

A CHURCH RESPONSE TO YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT  
IN EDO STATE

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### ABSTRACT

This research tried to look into the pain that confronts an unemployed youth in Edo State and the church's response to it. It found out that majority of the youth that are supposed to be engaged in meaningful jobs or business are found roaming around the streets and some involving in nefarious activities. It noted that there are various benefits that can be recorded if they are gainfully employed as they can contribute to the physical, spiritual, economic, and social wellbeing of the state and the nation. The youths being unemployed have created numerous challenges both to their families, church, and the state as a whole.

The responses that is expected from the churches which would go a long way in curbing unemployment and also help the youths in creating their own job would include the pastoral response through administering spiritual healing to their situation, the church social ministry and social actions, the church prophetic response on the nations economic issues that would address joblessness, youth empowerment programme and the larger bodies (Ecumenical Councils) such as Christian Association of Nigeria (C.A.N.), Christian Council of Nigeria (C.C.N.) and Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (P.F.N) responses. All these would go a long way in addressing the problems of unemployment among the youth in Edo State.

## 5.2 CONCLUSION

This study has been able to look at a church's response to youth unemployment venturing into the biblical understanding of unemployment, unemployment in Nigeria, its causes, effects and the benefits of employing our youth. Outside the physical and social benefits, the economic impact that comes as a result making jobs available for our youth is unquantifiable. The problem of unemployment poses serious danger to the families as there would be increase in poverty in such families hunger and malnutrition. In the churches such youths may experience loneliness, self-pity emotional challenges which may affect characterize their life as they attend churches. In Edo State it has led to moral decadence in the society, health challenges that are unprecedented, gap between the rich and the poor and increase in crime rate.

Therefore, some basic responses from the church and ecumenical bodies which included pastoral ministration to them, youth empowerment programmes,

social ministries and social actions and church prophetic response to economic issues that will address unemployment in a wholistic way of creating jobs for our teaming youth are some of the responses. The church and the ecumenical organs have a role to play in addressing this issues of joblessness among the youth in Edo State.

### 5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Having examined the causes effects and responses of church and Ecumenical bodies towards unemployment in Edo State, the researcher hereby recommends the following points as necessary measures that could enhance employment of youths in Edo State.

The research noted that agricultural production and farm settlement scheme can be a source of getting the youth engaged, therefore, the research recommend that church involvement in agricultural farm settlement scheme with modern farm techniques would decrease youth unemployment within the church and the state.

Having recognized the importance of the Ecumenical Organization in this thesis, it is hereby recommended that they should be directly involved in setting up identifiable employment targets in both public and private sectors so as to have a comprehensive development strategy that would facilitate monitoring of unemployed and fixing them in such jobs.

Also having noticed that teaching, preaching, prayer, and counseling could be a tool to minister to the unemployed by the church and Ecumenical body, it is hereby recommended that Teaching, Preaching, Workshop and Seminars be held for the unemployed in both levels (church and Ecumenical body) so as to use these avenues

to minister directly or indirectly to the unemployed youths. This may also help to build their psychological mind as their plight would be addressed.

Having noted that informal private sector and establishment of personal businesses could be of help in curbing unemployment, the researcher recommend that this practice be encourage in the church and be sponsored by the church where necessary.

Having noted that the church and the Ecumenical bodies could play a prophetic role in advising the government on economic policies that could favour creation of jobs the researcher hereby recommend that church and ecumenical bodies should always or constantly address this issue of youth unemployment and send their communiqué, or their seminars recommendation or workshop decision to the Federal State and Local Government Ministries labour for their information and possible action or implementation as the case may be.

The corruption tendencies in the system having been noted as one of causes of unemployment of youth in the country, the research therefore recommend that merit and lay down procedures be adequately followed in any employment opportunity. This recommendation will help check high level of bribery scandal rocking any advertised vacancies in Edo State.

Having noted also in this research work that the church should not merely be a worship ground to harbour youth that are jobless, it is hereby recommended that youth empowerment programme that would gainfully involve our youth into artistic technical and other types of job creations be pursued vigorously by all local church and ecumenical bodies. These programmes would includes, fashion designs,

craftwork, computer training, financial investments, shopping malls or complexes and restaurants.

Following the need to establish educational infrastructures for our youth and the need also for specialization, the development of these youth should be based on individuals capacity, talent and personal development as noted in this research: It is hereby recommended that there should be a shift from opening of ordinary universities or other tertiary institution that encourage white collar jobs to technical /vocational education institutions by the churches and the ecumenical bodies. This recommendation would further help in reducing unemployment of our youth at the graduation point as these ones would have been professionally developed to establish themselves through their trainings.