

## POVERTY AMONG YOUTH IN IBADAN METROPOLIS IN OYO STATE: IMPLICATIONS ON EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

**Ajiboye, Johnson Tunde & Awolola, Oluwatoyin Isaiah**

Department of Educational Management Library and Information Science, Emmanuel  
Alayande University of Education, Oyo (EAUED)

### Abstract

Poverty is a mother of all crimes. It is not actually absent of money per say but well-being. It has no respect for any man. It blossoms when there is no visions. Thus, this study investigated poverty among the youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State: Implications on education development. For this study, survey research design was adopted. The population of the study comprises of all youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State. Multistage sampling technique was adopted for the study. Three areas were purposively selected through purposive sampling technique from 5 Local Governments Areas in Ibadan Metropolis. A total of 15 areas were involved in the study. In each area, twenty youth were randomly selected through random sampling technique. The respondents comprised 300 youth. Structured Questionnaire tagged “Poverty Eradication and Education Development among Youth Questionnaire (PEEDYQ)” was used to elicit data. In addition, 15 items were validated by experts in the Department of Educational Management and Test and measurement to make sure that the questionnaire measured what it was supposed to measure. For reliability of the instrument, test-retest was conducted and 0.74 coefficient was obtained. The analysis of the questionnaire was done using simple percentage analysis. The findings revealed that causes of poverty among youth in the area of study include high inflationary, bad leadership, poor economic policy of the government and poor industrialization. Also, the socio-economic consequences of poverty among youth include difficulty in live hood and low self-esteem. The study concluded that poverty is very rampant due to poor entrepreneurial curriculum at all levels of education and poor industrialization policy. Recommendations were made that adequate job opportunity should be provided for the youth and that adequate funding of industries by state and federal governments to create more jobs.

**Keywords:** Poverty  
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**Corresponding Author Email:**  
ajiboyejohnsontunde@gmail.com



## Introduction

Globally, education is the key to increasing economic and social consistency, by increasing the value and efficiency of the labour force and in the long run raises the poor from poverty. Without mincing words, education adds to the universal productivity and incredible success in economic part of the countries through new technologies that people who are literate can design. The more education the mother has, the lower is the maternal mortality and the healthier the child (World Bank, 1995). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2014) also emphasizes the capabilities approach for poverty measurement. Ending Poverty in all its forms everywhere is main goal of United Nations with a pledge that no one will be left behind (N0 1, of the 17 development goals set by United Nations Development projects). The attempt to eradicate the poverty in the country, the Federal Government of Nigeria had since military regime introduced Operation Feed the Nation, 1977; Universal Basic Education, 1999 and National Directorate of Employment in 1986 were few of the programmes that were initiated to fight against poverty in Nigeria.

However, poverty alleviation programmes all over the world are predominantly aimed at reducing poverty of the poor and vulnerable communities through various participatory and community-demand-driven approaches (Chakrabarti, 2013, Yalegama, Chileshe & Ma, 2016). In addition, micro-finance banking was one of the strategies employed by federal and state governments to lift the poor out of poverty. It has spread through out the nook and cranny in Nigeria over the last decade and it is currently operating across several developing countries (Lashley, 2004). Good governance has a lot contributions and relevant agendas over the past few decades in developed nations compare to developing countries (Kwon & Kim, 2014). Ordinarily, it is a known fact that poverty is as a result of poor people's "dissolute behavior" such as having many children, idleness, or bad spending choices, for example; excessive consumption of alcohol (Ravallion, 2015).

Foreign aid and poverty in developing nations from time immemorial, developing countries had been given/lending monetary assistance from developed countries in order to boost their economy and alleviate poverty. Broadly defined foreign aid comprises all resources, physical good skills and technical know-how financial grants (gifts) or concessional loans which are transferred by donors to recipient countries (OECD, 2018). Foreign aids take the form of disbursement of funds made on concessional firms and grants by official agencies of members of the Development Assistance Committee. The purpose of providing aid is to promote economic development and improve the welfare of households in developing countries. Foreign aids can be tied to investment in education and health to developing countries (World Bank, 2019). It was argued that aid may not on its own effectively reduce poverty except there are operative fiscal and monetary policy measures.

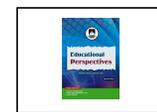
Poverty wreaks havoc on individual who usually goes to the healthcare for medical check-up and could not go because of insufficient fund; some small businesses are on break that were not planned for, some vehicle owners find it difficult to maintain their vehicles, able-bodied-man are roaming the streets in most of the major cities, physically challenged ones are not willing to look for alternative means of sustaining livelihood except seeking for alms, some of the children of those who are not ripe for marriage have kwashiorkor, pilfering is a common occurrence in market places and during obsequies. One wonders what one can do to bring this social phenomenon under control. In the contribution of Preble & Tupy, 2005, direct and portfolio investments are for the benefit of the investors and the recipient country. He was of the opinion that when there is a spillover effect in increasing the output of the domiciled country, the direct and portfolio investments may not translate into improvement in the quality of life or poverty reduction (Denisia, 2010). Opinions of some scholars affirm that foreign aid can be used to minimize poverty incidence in education and health sectors (Dollar & Burnside, 2000; Maci, 2004) while some scholars posit that foreign aid to Africa has no significant impart on the citizenry who still wallow in abject poverty (Magnon, 2012) Studies carried out by Rajan and Subramanian 2011, and Arndt, Jones and Tarp (2010) pointed that aid has not been effective. The opinion of the scholars suggest that if there was a positive effect of aid on growth it would be small and economic little significance.



It is an indisputable fact that poverty exists in all countries of the world but extreme poverty is more widespread in the countries in sub-sahara Africa and south Asia. Causes of poverty in these countries include but not limited to widespread use of old technologies in agriculture, exploitation of poor communities by political elites, conflicts and social strife, inadequate funding of pro-poor programmes (World Bank 2015; Hamel, Tong Hofer 2019). The experience of different rapidly growing developing countries demonstrates that political will and visionary leaders that uphold rule of law, the goal of reducing poverty and improving standards of the poor is real and can be achieved (Sachs, 2005). In the opinion of (Page and Pande 2018) stimulating economic growth requires public investments in infrastructure such as roads, electric power, schools, hospitals and water sanitation systems. The international community recognizes the importance of social protections cross-cutting policy approach to make a real difference for people. Social protection is placed prominently across the 17 SDGs. It can help in terms of human capital development, social cohesion, social risk management and promotion of inclusive economic growth (ILO, 2014). Both early teen marriage and dropping out of high school have historically been associated with a variety of negative outcomes including higher poverty rates throughout life. It is worthy of mention that birth rate increases without corresponding increase in the infrastructural and social amenities for the growth of population. In Nigeria there is no legal restrictions that stipulates marriageable age for teenagers which consequently adds to poverty rate.

Conversely, unemployment has been identified as one of the causes of poverty in Nigeria. International Labour Organization (ILO, 2012) affirmed that unemployed workers are those who are currently not working but are willing and able to work for pay, this category have searched for work which are not available for people to be regarded as unemployed, they must be actively seeking for work (World Bank, 2020). It is widely believed that mobility is a key driver of development, with positive economic and social benefits from investment in transport (World Bank, 2009, Kopp, Block and Limi, 2013). Appropriate transport is needed for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It can be argued that a very significant part of the poverty reduction achievements of the MDGs (eliminating hunger, improving education, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health etc.) have been as a result of improved mobility of the target populations, supporting services and goods. However, the poorest sectors of society may not be able to benefit from improved transport and they may actually be marginalized by the externalities related to the intended growth (Najman and Raballand, 2010). Also, Khandker and Koolwal, (2011) noted that there were no guiding principles for, or systematic approaches to effects of poverty issues as it affects the banking sector, transport sector operations, as transport was considered to have only an indirect relationship to poverty (Gannon and Liu, 1997). Occurrence of Natural Disasters is one other point which should not be undermined. Natural disasters include devastated floods, windstorm, fire outbreaks severe drought, epidemics and endemics, famine etc. The fatality and its vulnerability depends on the extent of damage / casualties in that part of the globe. Any of the aforementioned natural disaster can wreak irreparable havoc that would not be easy to control for decades.

Karnani (2017) opinioned that the best way to reduce poverty is to raise the productive capacity of the poor. He further argued that, efficient marketing systems are vital in enabling the poor to increase their production because they permit the delivery of products to markets at competitive prices that result in increased incomes. This is the reason why developing countries need to explore ways of expanding export markets. The millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had come to an end in 2015 while Sustainable Goals (SDGs) comes to an end in 2030 (Alkire et.al, 2021). The persistence of poverty issues in many developing nations many years ago despite both local and foreign efforts made the researchers insisted on seeking possible ways of finding, possible and realistic solutions to poverty problem. At this juncture it should be noted that the foreign aid can be in form of a grant, loan, soft or hard loan. If a foreign loans requires repayment in foreign currency, then the foreign aid is known as hard loan, if the repayment requires home currency it is otherwise known as a soft loan. In actual fact, World Bank usually gives foreign aid in hard loans while other international organization provide soft loans (Thapa, 2020). Disbursement of official development assistance commonly known as foreign aid started after World War II (Feeny, 2007). The main motive behind giving foreign aid



and poverty eradication into unite the recipient countries, improve trade, protecting and promotion of human rights (Riddell, 2014).

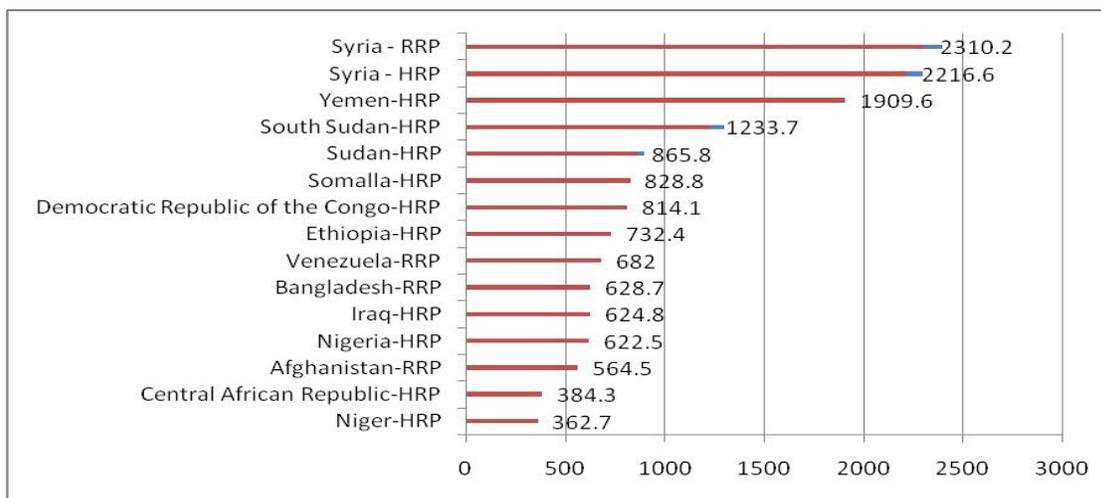
**Statement of the Problem**

Over the decades, poverty is affecting vast of the populace in the world. Indeed, this problem is very predominant in developing countries. This is a universal phenomenon which reduces a greater portion of the population useless or unproductive and some category of this people had engaged in social vices to the detriment of the universe as a result of poverty. The Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals that were formed to eradicate this ugly phenomenon has not yielded fruitful results it deserves for the past two decades. One begins to wonder why this laudable program which huge amount of money is earmarked for is yet to be appropriated for their efforts, hence, the need for more in-depth into the geometrical increase in poverty rates among the youth particularly in developing area.

Previous studies have focused on poverty generally, as it affected the global world, Africa and Nigeria as a nation with little emphasis on the youth as stakeholders. This study therefore investigated poverty eradication among youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State.

**Theoretical Framework (Big Push Theory)**

The study adopted Big Push Theory by Sachs, Jeffery et.al (2005). In opinion of the proponents, the three inter-related concepts include the big push, the poverty trap and the take-off. It was rumored that the least developed countries are caught in a poverty trap, from which they need a Big Push involving increased aid and investment to emerge, after which they will have a takeoff into self-sustained growth. The staple of Big push theories is that the Big Push will enable countries to break out of stagnant poverty trap into self-sustained growth. As the big push increases the capital stock, consumers will rise above subsistence enabling them to save more. The increasing returns to the capital will be realized, allowing future investment to have attractive returns. This means aid will only be needed temporarily, as it can be discontinued once self-sustained growth takes hold. Poverty traps is what (Pritchett, 1997) called bad Government. The gap between the richest and poorest countries widened drastically over the last two centuries.



**Figure 1:** The Largest Recipients of Humanitarian Aid Worldwide by countries (in million U.S. Dollars)  
**Source:** Statista (2019)



Figure 1 displays the largest recipients of humanitarian aid worldwide by countries (in million U.S. Dollars). Out of the fifteen countries that were beneficiaries of the humanitarian and worldwide in 2019. Nigeria as a nation took the 12<sup>th</sup> position as shown in the table 1 yet the impact of the aid has not been noticed, neither on infrastructures or social amenities. Instead, it has brought adverse poverty which has resulted to economic crisis to Nigerians.

### Objectives of the Study

The main thrust of the paper is to examine poverty among youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State: Implications on Education Development. Specifically, the study is to:

1. examine the causes of poverty among youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State.
2. determine the socio-economic consequences of poverty among youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State.
3. Proffer remedies to problems of poverty among youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State be solved.

### Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. What are the root (causes) of poverty among the youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State?
2. Are there socio-economic consequences of poverty among youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State?
3. In what ways (strategies) can these existing problems be solved among youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State?

### Methodology

Research design adopted for this study was survey research design. The population of the study were all youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State. Multistage sampling technique was adopted for the study. Three areas were purposively selected through purposive sampling technique from 5 Local Governments Areas in Ibadan Metropolis. A total of 15 areas were involved in the study. In each area, twenty youth were randomly selected through random sampling technique. A total of 300 youths were used for the study. Structured Questionnaire tagged “*Poverty Eradication and Education Development among Youth Questionnaire (PEEDYQ)*” was used to elicit data. In addition, thirty items were validated by experts in the Department of Educational Management and Test and measurement to make sure that the questionnaire measured what it was supposed to measure. For reliability of the instrument, test-retest was conducted and 0.74 coefficient was obtained. Administration of the data was undertaken by the researcher with support of 2 research assistants. The analysis was done using simple percentage analysis to answer the 3 research questions.

**Research Question 1:** What are the root (causes) of poverty among the youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State?



**Table 1: Causes of Poverty among Youth in Ibadan Metropolis**

S/N	ITEMS	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1.	High inflationary rate in the country adds to poverty rate among the youth.	200(66.67)	100(33.33)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)
2.	Many families have become wretched as a result of bad leadership	250(83.33)	50(16.66)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)
3.	Poor economic policy of the government was not one of the causes of poverty	300(100.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)
4.	Low income parents can cater well for their children/wards after universities education.	300(100.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)
5.	After graduation some graduates still depend on their parents for their livelihood due to unemployment.	280(93.33)	20 (6.67)	0(0.00)	00.00)

Table 1 displays the root (causes) of poverty among the youth in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State. It was found that 200 (66.67%) respondents strongly agreed that high inflationary rate in the country adds to poverty among the youth while 100(33.33%) respondents agreed with the motion. On the item that many families have become wretched as a result of bad leadership, 250(83.33%) were strongly agreed while 50 (16.67%) agreed. All the respondents, 300 (100.00%) submitted that poor economic policy of the government was one of the causes of poverty and that low income parents can cater well for the children/wards in the universities. Likewise, that after graduation some graduates still depend on their parents for their livelihood due to unemployment, 280(93.33%) strongly agreed while 20(6.67%) agreed with the view.

**Research Question 2:** Are there socio-economic consequences of poverty among Youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State?

**Table 2: Ways Poverty affect Youth in Ibadan Metropolis**

S/N	ITEMS	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1.	I do not have enough money to be self-employed after graduation	300(100.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)
2.	My parents were unable to continue paying my bills as a result of poor economy condition	250 (83.33)	0(0.00)	50(16.66)	0(0.00)
3.	I do go for part time job with little motivation due to hardship I encounter.	270(90.00)	30(10.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)
4.	I do not have all I want on time because my parents do not send it to me.	280(93.33)	0(0.00)	20( 6.66)	0(0.00)
5.	I am experiencing low self-esteem because of inability to stand on my own.	150(50.00)	50(16.66)	100(33.34)	0(0.00)

Table 2 shows the socio-economic consequences of poverty among youth in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State. It was established that all the 300 (100.00%) respondents strongly agreed that they do not have enough money to provide for themselves. That their parents were unable to continue paying their bills due to poor economy. 250 (33.33%) respondents agreed with the motion while 50(16.66%) disagreed. On the item that youth do go for part time job with



little motivation due to hardship they are encountering, 270(90.00%) were strongly agreed while 30 (10.007%) agreed. Also, 280 (93.33%) submitted that they do not have what they desire all the time because their parents do not send it to them on time while 20(6.66%) disagreed. Likewise, that they do have low esteem because of inability to stand on their own. 150 (50.00) strongly agreed, 50 (16.66%) agreed while 100 (33.33%) disagreed with the view.

**Research Question 3:** In what ways (strategies) can these existing problems be solved among youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State?

**Table 3: Strategies of reducing poverty rate among youth in Ibadan Metropolis**

S/ N	ITEMS	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
1.	Adequate funding for self-employment programme. Allowance, loans and grants should be provided by the government.	300 (100.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
2.	Government should ensure proper monitoring and allocation of monthly assisted fund to the youth	280(93.33)	0(0.00)	20(6.66)	0(0.00)
3.	Industrialization should be promoted in order to create more jobs.	300(100.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)
4.	There should be inclusion of more youth in the government parastatals by reducing retirement age	300(100.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)
5.	The school curriculum should be more flexible in such a way to allow combining studies with employment where applicable. This will help graduates to cope after graduation.	270(90.00)	30(10.00)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)

Table 3 shows the ways (strategies) can these existing problems of poverty be solved among youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State. It was established that all the 300 (100.00%) respondents strongly agreed that there is need for adequate funding for self-employment programme. Allowance, loans and grants should be provided by the government and that industrialization should be promoted in order to create more jobs. Also, Industrialization should be promoted in order to create more jobs and there should be inclusion of more youth in the government parastatals by reducing retirement age, 280 (93.33%) respondents strongly agreed while 20 (3.33%) respondents disagreed. In addition, that school curriculum should be more flexible in such a way to allow combining studies with employment where applicable, 270 (90.00) respondents strongly agreed while 30(10.00%) respondents disagreed with the view.

**Discussion of Findings**

From the findings, it was revealed that causes of poverty among youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State include high inflationary rate in the country, many families have become wretched as a result of bad leadership and poor economic policy of the government. Likewise, Other causes of poverty include low parental income and after graduation some graduates still depend on their parents for their livelihood, This is in line with (World Bank, 2015 in Hamel, Tong



Hofer (2019) that causes of poverty in these countries (developing) include but not limited to widespread use of old technologies in agriculture, exploitation of poor communities by political elites, conflicts and social strife, inadequate funding of pro-poor programmes.

Also, socio-economic consequences of poverty among youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State were found. It was established that some students do not have enough money to provide learning materials for themselves and this affects their grades in school, parents were unable to continue paying their wards bills and this affect their self esteem with little motivation due to hardship they were encountering in their lecturing job. In addition, most youth do not have what they should on time because their parents do not send it to them on time, and this affect their preparation for exams. This is the notion of Khandker and Koolwal, (2011) who noted that there were no guiding principles for, or systematic approaches to effects of poverty issues as it affects the banking sector, transport sector operations, as transport was considered to have only an indirect relationship to poverty.

Strategies to solve existing problems of poverty among youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State were established from the respondents. It was found that industrialization should be promoted in order to create more jobs, there should be inclusion of more youth in the government parastatals by reducing retirement age. More so, the school curriculum should be more flexible in such a way to allow combining studies with employment where applicable. This will help graduates to cope after graduation. This study corroborate the study of Karnani (2017) opinioned that the best way to reduce poverty is to raise the productive capacity of the poor. He further argued that, efficient marketing systems are vital in enabling the poor to increase their production because they permit the delivery of products to markets at competitive prices that result in increased incomes. This is the reason why developing countries need to explore ways of expanding export markets.

Implications of poverty on education development in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. For education to be appreciated as the right of every Nigerian child and full actualization of Education for All (EFA) and MDGs in Nigeria, there is need to eliminate the existence of poverty. One of the major factors that pulled down and still crushing the quality education in Nigeria is poverty. For instance, Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Basic Education (UBE) programmes failed due to poor funding (Financial inadequacy). Despite the national objective to provide free and compulsory basic education to all children, Nigeria has one of the largest out-of-school populations in the world. According to UIS estimate, (2010) about 10.5 million primary school children are out of school which is about 42 percent of the primary-age population. According to World Bank (2013) in Ogunniran, Isuku & Hou (2019) using Nigeria Education Data Survey of 2010, it was pointed that despite this slightly positive trend however, the pre-primary enrollment ratios for 4- to 5-year-olds remain low, at a net of 34 percent and a gross of 51 percent. But this positive trend is not obvious in Oyo State as a number of school age children are still hawking, roaming the street and making menace out of peace of the state. This is evident in UNICEF (2011) analysis that 23.3% of primary school age and 18.2% junior secondary school age are out of school (Ogunniran, Isuku & Hou, 2019).

Report from different scholars and as well as the African Regional Studies Programme of the World Bank presents a sorry picture of the conditions in African primary schools - Nigeria inclusive. It points out that most schools in SubSaharan Africa suffer from very poor conditions of learning in dilapidated or half-completed buildings, insufficient furniture, overcrowded classrooms, inadequate learning materials, poorly educated and motivated teachers and the use of recitation as the dominant vehicle for learning (World Bank, 1998 cited in Ajayi & Adeyemi 2011). Majority of the schools have no libraries to inculcate in the students the habit of reading. Those that have libraries have no books meant for this level of education. It was also observed that in Nigeria, the total enrolment as a percentage of total school age population had been declining since 1983 from 93% in that year to date Chinsman, 1998 cited in Ajayi & Adeyemi 2011). The reducing enrollment rate exposes vulnerability of UBE vision in Nigeria

## Conclusion



Poverty has been established as a global concept which has established itself among the youth. The findings revealed that causes of poverty among youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State include high inflationary rate in the country, bad leadership and poor economic policy of the government and low parental income among others. Also, socio-economic consequences of poverty among youth were established that some students do not have enough money to provide learning materials for themselves and this affects their grades in school, parents were unable to continue paying their wards bills and this affect their self esteem with little motivation due to hardship they were encountering in their lecturing job.

Strategies to solve existing problems of poverty among youth in Ibadan Metropolis in Oyo State were established from the respondents. It was found that industrialization should be promoted in order to create more jobs, there should be inclusion of more youth in the government parastatals by reducing retirement age. More so, the school curriculum should be more flexible in such a way to allow combining studies with employment where applicable.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings, the following recommendation were made:

1. Adequate provision of job opportunity to youth especially graduates.
2. Entrepreneurial curriculum should be introduced at all level of education,
3. There is need for adequate funding of industries by state and federal governments.
4. Government should sponsor skills acquisition programmes for the unemployed on part time basis for students.
5. Adequate support for self-employment programme. Allowance, loans and grants should be provided by the government
6. Industrialization should be promoted in order to create more jobs.
7. There should be inclusion of more youth in the government parastatals by reducing retirement age.
8. More so, the school curriculum should be more flexible in such a way to allow combining studies with employment where applicable. This will help graduates to cope after graduation.



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