

UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE CHALLENGES OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
IN IBADAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE

N.B.T.S.  
M. Th.  
AK-313

AKINBOWALE BABATUNDE ENIOLA

MATRIC NO.: 11/0195

A Thesis in the Unit of Christian Ethics

Department of Theology

Faculty of Theological Studies

The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomoso

2013—0750

Submitted to the

Postgraduate Studies Unit

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of the Degree of

MASTER OF THEOLOGY

MAY, 2013.

## ABSTRACT

The country's situation is graduating into the state of serious embarrassment, as far as unemployment is concerned. It is apparent that this problem is not limited to Nigeria alone, but the method which Nigeria has been applying to handle the matter does not seem to be raising hope in those that are closely affected- the young graduates. The rate of graduate turnout from our tertiary institutions is far greater than the employment opportunities. This cumulative effect is no doubt a signal for a possible outburst of an undesirable social crisis. Therefore, among all other stakeholders, if the church community could rise to the task of minimizing the problem, it will be better off for both the church and the society. For that reason, this work has examined the extent of unemployed young graduates in Ibadan Baptist Conference. This work also investigated whatever any church has started doing concerning this. To achieve the purpose of this work, interviews were conducted to gather vital information. This information revealed that a great number of youth are idle, without any serious actions to arrest the ugly situation. Further efforts showed that the future is not yet bright in this respect, because Christian character, and hence the church function in the society, are under a great risk! However, if the church can begin to sensitise the youth through re-orientation programmes, familiarization with unnoticed opportunities, and skill acquisition, the society will be able to gain time for better planning, and a glorious future.

and theological. Some of the issues examined about unemployment are: Yoruba African Cultural Perspectives and others like biblical, the youth concerned and secular. A problem of unemployment was another issue under which are: social, marital and parenthood delay. The bleak future of leadership was also looked into, and problems that are imminent. The issue of citizens' rights to welfare in the country was also carefully checked. Whatever the country has been doing to curtail unemployment was presented at the close of the chapter.

In chapter three there was a brief history of Ibadan Conference. The information gathered from different persons in the conference was reported. The challenges facing the youth were inferred from the information. And the role of the church in youth development was discussed. A relevant discourse on ethics occupies the early part of chapter four. Following the discourse was the presentation of some ethical implications as they affect youth development - most especially responsible citizenship, acceptable Christian life, a settled family life and trusted leadership. Chapter five contains the summary, conclusion and possible recommendations of the deliverance from the chains of youth unemployment, not only in Ibadan Baptist Conference, but also in the country as a whole.

## 5.2 CONCLUSION

It is long enough that the country has only been stylish in her approach to unemployment which is a very serious matter in human life. The establishment of non-functioning ministries, directorates and boards, the making of policies and programmes that have not availed any benefit to our youth, all are sufficient for itself. Doing nothing or doing something, unemployment keeps hitting hard on Nigerian society. So it is

imperative for all stakeholders to sit up tight to embark on actions that will not only bring succor, but real break-through and progress. The church is a vital stakeholder as far as her environment is concerned, if the gospel would be done accordingly for the sake of Christ. Hence, this writer believes that the church could make herself available in attempting something decisive against unemployment; to shake up all other stakeholders, and most especially, to jump-start the government towards fulfilling her obligations in the development of this wonderfully blessed giant of Africa- Nigeria, which definitely would have adequately catered for the development of the youth - the country's future.

In conclusion, therefore, it has been discovered that there are numerous young graduates (about 65 percent within the limit of available information) that are not engaged in any job in Ibadan Baptist Conference. It was also observed that only a few of these young graduates have any "self-help" business they are doing. It is not interesting however to discover, within the limit of investigation, that no identified church had employed something beyond counseling, encouraging, praying, organising seminars and workshops, and linking parishioners up with job opportunities. Whereas, if there is a re-orientation programme in which unharnessed areas of human occupation are made open to those youth, they would be able to explore the opportunities, applying their academic knowledge to make great exploits.

### 5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is very clear that the youth of any society is her future. Means of livelihood is the sustenance of human life. If there is no employment, there cannot be a source of income which in turn shows that human life is toying with a risk. Hence, to forestall

imminent greater problems than what we are experiencing due to unemployment, the following recommendations should be given due consideration to achieve better conditions of life:

1. Some of the steps that the government has taken could bring solution if properly executed. So the church should endeavour to appraise such programmes with the aim of counselling and encouraging the government to do an overhauling of the programmes under adequate monitoring.
2. Nigeria has character problems. But character is the centre of gospel's message through the church. So the church should discern to device the appropriate method of imparting the message of good character to escape the consequences of further acts of nepotism, favoritism and some forms of corruption which have been jeopardizing the success of the programmes. The church must do this work by being a good example.
3. Vocational centres; e.g. the government trade centres and technical colleges, are already moribund. The church, through the conference should decide to establish vocational centres to carry out the programmes of youth development. Oyo west Baptist Conference had already started one.
4. The church should organise youth re-orientation programmes that would adjust their foci on Western ideas and civilization, so they could consider indigenous exploration of opportunities for employment purpose.
5. The church should make it crucial obligation for herself to encourage, with monitoring, the youth to remain in the faith for the Master - Jesus Christ - and denounce every likeness of temptation that can make them compromise biblical moral commands.