

A Study on the Causes and Effects of Urban Youth Unemployment in Garden Compound

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Abstract— Unemployment is one of the most issues within the world economy nowadays. Many countries at different levels of development are trying to cope with this problem. The International Labor Organization (1992) defined unemployment as the situation of being out of work or in need of a job and constantly searching for it in the last four weeks or unemployed (age 16 or above) but then available to join work in the next two weeks. This study engaged a cross sectional design and utilized a case study method. This design was superlatively appropriate to studies meant to find out the incidence of a phenomenon, situation, problem, issue or attitude, by captivating a cross section of the population (McNabb, 2009). A total sample size of 50 respondents was sampled from a population of 300 people. Self-administered surveys were managed to person inhabitants matured between 15 and 35 a long time. This included both women and men. The computer based Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16 and MS Excel were used to analyze the data in this study. The findings of the study with regards to factors that lead to urban youth unemployment show that there are no jobs due to increase in population, slow growth of industries and lack of education and vocational skills. The findings also reveal the effects of unemployment which include increased depression, severe financial hardship, debt, poverty, begging and housing stress. Therefore, it is recommended that the government should promote youth skill development centers which will help the youths to acquire life skills so that they become self-reliant and reduce the number of unemployed youths in the country.

Keywords— Urban, Youth, Unemployment.

I. INTRODUCTION

Youth unemployment is a problem that is affecting most countries. The ability of youths to participate in productive activities has both social and economic consequences for a particular economy. Youth unemployment is time and again higher than the unemployment rate for adults underlining the concerns that many countries face in expediting the transition from school to work. According to Broussara and Tsegay, (2012), adolescents in creating nations confront not as it were the challenge of finding beneficial work, but moreover getting secure and worthy works.

NGOs, Government organizations, and civic association in various countries embrace and use various age ranges for the concept “youth” from the stand point of the purpose which they stand for and the activities they undertake. For Case, The Joined together Country (UN) characterizes the youth as people between 15-24 a long time; WHO, 10-24. In Ethiopia, concurring to the national youth approach, youth incorporate portion of the society who are between 15-29 a long time (Ministry of youth, sports and culture, 2004).

The Sub-Saharan Africa region has the highest rate of youth unemployment with 18.4 percent after the Middle East and North Africa which has 21.3 percent (ILO 2004) statistics. If this trend continues, it will have substantial effects on human capital in the region, as well as on the region’s economic potential. Making conventional and beneficial work for youthful individuals within the Sub-Saharan locale seem result in a potential GDP increment of 12 to 19 per cent (Berhanu et al., 2005).

Unemployment in Zambia is more of a problem of urban youth than that of rural. Concurring to the labor constrain study report (LFS, 2013), the unemployment rate of urban youth at nation level was 22.9 per cent whereas for provincial youth remained at 3.1 percent as it were.

II. THE OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

The general objective of the report is to examine causes and effects of urban youth unemployment in Zambia, a case of Garden Compound in Lusaka District. The specific objectives were as follows

- To find out if there are any measures in place to reduce youth unemployment.
- To examine the impact of youth unemployment on the community and the economy.
- To make recommendations on how to reduce youth unemployment.

III. METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out during the month of December 2017 to March 2018 in garden compound area which is south of Lusaka. Garden Compound is situated 2 kilometers away from Lusaka City and it has approximately 7, 017 (CSO, 2010) people in the area 60 percent comprising of the youth. This study used a sample of 50 respondents that was randomly drawn from a Sampling frame of 300 people. Self-administered questionnaires were used to individual residents aged between 15 and 35 years and had stayed in the selected areas for more than 3 years. This included both women and men. Whenever illiteracy proved a hindrance, the researcher would make the necessary clarifications and interpretations on various questions and also assisted in filling the questionnaires to those individuals who couldn’t read and write in order to solicit information effectively. Interviews were also conducted and the data was statistically analyzed with SPSS for Windows (Release Version 17.0) computer software.

IV. FINDINGS

The findings of the study were presented in the order of the research objectives.

The causes and effects of urban youth unemployment

With regards to the above objective which sought to identify the causes and effects of youth urban employment, 74% of the respondents indicated that there are no jobs for the youths due to the increase in the population where jobs are limited while 18% of the respondents said that there is slow growth of industries that could employ some of the youths at various levels and finally 8% of the respondents indicated that youths lack the education and vocational skills.

Responding to the question of the effects of youth unemployment, 56% of the respondents said that unemployed youths suffer depression because they lack needs, then 30% of the respondents indicated that unemployed youths experience severe financial hardships that bring about accumulation of debt and finally 14% of the respondents showed that unemployed youth live in poverty and survive by begging.

The measures in place to reduce youth unemployment

According to the data collected, 70% of the respondents indicated that there are measures in place aimed at reducing unemployment while 30% of the respondents said that there are no measures of any kind to reduce youth unemployment. The majority of the respondents alleged that it is the government that has put in place the measures to reduce youth unemployment. The minority of the respondents suggested that both government and private sector need to coordinate their efforts to address the problem of youth unemployment and not the government alone.

The Impact of youth unemployment

In terms of the effects of unemployment, 74% of the respondents revealed that they were depressed as they experienced symptoms like insomnia, appetite disturbance, having trouble experiencing pleasure, having low energy and suicidal thought followed by 15% of the respondents who experienced severe financial hardships because they had no income and accumulated a lot of debt and finally 11% of the respondents lived in poverty as they continued to lack basic needs and survived through begging.

V. CONCLUSION

The study sought to establish the causes and factors of urban youth unemployment in Zambia, a case of Garden Compound in Lusaka District. It was established that the prominent cause of youth unemployment is the increase in the population where jobs are limited and other causes include slow development of industries and the lack of education and vocational skills. It was also discovered that there is need for the government to sensitize the youth about youth empowerment funds and also increase the number of skills training centers across the country.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study on the causes and effects of urban youth unemployment the following commendations are made.

In the case of growing population, both public and private sector should collaborate to increase employment by increasing production in agriculture and industrial sectors. Agricultural division gives more work openings than any other division. It is also recommended that they encourage the development of small and cottage industries countrywide.

The government should also promote youth skill development centers which will help the youths to acquire life skills so that they become self-reliant and reduce the number of unemployed youths in the country. Skills and knowledge development are the powerful forces behind the economic progress and community development of any country. Skill building is an influential instrument to enable individuals improve their social acceptance.

The government must see to it that the youths are properly sensitized about the youth development fund, many youths do not know about this and they resort to stealing one they utilize the grant that the government gives to the youths they can startup businesses of their own and employ fellow youths. The government should consider reducing the retirement age to leave room for the youths who are productive to take up the job positions.

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