2010, using ordinary least squares regression technique. His findings revealed that unemployment does not have a significant impact on the economic growth of Nigeria. Inflation, however, was found to significantly impact on the economic growth of Nigeria. Thus, this study examined spatio-temporal analysis of unemployment in Kwara State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised and answered in the study:

1. What are the causes of unemployment in Kwara State?
2. What are the consequences of unemployment in Kwara State?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were postulated and tested in the study:

1. There is no significant difference in the causes of unemployment in Kwara State based on gender.
2. There is no significant difference in the consequences of unemployment in Kwara State based on gender.

3. There is no significant difference in the causes of unemployment in Kwara State based on age.
4. There is no significant difference in the consequences of unemployment in Kwara State based on age.
5. There is no significant difference in the causes of unemployment in Kwara State based on educational status.
6. There is no significant difference in the consequences of unemployment in Kwara State based on educational status.

Methodology

The target population for this study comprised of all literate adults in the seven local government areas selected from the three senatorial district of Kwara State. A sample size of 384 marginal errors with 95% confidence level and 5% error level was chosen based on recommendation of research % confidence level and 5% out of population of over a million people was chosen based on recommendation of Research Advisor sample size determination (2006). This selection was done proportional, purposeful and random sampling techniques. The proportional sampling was used to select 7 local Governments areas in the Three Senatorial district of Kwara State. The selection was done considering the number of local government areas in each of the district. This was possible based on uneven distribution of local Governments areas in the 3 senatorial districts. Thus a population ratio of 3:2:2 were used to select local government areas in Kwara South, Kwara North and Kwara Central respectively. Purposive sampling was used in Irepodun, Irepodun and Offa from Kwara South, Edu and Moro from Kwara North and Ilorin West and South from Kwara Central. Highest number of literate adults based on population in each of the district was used for this selection. In selecting respondents for the study, proportional and ballot system were used. This according to (Oke, Olasunde and Jekayinfa, 2005) gives every member of the population equal chances of being selected. The instrument used for data collection was the questionnaire tagged "Questionnaire on spatio – temporal analysis of unemployment. This questionnaire is divided into 3 sections which collects information on demographic data, causes and consequences of unemployment respectively. Two set of scores were obtained and correlated using person product moment correlation. The co-efficient obtained was 0.81 which indicated a high correlation between the two set of scores and the instrument thus reliable for the study. Data collected were analysis using percentage, mean, t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) at 0.05 alpha level.

Results

This segment is on the analysis and findings of the study. 384 questionnaires were administered to respondents, but 377 questionnaires were properly filled and returned. Thus, the result of this study will be based on the 377 respondents and the results are as follows:

Demographic Data

This section presents the results of data obtained from the respondents in frequency counts and percentages.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender, Age and Educational Qualification.

| S/N | Variables | Frequency | Percentage % |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. | Gender | | |
| | Male | 201 | 53.3 |
| | Female | 176 | 46.7 |
| | Total | 377 | 100.0 |
| 2. | Age | | |
| | 18-25 years | 68 | 18.0 |
| | 26-35 years | 116 | 30.8 |
| | 36-45 years | 122 | 32.4 |
| | 46 years & above | 71 | 18.8 |
| Total | 377 | 100.0 | |
| 3. | Educational Status | | |
| | SSCE | 53 | 14.1 |
| | NCE/OND | 111 | 29.4 |
| | HND/Degree | 148 | 39.3 |
| | Postgraduate Degree | 65 | 17.2 |
| Total | 377 | 100.0 | |

Table 1 presents respondents demographic characteristics. The table shows that 377 respondents participated in the study. Out of which, 201 (53.3%) were male; while 176 (46.7%) were female. 68 (18.0%) of the respondents were between 18-25 years, 116 (30.8%) were between 26-35 years old; 122 (32.4%) were 36-45 years old and 71 (18.8%)

of the respondents were 46 years and above. 53 (14.1%) of the respondents have SSCE, 111 (29.4%) have NCE/OND certificate, 148 (39.3%) have HND/Degree and 65 (17.2%) of the respondents have postgraduate degree.

Research Question 1: *What are the causes of unemployment in Kwara State?*

Table 2: Mean and Rank Order on the Respondents' Expression on Causes of

Unemployment

| Item No. | The following are the causes of unemployment; | Mean | Rank |
|----------|--|------|------------------|
| 4 | neglect of the agricultural sector by the government and stakeholders | 3.62 | 1 st |
| 5 | poor development of social facilities in the metropolis | 3.13 | 2 nd |
| 9 | rapid rural-urban Migration | 2.98 | 3 rd |
| 1 | poor economic growth rate in the metropolis | 2.93 | 4 th |
| 10 | rapid population growth in the metropolis | 2.67 | 5 th |
| 2 | unproductive economic policy measures by the government | 2.65 | 6 th |
| 8 | low attention on youth empowerment programmes by the stakeholders in the metropolis | 2.64 | 7 th |
| 6 | lack of youth employment and vocational skills development programme in the metropolis | 2.62 | 8 th |
| 7 | low priority on small scale industries and graduate employment programme in the metropolis | 2.37 | 9 th |
| 3 | lack of technical and vocational studies education in schools in the metropolis | 2.07 | 10 th |

Grand mean: 2.77

Table 2 presents the mean and rank order of respondents' expression on the causes of unemployment. Item 4 was ranked 1st with mean score of 3.62 and states that neglect of the agricultural sector by the government and stakeholders, item 5 ranked 2nd with mean score of 3.13 and states that poor development of social facilities in the metropolis and item 9 was ranked 3rd with mean score of 2.98 and states that rapid rural-urban Migration. The table indicates that most of the items have mean scores that are above the mid-cut off point of 2.50; this indicates that the respondents attested to the fact that the items in the instrument indicate causes of unemployment in Kwara State.

Research Question 2: *What are the consequences of unemployment in Kwara State?*

Table 3: Mean and Rank Order on the Respondents' Expression on Consequences of

Unemployment

| Item No. | The following are the consequences of unemployment; | Mean | Rank |
|----------|---|------|------------------|
| 3 | high rate of drug or substance abuse | 3.63 | 1 st |
| 4 | unproductive labour force in the metropolis | 3.12 | 2 nd |
| 10 | high dependence on work force | 3.00 | 3 rd |
| 8 | health related challenges among the youth | 2.97 | 4 th |
| 9 | political instability due to youth restiveness | 2.75 | 5 th |
| 1 | low gross domestic product | 2.66 | 6 th |
| 7 | disobedience to law and order by unemployed youth | 2.64 | 7 th |
| 5 | low investment in the metropolis by investors | 2.62 | 8 th |
| 6 | decline in family development | 2.47 | 9 th |
| 2 | increase in crime and violence | 2.35 | 10 th |

Grand mean: 2.82

Table 3 presents the mean and rank order of respondents' expression on the consequences of unemployment. Item 3 was ranked 1st with mean score of 3.63 and states that high rate of drug or substance abuse, item 4 ranked 2nd with mean score of 3.12 and states that unproductive labour force in the metropolis and item 10 was ranked 3rd with mean score of 3.00 and states that high dependence on work force. The table indicates that most of the items have mean scores that are above the mid-cut off point of 2.50; this indicates that the respondents attested to the fact that the items in the instrument indicate consequences of unemployment in Kwara State.

Hypotheses Testing

Hypothesis One: *There is no significant difference in the causes of unemployment in Kwara State based on gender.*

Table 4: t-test Showing Difference in the Respondents' Expression on Causes of Unemployment in Kwara State based on Gender

| Gender | N | Mean | SD | df | Cal. t-value | Crit. t-value | Sig. | Decision |
|--------|-----|-------|------|-----|--------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Male | 201 | 27.57 | 2.46 | 375 | 0.96 | 1.96 | .337 | Not Rejected |
| Female | 176 | 27.81 | 2.49 | | | | | |

Table 4 shows that the calculated t-value of 0.96 is less than the critical t-value of 1.96 while the significant of .337 is greater than the alpha value of 0.05. This indicates no significant difference, thus the hypothesis is not rejected.

Hypothesis Two: *There is no significant difference in the consequences of unemployment in Kwara State based on gender.*

Table 5: t-test Showing Difference in the Respondents' Expression on Consequences of Unemployment in Kwara State based on Gender

| Gender | N | Mean | SD | df | Cal. t-value | Crit. t-value | Sig. | Decision |
|--------|-----|-------|------|-----|--------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Male | 201 | 27.73 | 2.40 | 375 | 0.70 | 1.96 | .485 | Not Rejected |
| Female | 176 | 27.90 | 2.36 | | | | | |

Table 5 shows that the calculated t-value of 0.70 is less than the critical t-value of 1.96 while the significant of .485 is greater than the alpha value of 0.05. This indicates no significant difference, thus the hypothesis is not rejected.

Hypothesis Three: *There is no significant difference in the causes of unemployment in Kwara State based on age.*

Table 6: ANOVA showing difference in the Respondents' Expression on Causes of Unemployment in Kwara State based on Age

| Source | SS | df | MS | Cal. F-value | Crit. F-Value | Sig. | Decision |
|---------------|----------|-----|--------|--------------|---------------|------|----------|
| Between Group | 165.937 | 3 | 55.312 | 9.70* | 2.60 | 0.00 | Rejected |
| Within Group | 2127.867 | 373 | 5.705 | | | | |
| Total | 2293.804 | 376 | | | | | |

* Significant at $p < 0.05$ alpha level

Table 6 shows that the calculated F-value of 9.70 is greater than the critical F-value of 2.60 while the significant of 0.00 is less than the alpha value of 0.05. This indicates significant difference, thus the hypothesis is rejected.

Table 7: DMRT to determine Respondents Expression on Causes of Unemployment Based on Age

| Duncan Grouping | N | Mean | Group | Age |
|-----------------|-----|-------|-------|--------------------|
| A | 68 | 28.49 | 1 | 18-25 years |
| B | 116 | 26.74 | 2 | 26-35 years |
| C | 122 | 27.85 | 3 | 36-45 years |
| D | 71 | 28.16 | 4 | 46 years and above |

Table 7 shows that group 1 with mean score of 28.49 is differ from the mean scores of group 2; 26.74 and group 3 with mean score of 27.85 and group 4 with mean score of 28.16 respectively. All the mean scores differed from one another but the significant difference is as a result of group 1 with the highest mean score.

Hypothesis Four: *There is no significant difference in the consequences of unemployment in Kwara State based on age.*

Table 8: ANOVA showing difference in the Respondents' Expression on Consequences of Unemployment in Kwara State based on Age

| Source | SS | df | MS | Cal. F-value | Crit. F-Value | Sig. | Decision |
|---------------|----------|-----|--------|--------------|---------------|------|----------|
| Between Group | 145.475 | 3 | 48.492 | 9.10* | 2.60 | 0.00 | Rejected |
| Within Group | 1988.153 | 373 | 5.330 | | | | |
| Total | 2133.629 | 376 | | | | | |

* Significant at $p < 0.05$ alpha level

Table 8 shows that the calculated F-value of 9.10 is greater than the critical F-value of 2.60 while the significant of 0.00 is less than the alpha value of 0.05. This indicates significant difference, thus the hypothesis is rejected.

Table 9: DMRT to determine Respondents Expression on Consequences of Unemployment Based on Age

| Duncan Grouping | N | Mean | Group | Age |
|-----------------|-----|-------|-------|--------------------|
| A | 68 | 28.62 | 1 | 18-25 years |
| B | 116 | 26.94 | 2 | 26-35 years |
| C | 122 | 27.93 | 3 | 36-45 years |
| D | 71 | 28.24 | 4 | 46 years and above |

Table 9 shows that group 1 with mean score of 28.62 is differ from the mean scores of group2; 26.94 and group 3 with mean score of 27.93 and group 4 with mean score of 28.24 respectively. All the mean scores differed from one another but the significant difference is as a result of group 1 with the highest mean score.

Hypothesis Five: *There is no significant difference in the causes of unemployment in Kwara State based on educational status.*

Table 10: ANOVA showing difference in the Respondents' Expression on Causes of Unemployment in Kwara State based on Educational Status

| Source | SS | df | MS | Cal. F-value | Crit. F-Value | Sig. | Decision |
|---------------|----------|-----|--------|--------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Between Group | 30.190 | 3 | 10.063 | 1.66 | 2.60 | .176 | Not Rejected |
| Within Group | 2263.614 | 373 | 6.069 | | | | |
| Total | 2293.804 | 376 | | | | | |

Table 10 shows that the calculated F-value of 1.66 is less than the critical F-value of 2.60 while the significant of .176 is greater than the alpha value of 0.05. This indicates no significant difference, thus the hypothesis is not rejected.

Hypothesis Six: *There is no significant difference in the consequences of unemployment in Kwara State based on educational status.*

Table 11: ANOVA showing difference in the Respondents' Expression on Consequences of Unemployment in Kwara State based on Educational Status

| Source | SS | df | MS | Cal. F-value | Crit. F-Value | Sig. | Decision |
|---------------|----------|-----|-------|--------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Between Group | 28.545 | 3 | 9.515 | 1.69 | 2.60 | .170 | Not Rejected |
| Within Group | 2105.084 | 373 | 5.644 | | | | |
| Total | 2133.629 | 376 | | | | | |

Table 11 shows that the calculated F-value of 1.69 is less than the critical F-value of 2.60 while the significant of .170 is greater than the alpha value of 0.05. This indicates no significant difference, thus the hypothesis is not rejected.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study revealed that the causes of unemployment are neglect of the agricultural sector by the government and stakeholders, poor development of social facilities in the metropolis, rapid rural-urban Migration, poor economic growth rate in the metropolis among others. The findings were in line with Hassan (2010) who believed that the high rate of kidnapping, civil unrest and political thuggery can be traced to unemployment situation in Nigeria. Also, Njoku and Okezie (2011) asserted Nigeria's population is 160 million plus, then 50 percent or more of Nigerians are unemployed. Akande (2014) asserted that Nigeria has continued to experience high rate of population growth. This increasing population growth has produced an overwhelming increase in the youth population thereby resulting in an increase in the size of the working age population. Related to the rapid population growth is the massive rural-urban migration by the youth.

Also, it was revealed that the consequences of unemployment are high rate of drug or substance abuse, unproductive labour force in the metropolis, high dependence on work force, health related challenges among the youth among others. The findings corroborated Ali (2014) that unemployment triggers participation in insurgencies, prompts people to join violent gangs, drives people to extremism, and that it is the primary reason behind domestic violence' (Cramer, 2015). Similarly, in relation to crime, young people who lack the economic opportunities to raise themselves out of poverty are more vulnerable than adults to participation in armed violence, crime, gangs, drug trafficking and other illicit activities' (Cramer, 2015).

It was supported by the National Youth Development Policy (2001) asserted that the youth are the foundation of a society; their energies, inventiveness, character and orientation define the pattern of development and security of a nation. The youth are a particular segment of the national population that is sensitive, energetic, and active and the most productive phase of life as citizens. The youth are also most volatile and yet the most vulnerable segment of the population in terms of social-economic, emotion and other aspects (Anasi, 2010).

Hypothesis one revealed that there was no significant difference in the causes of unemployment in Kwara State based on gender. This means that gender of the respondents will not be an influence to the causes of unemployment. This was in agreement with Idris (2016) that gender-disaggregated data on youth unemployment in developing countries are limited, despite female youth unemployment rates often exceeding those of males. Gender differentials in youth unemployment rates are small at the global level and in most regions, but very high in the Middle East and North Africa. World Bank (2014) opined that youth employment in sub-Saharan Africa, lists the various factors that restrict employment opportunities for young women: 'Women's employment opportunities are constrained not only by the fact that they tend to exit school earlier, but also by gender-specific constraints associated with marriage and fertility choices.

The result of hypothesis two revealed that there was no significant difference in the consequences of unemployment in Kwara State based on gender. This means that gender of the respondents will not be an influence to the consequences of unemployment. This was supported by Abdullahi (2004) who observed that (female) specific risk of poverty stems from the structuring of (female) economic dependency, within families and marriage and in the sexual division of labour that come together to create a gendered vulnerability to poverty and deprivation.

The result of hypothesis three revealed that there was significant difference in the causes of unemployment in Kwara State based on age. This means that age of the respondents will be an influence to the causes of unemployment. The finding is in line with (Bello-Kano, 2008) youth unemployment has gained a wide percentage among youth and has been variously classified into age brackets such as 15-24 years (World Bank and United Nations); 15-29 years (Commonwealth Youth Programmes); while for many countries, the figure varies from 13-18 years, 20-25 years, and 12-20 years. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2004), young people aged between 15 and 24 years account for 52.9 percent of unemployed people while those aged between 25 and 44 years accounted for 41.1 percent. Therefore, those in age bracket of 15 and 44 years account for 94 percent of the total unemployed persons in Nigeria (Osibanjo, 2006).

The result of hypothesis four revealed that there was significant difference in the consequences of unemployment in Kwara State based on age. This means that age of the respondents will be an influence to the consequences of

unemployment. This was in accordance with the World Development Report (2007) there are 1.3 billion people in the age bracket (12-24) as the largest group ever. Close to 85 per cents of this over 1.3 billion young men and women live in developing countries, this figure is projected to increase to 89 percent by 2025.

Hypothesis five revealed that there was no significant difference in the causes of unemployment in Kwara State based on educational status. This means that educational status of the respondents will not influence the causes of unemployment. This was supported by ILO (2015) who noted that, while the challenge in developed countries is to create jobs, in developing countries there is a further challenge of finding decent jobs for young people who are under-employed and working in the informal economy.

Hypothesis six revealed that there was no significant difference in the consequences of unemployment in Kwara State based on educational status. This means that educational status of the respondents will not influence the consequences of unemployment. This was in agreement with Samuel (2011) that the educational system laid much emphasis on certificate acquisition while neglecting the application of the knowledge and skills acquired to meet the challenges of the contemporary Nigeria. It was affirmed that the education system in Nigeria has its liberal bias which indeed over supplies the labour market with graduates who do not possess the skills required by employers. Many graduates in Nigeria lack entrepreneurial skills to facilitate self-employment (Oladele, Akeke and Oladunjoye, 2011).

Conclusion

The study investigated spatio-temporal analysis of unemployment in Kwara State, the findings of the study revealed that the causes of unemployment are neglect of the agricultural sector by the government and stakeholders, poor development of social facilities in the metropolis, rapid rural-urban Migration, poor economic growth rate in the metropolis among others. Also, it was revealed that the consequences of unemployment are high rate of drug or substance abuse, unproductive labour force in the metropolis, high dependence on work force, health related challenges among the youth among others.

There was no significant difference in the causes of unemployment in Kwara State based on gender and educational status while significant difference was observed based on age. There was no significant difference in the consequences of unemployment in Kwara State based on gender and educational status while significant difference was observed based on age.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study it was recommended that;

1. The government should also concentrate on cautioning the rising unemployment rate in State. This could be achieved by the establishment of programs that will encourage the unemployed populace in skill development which invariably leads to self-employment irrespective of their locations.
2. Other employment driven sectors (i.e. agriculture, solid minerals, steel industries, railway etc) should be effectively tapped and utilised.
3. Power sector is one of the most sensitive and essential sectors of the nation's economy. This is because adequate power supply ensures a productive economy that is capable of creating significant employment to local artisans, cottage and manufacturing industries.
4. Government as a matter of urgency need to address all the operational challenges and threats confronting the manufacturing sectors and other investors in the state
5. Agricultural sector should be given proper attention. Government at all levels should recognise the activities of rural farmers to reduce rural to urban migration.

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