
**EFFECT OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND CRIME RATES IN UGANDA,
A CASE STUDY OF MITYANA DISTRICT.**

1 Ssenyimba Godfrey, 2 Kirwisa Matovu, 3 Dr Arinaitwe Julius

1, 2, 3 Metropolitan International University

ABSTRACT

This study comes as a result of the effect of youth unemployment on the crime rate in Mityana District and Uganda as a country. The purpose of the study was to investigate the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates, the causes of unemployment among the youth and its impacts on crime rates, and the aspiring strategies that are being put forward in order to address the problems caused by youth unemployment in Mityana District. A descriptive cross-sectional study design was used of 252 respondents who included local leaders and youths in Mityana District. The study findings revealed that there are a number of socio-economic factors that account for youth unemployment and these include among others: The poor University education, the mismatch between skills and the labour market, the theoretical education curriculum, Rural- urban migration resulting into high population growth rates in the area. The study concluded that youth unemployment and its impact on crime rates is high at around 60 % and the most affected are the males and because the population is growing very fast, provision of social services is difficult given the low tax contribution. The study further concluded that whereas some people say many youths in Mityana District are voluntarily unemployed, the fact is that the problem of unemployment is structural resulting from a deficiency in demand for labour in the labour market as some of the youth who are educated complained of low industrialization and discrimination in the labour market and the formal sector which explains they're under employment or unemployment in the informal sector. The study recommended that to fight the problem of youth unemployment, there should be efforts put in place to among other things; Control rural-urban migration that results into high population growth

Make reviews and redesign Uganda's education system Avail credit facilities to address young peoples' financial constraints that limit entrepreneurship. Construct skills imparting institutions in many parts of the country to provide youths with practical skills education and make the cost of the training affordable. Attracting foreign investors to promote industrialization

Key words: Youth Unemployment, wage levels and Crime Rates

Background of the Study

Globally, unemployment undoubtedly has a number of consequences and costs to society, and one of them may be an increase in crime with consequent costs to society. In public debate, this relationship between unemployment and crime is often taken for granted. However, empirical studies have shown mixed results Agelet at, (2008). Various determinants of crime have traditionally been studied in other social science fields such as criminology and sociology (Matthew & Mike, 2016).

In Africa, In September 2010, Nigeria's National Bureau of Economic Research determined that the recession that started in December 2007 and ended in June 2009 was the longest economic recession in the post-Africa summit. With the unemployment rate in double digits for the first time since the recession of the 1980s and more than 8.4 million jobs lost, many people wonder if the impact of the recession will ever end (Oliver et al., 2023). Unemployment rates in African countries such as Somalia, DR Cong and others have doubled from relatively low levels in 2017 to staggering levels by the end of 2009. In 2021, unemployment rates averaged around and many Africans are wondering what the impact is such a high unemployment rate. the unemployment rate will affect the crime rate. Controlling the crime rate and maintaining the rule of law are the basic goals of any administration.

In East Africa, youth unemployment and its effect on crime have been studied before, it should be noted that some previous international studies used more advanced explanatory variables than unemployment. Ahmed et al., (2019) examine

the effects of changes in overall labor market conditions by creating a measure that includes wages, the unemployment rate, and unemployment benefits (Godfrey et al., 2023).

At the national level, "Uganda is the pearl" Churchill, (1909). This famous exclamation by Winston Churchill in his book "My African Journey" after his travels through Africa as a young man gave Uganda the nickname "The Pearl of Africa", a term still often used when referring to the country. The Republic of Uganda is a landlocked country on the northern shore of Lake Victoria in East Africa bordering South Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Like many African countries, Uganda's population consists of more than 40 different ethnic groups, called tribes, which are further divided into clans (Ninsiima et al., 2023). Overall, the largest ethnic group is the Baganda tribe, which forms the majority of Uganda's population and is located in the central region of Uganda (Hivos, 2014, Ethnic and Political Diversity in Uganda). The rising unemployment rate due to the country's high population growth rate thus creates an unsustainable situation for thousands of unemployed individuals who often have to turn to illegal means to support their families.

According to Mityana District (2019), almost one-third of Uganda's districts experienced the lowest unemployment rates on record between 2009 and 2011. The claim that high unemployment leads to an increase in property crime and criminal activity is based on the economic principle that people are rational creatures who respond to incentives. The work-leisure model provides a general framework through which to delve into this widely held claim. The work-leisure model extends the concept of a budget constraint to deal with how a person spends hours in a day given time constraints.

Problem statement

The Republic of Uganda has one of the fastest growing populations in the world. Both high population growth rates and high fertility rates have led to today's situation

where more than 50% of the population is under the age of 18 (Jackline et al., 2023). As a result of this high population growth, youth unemployment has skyrocketed in the last few years. According to a survey conducted by Action Aid and the Uganda National NGO Forum, the youth unemployment rate in Uganda in 2012 is 61.6 percent (Action Aid, 2012, p. 27). With over 50% of the population under the age of 18, the number of unemployed in Uganda is enormous. This can and most likely will have destabilizing and disturbing effects on the country's economy and society in the foreseeable future, as the youth are very often the source of revolutions and political unrest, including the Arab Spring. just one example. However, Uganda's high population growth rate is not the only possible reason for the increasing number of unemployed youths, leading to high crime in the country, (Kampala City Council Office Report on Increased Crime in the Country, 2016). General poverty, an outdated education system and corruption are just some of the reasons often cited for youth unemployment in Africa, and particularly in the Mityana District. Therefore, the researcher is forced to examine the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates.

Objectives of the study

- 1. To examine the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in Mityana District.*
- 2. To find out the causes of Youth unemployment and its impact on crime rates among the youth in Mityana District.*
- 3. To identify the aspiring strategies on how to reduce unemployment among the youth in Mityana District.*

Research questions

- 1. What is the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in Mityana District?*
- 2. What are the causes of unemployment among the youth and its impacts on crime rates in Mityana District?*

3. *What are the aspiring strategies that are being put forward in order to address the problems caused by youth unemployment in Mityana District?*

Methodology

Research Design

The Study used a descriptive survey design in which both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used.

Qualitative Research

Qualitative approach was used in recording descriptions of the elements of the study in a form which is not numerical and was helpful in getting an in-depth analysis of the problem under investigation (Creswell set al. 2003), Qualitative approach was further applied in order to describe current conditions or to investigate relationships, including effects relationships. In addition, it helped the Researcher in answering questions concerning the current state of the subject under study.

Quantitative Research

Quantitative research design was also used to capture details of the study which were expressed in numerical terms like percentages, ratios, and population and sample sizes, among others.

Study Population

The study population constituted mainly the population of Mityana District, these will include 131 managerial staff and 260 operational staff totaling to 391 staff.

This population will be chosen because it was assumed to have adequate knowledge of the subject under investigation and the research variables under investigation.

Sampling Design

Sampling technique

The study employed both statistical and non-statistical sampling techniques. Statistical sampling techniques included random sampling, systematic and cluster sampling whereby the respondents were grouped into different clusters mainly the managerial staff and the operational staff. Then a random sampling technique was

applied on the operational staff since they are many in number. However, since the managerial staffs are few, non-statistical sampling was used and this will mainly be purposive sampling.

Sampling Procedure

Simple random sampling was used to select respondents from among the operational staff. Unique numbers were written on pieces of paper and the prospective respondents were asked to choose randomly from the container having the unique numbers. The respondents who chose numbers 1, 6,12,18,26, with a continuous interval of six will made the sample. This method was chosen in order to avoid bias and it was given equal chance to the population to be selected. Purposive sampling considered managerial staffs who are directly involved in reducing crime rates among the youth especially those in the Security Department.

Sample Size and Composition

The sample size was 252 respondents selected from the population of 391 using Krejcie and Morgan of (1970) method. The researcher first divided the targeted population into two non over lapping strata namely, Operational staff and Managerial staff of the local government based on roles before the sample size was determined in each stratum using Krejcie and Morgan table as illustrated in table 1:

Table 1: The required Sample size

<i>Category</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Sample Size</i>	<i>Selection Method</i>
<i>Managerial staff</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>Purposive Sampling</i>
<i>Operational staff</i>	<i>260</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>Simple Random and systematic sampling</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>391</i>	<i>252</i>	

Data Collection Methods and Instruments

Questionnaires

This research used self-administered questionnaires for the respondents. These was distributed among the respondents. The justification for using this instrument is that

questionnaires were easy to quantify and analyze. In addition, the questionnaire was used because the study focused on opinions, attitudes, feelings and perceptions of respondents.

Data Analysis

Data analysis includes editing, coding computer data entry and verification of the accuracy of the data entered into the computer. Qualitative data was reviewed and analyzed using content analysis where by key statements was used to backup numerical data analyzed. Data analysis was carried out using SPSS in the form of frequency distribution tables, graphs, and pie chart to analyze the relationship between the two variables (Nelson et al., 2022).

Results

The effect of Youth unemployment on crime rates in Mityana District.

Table 2: The effect of Youth unemployment on crime rates in Mityana District.

RESPONSE	SA		A		UD		D		DS		TOTAL	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Youth unemployment led to political insecurity.	58	26.0	78	34.0	37	16.0	27	12.0	25	11.0	225	100
Youth unemployment lowers the levels of development in the country	98	44.0	75	33.0	27	12.0	25	11.0	0.0	0.0	225	100
Youth unemployment	89	39.0	69	31.0	60	27.0	7	3.0	0.0	0.0	225	100

<i>reduces the good reputation of the ruling government</i>												
<i>Youth unemployment lead to armed violence</i>	65	29.0	82	36.0	52	23.0	16	7.0	10	4.0	225	100
<i>Without access to employment or livelihood opportunities, most young people cannot afford a house hence leading violence as the way for survival.</i>	49	22.0	91	40.0	29	13.0	36	16.0	20	9.0	225	100
<i>Youth unemployment lowers the tax base for the country</i>	58	26.0	87	39.0	56	25.0	17	7.0	7	3.0	225	100

Source: primary Data, 2021

According to the table, 56(26%) of the respondents strongly agreed and 78(34%) agreed respectively that the crime rate in Mityana District significantly increased as a result of Youth unemployment which led to political insecurity and other violence. Accordingly, 37(16%) were not sure, 27(12%) disagreed and only 11(5%) Strongly disagreed to the idea. 98(44%) of the respondents strongly agreed to the notion of Youth unemployment lowers the levels of development in the country. Most of the respondents said that youth unemployment tends to reduce the productivity of the given in way of depending on the few working classes.

The table then shows that 89(39%) of the respondents strongly agreed that the Youth unemployment reduces the good reputation of the ruling government, 69(36%) agreed, 60(27%) they were not sure, 7(3%) disagreed and non-strongly agreed to the idea. Through the verbal interview, most of the respondents agreed that the Youth unemployment reduces the good reputation of the ruling government as they get involved in illegal practices for survival. If the youths are planned effectively, then the country is likely to get many positive benefits out of them.

The table indicates that 65(29%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 82(36%) agreed, 52(23%) were no sure, while 16(7%) strongly agreed, and 10(4%) to the idea that Youth unemployment led to armed violence in Mityana District. In the verbal interview, most of the respondents agreed on that, Youth unemployment lead to armed violence in the country and Mityana District in particular, this therefore courses insecurity in the area. The table shows that 49(22%) of the respondents strongly agreed, that the Without access to employment or livelihood opportunities, most young people cannot afford a house and others needs in their daily five hence leading violence as the way for survival., 91(40%) agreed, 29(13) were not sure, 36(16%) disagreed, while 20(9%) strongly disagreed to the idea.

The findings from the research indicated in the table above that 58(26%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Youth unemployment lowers the tax base for the country, 87(39%) agreed, 56(25%) were not sure, 17(12%) disagreed, while on 7(3%) strongly disagreed the idea. The respondents agreed that Youth unemployment lowers the tax base for the country as many individuals divert to smuggling and among others unauthorized activities. The respondents believe that constant smuggling of goods and services across the borders of the country tend to lower the tax for the country.

Table 3: Relationship between Youth unemployment and crime rates in MD.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	105	47.0
No	52	23.0
Not sure	68	30.0
Total	225	100.0

Source: Primary data, 2021

From the table above, the study revealed from the respondents that that indeed youth unemployment has got effects on the crime rates in the MD as majority 105(47.0%) of the 225 respondents agreed that the effects of youth unemployment on crime rates in the society are many and mostly negative although 52(23%) of the respondents did not see any effect that youth unemployment has on crime rates on society and MD in particular. This is because, according to the most of the verbal interviewed respondents, all people who come to town everyday are busy and eventually are able to survive, so for them they did not mention how these people survive.

according to the study findings, also that 68(30%) of the respondents were not sure of whether youth unemployment has any effects on crime rates on the society and MD in particular but instead said that it is the unemployed person who is affected and society does not feel the burden that person has.

However, basing on the most of the study respondents as eluded in the table above, the study therefore established that there is a negative relationship of youth unemployment on the crime rates in MD as was revealed by majority 105(47%) of the covered respondents during data collection process.

Table 4: The Causes of Unemployment among the Youths and its effects on crime rates in Mityana District.

RESPONSE	SA		A		UD		D		SD		TOTAL	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
<i>Tribalism increases unemployment among the youth</i>	48	21.0	77	34.0	104	46.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	225	100
<i>Non-development programs increase unemployment levels among the youth</i>	60	27.0	105	47.0	60	26.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	225	100
<i>Mismatch between skills and the labour market lead to youth unemployment</i>	82	36.0	93	41.0	40	18.0	10	5.0	0.0	0.0	225	100
<i>Rural-Urban migration leads</i>	102	45.0	60	27.0	63	28.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	225	100

<i>to unemployment among the youth.</i>												
<i>Theoretical education system leads to unemployment among the youths</i>	49	22.0	76	34.0	59	26.0	41	18.0	0.0	0.0	225	100
<i>High dependency on foreign labour force lead to unemployment among the youths</i>	76	34.0	97	43.0	39	17.0	13	6.0	0.0	0.0	225	100

Source: Primary, 2019

From the table, 48(21%) of the respondents noted that Nepotism and Tribalism MD are one of the factors that lead unemployment among the youth which in turn results into illegal acts for the survival, 77(34%) of the respondents agree and 104(46%) were not sure about this. The study then shows that 60(27%) of the respondents strongly agree, 105(47%) agree, 60(26%) are not sure, while non-disagreed and strongly disagreed about the fact that Non-development programs increases unemployment levels among the youth in MD with its negative effects (Nelson & Christopher, 2022).

Mismatch between skills and the labour market lead to youth unemployment in MD is yet another cause for the idea above, 80(36%) of the respondents confirmed the assertion of mismatch between skills and the labour market lead to youth unemployment MD with its associated negative effects on the society. 93(%) of the respondents agreed, 40(18%) were not sure, only 10 (5%) disagreed, while non-strongly disagreed about this. Most of the verbal interviewed respondents said that the major cause of unemployment among the youth with its effects on crime rates on the society, is the mismatch between skills and the labour market pointing out that many youth join the labour market with no skills and experiences as the labour market demands and this even keeps the educated out of the formal sector and enter the informal sector do things for which they have no skills resulting into failure and frustration because of either under employment or unemployment hence illegal acts (Godfrey et al., 2023)

According to the table, 102(45%) of the respondents noted Rural-Urban migration leads to unemployment among the youth, such results into crime rates in the community because of over population. Most of the verbal interviewed respondents said that high population growth resulting from Rural-Urban migration saying that a lot of new people especially youth come to MM every day in search for jobs and other services but many cannot find jobs ending into unemployment and girls venture into prostitution and others hence resulting into high crime rates in MD, 60(27%) of the respondents agreed, and 63(28%) were not sure about this.

The study also established that Theoretical education system lead to unemployment among the youths in WMC and its one causes of crimes rates in the study area. The study learnt that MD Theoretical education system do not portray the actual purpose for the required skills, it should be noted that 49(22%) respondents bitterly emphasized the challenge, 76(34%) strongly emphasized the challenge, and 59(26%) were not sure, while only 41(18%) strongly disagreed.

According to the table, 76(34%) of the respondents said that high dependency on foreign labour force lead to unemployment among the youths in the country and MD in particular. This therefore results into high crime rates in the study area, 97(43%) of the respondents agreed, 39(17%) were not sure, while only 13(6%) disagreed.

It was established that the above challenge affects the country's economy as some times reduce greatly on the country's performance on growth and development level of the economy. The verbal findings of the study also indicated that there are still challenges faced by MD as a community in the process of overcoming youth unemployment and its effects on the crime rates.

The possible solution to the causes of poor financial reporting in MD.

Table 5: The possible solution to the causes of poor financial reporting in MD.

RESPONSE	SA		A		UD		D		SD		TOTAL	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Control population growth reduces the unemployment among the youth	98	44.0	57	25.0	70	31.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	225	100
Reviewing the education curriculum for job makers than job seekers	57	25.0	68	30.0	43	19.0	37	16.0	20	9.0	225	100
Financial assistance to	86	38.0	59	26.0	21	9.0	39	17.0	20	9.0	225	100

youths for setting up small business													
Attract more foreign investors to create more jobs to the youths	62	28.0	83	37.0	42	19.0	38	17.0	0.0	0.0	225	100	
Forming youth groups for social development	46	20.0	77	34.0	60	27.0	15	7.0	25	11.0	225	100	

Source: primary, 2021

According to the table 98(44%) of the respondents strongly agreed and 57(25%) agreed respectively that Controlling population growth rates reduces the unemployment among the youth in the country and MD in particular, 70(31%) were not sure and non- of the respondents disagreed about this. Most of the verbal findings indicated that it is an obligation for the ruling government to control the birth rates in the country. Most of the respondents said there is a need to control the over ever fast-growing youth population rates in the country which they said can be done by authorities availing better social services to its citizen like offering incentives to families with few children.

Findings from the researcher indicated in the above shows that 57(25%) of the respondents strongly agreed that in MD, there should be reviewing of the education curriculum aiming at job creation than job seekers, 68(30%) agreed, 43(19%) were not sure, 39(17%) disagreed, while only 20(9%) strongly disagreed. Most of the verbal interviewed respondents were of the view that Uganda's education curriculum needs

to be revised to suit Uganda's situation particularly to address the unemployment problem and they suggested that system has to be changed from theory to practical in order to produce people who can start up something with their hands and brains to support themselves instead waiting for jobs in the formal sector which involve a lot of competition and technical know who besides demands of working experience even when it is clear someone is a fresh university product .

From the table, 86(38%) of the respondents strongly agreed that there should be financial assistance to youths for setting up small business, 59(26%) agreed. Further still from the most respondents said that youth unemployment comes because many of them have financial constraints that prevent them from starting enterprises that would provide employment opportunities the owners and other youths and suggested that government needs to take up the duty providing these youths with financial assistance in form of credit and at low interest rates and reduce on the bureaucracy and requirements for accessing these credit facilities.

Further still, the findings in the table indicate that 62(28%) of the respondents strongly agreed that the government should attract more foreign investors to create more jobs to the youths, in the field most of the interviewed respondents supported this point by saying that government through the Uganda Investment Authority has to attract more investors and industrialists to come and invest in Uganda so as to create jobs for the Ugandan youths but cautioned government that such investors a clear policy to follow if they are to benefit Ugandans for example they should not more staff their factories or businesses with their fellow foreigners in order to employ Ugandans. 83(37%) agreed, 42(19%) were not sure, 38(17%) disagreed and non-strongly disagreed about this.

The table indicates that 46(20%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Forming youth groups for social development. Though an interview with the respondents, some of them agreed by saying that to reduce youth unemployment in MD and Uganda as a country, youths should be brought together to form youth groups and

explained that although these cannot fully eliminate the problem, they can help the youth to come together to share ideas and experiences through which they can formulate solutions than other people proposing solutions for them. Besides, they reason that if government was to provide assistance or set up projects to help youths, it would be easier when they are together than helping individual youths.

Conclusion

The study concluded that the prevalence of youth unemployment in Mityana District is high at over 60 % and nearly 35% of those who seem to be working are under employed in a way disguised employment that their output is limited.

Recommendations

Measures should be put in place to control the rate of population growth especially resulting from rural-urban migration since a number of youths were from distant areas and ended up in this area. This habit needs to be checked. Plans need to be made for resettlement and rehabilitation of these children of Uganda (youth of Uganda).

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