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PERCEIVED CAUSES OF YOUTH RESTIVENESS BY SECURITY PERSONNEL IN ILORIN METROPOLIS

DR. MARY OGECHI ESERE;

DR. SAMUEL KOLAWOLE AJIBOYE,

&

DAVID OBAFEMI ADEBAYO
DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELLOR EDUCATION,
UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, NIGERIA

Abstract

Youth restiveness has been a pandemic plaguing countries across the globe in recent times. The rising wave of restiveness culminating in insecurity and terrorism is quite alarming, with the most vulnerable group being the youths and other teeming youngsters in societies world over. This study therefore investigated perceived causes of youth restiveness by security personnel in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State, Nigeria. The design adopted for this study was the descriptive method. Three null hypotheses were formulated and tested in this study. A questionnaire tagged "Restiveness among Youth Questionnaire (RAYQ) was administered on two hundred and forty (240) security Personnel, cutting across military and para- military agencies in Kwara State, Nigeria. The study raised and answered a fundamental question on perceived causes of youth restiveness. The formulated hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance, while analysis of variance (ANOVA) was the statistical method used for data analysis. The results showed the causes of youth restiveness as poor childhood upbringing, bad societal mentoring, bad governance, poverty, inadequate educational opportunities, among others. It further revealed that there was no significant difference in the perception of security personnel on the causes of youth restiveness in Ilorin metropolis based on the type of agency and years of experience. The researchers recommended effective counselling hints as intervention strategies for handling youth restiveness in order to bring sanity into the society as a whole.

Keywords: Causes, Youth Restiveness, Perception, Security Personnel, Ilorin, Nigeria.

Introduction

A seemingly incurable epidemic that has continued to bedevil the Nigerian state in recent times is youth restiveness. There has been a geometric increase in the occurrence of acts of violence, restlessness and lawlessness, ranging from hostage taking or kidnapping of prominent citizens, oil expatriates in the Niger Delta region to oil bunkering, arms insurgence (especially the dreaded Boko Haram insurgents), cultism among tertiary institution and secondary

school students, thuggery among youths used by desperate politicians in a bid to win elective positions and gain control of power, among other notorious acts exercised by some youths.

Youth restiveness is not a recent phenomenon. Various forms of youth restiveness that are politically, economically and religiously motivated have existed for a long time. Notable instances of politically, economically and religiously motivated youth restiveness include the 2012 anti-subsidy removal protest staged by different groups of youths across Nigeria and which reported countless deaths of individuals, majority of whom were in their primes (*Saturday Tribune, September 9, 2012*). Other instances include the stampede experienced during 2014 recruitment exercise of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) which claimed about 25 lives of job seekers, of course, they were promising Nigerian youths who lost their precious lives all because of impatience on the part of some youths who could not exercise patience till the queue got to their turns (*The Punch, March 20, 2014*). Equally related are needless protests staged by miscreants in some parts of Ilorin, majority of whom were secondary school students and other sets of youths as reported in *The Punch Newspaper of Monday August 4, 2014.*

Young people across the globe are very vital and important members of their respective societies. In order to create a promising future for the youths, the virtues of discipline, focus, honesty, tolerance, dedication to duty and diligence (universal norms) cannot be thrown into the bin or taken with lip service. As a matter of fact, insecurity, retarded growth and development thrive where lawlessness, indulgence and violence take their turns, thus, posing threat to existing peace and tranquility in the society.

According to Elegbeleye (2005), youth restiveness is a sustained protestation embarked upon to enforce desired outcome from a constituted authority by an organized body of youth. Also, Onyekpe (2007) postulates that youth occupy a prominent place in any society. They are considered as the owners and leaders of a not too-distant future and they equally out-number the middle-aged and the aged in the society. Apart from their numerical superiority, youths have excess energy as well as ideas that constitute society's greatest heritage and potential (Onyekpe, 2007). Corroborating Onyekpe's (2007) assertion, the National Youth Development Policy (NYDP, 2001) asserts that

> *youths are the foundation of a society. Their energies, inventiveness, character, and orientation define largely the pace of development and orientation of a nation (p. 1)*

Conversely, the level of social maladjustment, instability and insecurity a nation suffers is dependent upon its youth. Eliaigwu (2002) opines that restiveness (also termed delinquency) is a serious issue among youngsters, notably, youths and adolescents. It is an outstanding representative sample of any state which could be dangerous and sometimes it gets to a level which is reflected in a typical youngster's insolence and naughtiness. Notable among recent cases of restiveness among Nigerian youths and which has caused the Nigerian state a lot of losses in human, economic, material, institutional facilities is that of the dreaded sect called Boko Haram. Similar groups exist in other parts of the country and these have largely threatened peaceful coexistence among the Nigerian populace. They include the Ombatse group in Nasarawa State, militant groups in the Niger Delta region, Fulani herdsmen terrorizing Jos, Benue and Taraba States, among other notorious groups

constituted majorly by youths. Substantially, there had been researches conducted overtime on youth restiveness, but this study in clear terms, with particular consideration for and emphasis on the central role of security personnel therefore investigated perceived causes of youth restiveness by security personnel in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State, Nigeria.

Research Question

1. What are perceived causes of youth restiveness by security personnel in Ilorin Metropolis?

Research Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference in security personnels' perceived causes of youth restiveness in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of type of agency.
2. There is no significant difference in security personnel's perceived causes of youth restiveness in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of years of experiences.

METHODOLOGY

The study, being a quantitative research, adopted the descriptive method. Purposive sampling method was used to draw respondents from security agencies in Ilorin metropolis to have adequate representation of the different security agencies. The agencies include Armed forces, Nigeria Police, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), Nigerian Prison Service, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and Nigeria Immigration Service. Forty (40) respondents were drawn from each of the security agencies, making a total of Two hundred and forty (240) samples. Responses were collected through a questionnaire titled "Restiveness among Youth Questionnaire (RAYQ). The questionnaire, apart from demographic section has 20 items which sought the perception of respondent on causes of youth restiveness.

RESULTS

Three research questions were raised and two corresponding null hypotheses were generated and tested. The analysis of research questions and hypotheses were subjected to frequency count, percentage and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) respectively.

Research Question: What are the Causes of Youth Restiveness as expressed by Security Personnel in Ilorin Metropolis

Table 1: Mean and Ranking of Perceived Causes of Youth Restiveness

Item No.	In my own opinion, youth restiveness is caused by;	Mean	Ranking
1.	poor childhood upbringing	3.75	1st
2.	single parenting	3.38	9th
3.	religious intolerance	3.35	10th
4.	inadequate moral training in the society as a whole	3.10	16th
5.	increasing rate of poverty	3.50	4th
6.	poor communication between parents and their children	2.90	17th
7.	bad modeling from older adults	3.30	11th
8.	high rate of unemployment	3.49	5th
9.	negative influence of the media	3.40	8th
10.	corrupt practices by security operatives	2.66	20th
11.	bad governance	3.60	3rd
12.	increasing rate of school drop outs	3.15	15th
13.	exposure to cyber crimes	3.45	6th
14.	poor mentoring	3.70	2nd
15.	increasing rate of civilization	2.80	18th
16.	insatiable desire for wealth by youths	3.27	12th
17.	indiscriminate sales of illicit substances	3.25	13th
18.	irregular school calendar because of strike actions	3.20	14th
19.	drug abuse among youths	3.45	6th
20.	discrimination against youth group by older adults	2.75	19th

Table 1 indicates that the item that rated highest is item 1with a mean score of 3.75 which states that youth restiveness is caused by poor childhood upbringing. This is followed by item 14 at the mean score of 3.70 which states that youth restiveness is caused by bad societal mentoring. The least rated item is item 10 with a mean score of 2.66 which is still above the average mean score of 2.50. Thus, confirming that the security personnel believe that all the suggested items in the questionnaire could cause youth restiveness, though in varying degrees.

Hypothesis One: There is no significant difference in the perception of security personnel on the causes of youth restiveness in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of type of agency

Table 2: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the difference in perceived causes of youth restiveness by security personnel in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of type of agency.

Source	Df	SS	Mean Squares	Cal. F-ratio	Crit. F-ratio
Between groups	5	2360.187	472.04	4.55*	2.21
Within groups	234	24253.876	103.65		
Total	239	26614.063			

Table 2 shows the calculated F-ratio of 4.55 and a critical F-ratio of 2.21. The calculated F-ratio is greater than critical F-ratio. The hypothesis is rejected. Thus, there is a significant difference in the perception of security personnel on the causes of youth restiveness in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of type of agency.

Table 3: Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT), showing the differences in perceived cause of youth restiveness by security personnel in Ilorin metropolis.

Duncan groupings	N	Mean	Group	Type of Agency
A	40	95.35	1	Police
B	40	93.00	2	Armed Forces
C	40	89.50	3	NSCDC
D	40	88.53	4	Prisons
E	40	87.70	6	NDLEA
F	40	86.30	5	Immigration

Table 3 shows the Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) indicating the significant difference noted in the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) table. Group 1 with a mean score of 95.35 differed significantly from the mean scores of the rest of the other groups. Though all the groups differed from one another, the significant differences noted was as a result of the mean score of group 1 showing that the Police personnel have better appreciation of the causes of youth restiveness.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference in the perception of security personnel on the causes of youth restiveness in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of number of years as security personnel.

Table 3: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the differences in perceived causes of youth restiveness in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of number of years as security personnel.

Source	df	SS	Mean squares	Cal. F-ratio	Critical F-ratio
Between groups	2	395.632	197.82	1.78	3.00
Within groups	237	2621.431	110.63		
Total	239	26614.063			

Table 3 shows the calculated F-ratio of 1.78 and critical F-ratio of 3.00. The calculated F-ratio is less than the critical F-ratio, thus the hypotheses is not rejected; hence there is no significant difference in perceived causes of youth restiveness by security personnel in Ilorin metropolis

on the basis of number of years as security personnel.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

From the result presented, major perceived causes of youth restiveness include poor childhood upbringing, bad societal mentoring, bad governance, religious intolerance, poor monitoring, poor interpersonal communication between parents and their children as well as indiscriminate use of illicit drugs, impatience on the part of youth themselves, exposure to cyber crimes, etc. This agrees with the findings of a study carried out by Umaru and Terhemba (2014) in which both researchers concluded that poor leadership, corrupt practices of leaders, vicious circle of poverty, illiteracy, ethnicity, tribalism, economic exploitation, false religious teachings, drafting of youths into thuggery acts by by desperate politicians largely constitute the causes of youth restiveness in Nigeria. It is equally consistent with Elegbeleye's (2005) submission that aggression and violence among youth are largely due to some gaps in their innate needs that are not satisfied overtime. A need has been defined by Umoh (2004) as a condition in an individual which propels certain behaviour in pattern in him/her. Thus, unmet needs of youngsters in areas of employment, healthy academic and political opportunities, equitable distribution of national wealth and youthful responsibilities breed restive and violent protestations by teeming Nigerian youths.

Corroborating the assertion above, Anasi (2010) posited that the degree of disorderliness, instability and insecurity in any society is determined by the youths in that society. Ndu (2000) and Yusuf (2001) equally opined that youth possess excess energy that needs to be exerted on different activities; moreover, if the excessive energies are not adequately channeled, they could be on negative tasks, the resultant effect of which falls back on the unsuspecting society.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proffered in order to curb or at best reduce youth restiveness to the barest minimum.

1. Community leaders and counselling practitioners should enhance information flow among youth by organizing seminars, workshops and sensitization programmes in order to better explain youth roles in the society.
2. Youth development policies should have elements of information and effective communication which comprises skill acquisition, job creation and self-reliant opportunities.
3. Seminars and workshops could be organized for parents so as to be better equipped with good mentoring skills for effective child upbringing.
4. Every available channels of information should be employed in exposing youths to risk inherent in acts of rebellion to their fatherland.
5. Government and NGOs should pull resources together towards overcoming the scourge of unemployment which has largely made a considerable number of youths restive, rebellious and deviant to societal norms and values.
6. Schools should make adequate provision for integration of moral training, regard for human life and dialogue in their respective curriculum.

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