



PREDISPOSING FACTORS OF YOUTH RESTIVENESS AMONG YOUNG ADULTS IN ALIMOSHO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF LAGOS STATE

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Abstract

Youth restiveness is all form of agitation, unrest, or active engagement in activities that have the potential to upset social and political order among young people. This study examined peer group and parental income as predisposing factors of youth restiveness among young adults in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. To achieve the study, two hypotheses were postulated. The descriptive research design was used while 400 conveniently sampled youth below the age of 30 years from Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. The research instrument used was a self-developed questionnaire titled “Youth Restiveness Questionnaire (YRQ). The research instrument was distributed and collected adopting the on-spot distribution technique while Cronbach’s method ascertained the reliability of the study getting an alpha coefficient of 0.77. Chi-Square (X^2) was used to test all stated hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance; In conclusion peer group ($X^2=189.60$, $p<0.05$ at 12^0) and parental income, ($X^2=35.95$; $p<0.05$ at 12^0) have significant influence on youth restiveness in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. Based on this study, it was recommended that Community based interventions should be developed to target peer groups and address negative peer influence through focusing on promotion of positive peer relationships and providing opportunities for positive youth development among residents in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State as well as other areas with similar challenges.

Keywords:

Youth restiveness,
Peer pressure and
Parental income.

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Introduction

The current global wave of insecurity is undeniably impacting Nigeria, and the nation has recently seen a significant upsurge in youth violence and acts of lawlessness. There is a consistent rise in the frequency of Nigerian youths resorting to violence to carry out various antisocial activities, including cultism, the killing of innocent citizens, reckless property destruction, robbery, arson, kidnapping, taking prominent individuals' hostage, bombing markets, banks, religious institutions, and various installations, among other acts (Ajayi & Oyinloye, 2022). These troubling behaviours collectively fall under the term "youth restiveness." The scale of disciplinary issues among young individuals is progressively giving rise to concerns among Nigerians regarding security breaches resultantly affecting the health of man and challenges stemming from youth restiveness, which appears to affect almost all geopolitical regions in the country.

Youth represents a transitional phase between dependence on childhood and the freedom and awareness of adulthood, during which individuals recognize the importance of collaborating with fellow members of society to contribute to the society's goals and objectives (United Nations Youth, 2019). In this stage, young individuals, whether educated or not, are strongly motivated to secure stable employment that can fulfill their basic requirements. Nevertheless, the growing number of youths in society is resulting in elevated levels of unemployment and an increased dependency on others (Biggart & Walther, 2016).

A number of predisposing factors are responsible for restiveness among youths and chief among many are social and economic related. Low Parental income, restricted opportunities to education, peer pressure and influences, family tension and community disparity are few among many socio-economic causes (Everest & Embwa, 2022). Ekong *et al.*, (2023) opined that these indicators are premised on economic inequality and financial limitations this youths experience. Parents with low income are unable to provide basic education, gainful employment as well as other basic needs of life leaving many young adults to embrace wrong decisions leading to community unrest which hugely may be influenced by their peers with similar conditions and traits (Agbugba & Isukul, 2020). The lack of basic education among this group of young adults resultantly leaves many with inability to gain employment, lack of financial independence and overall gross unhappiness (Ajayi & Oyinloye, 2022).

Further, as much as socio economic factors are determinants of youth restiveness, culture and political involvement are strong predictors that cannot be overlooked (Ojobah *et al.*, 2020). Many engagements of the youths have been linked to a huge influence from their peers. Many promotion of risk-taking behaviours, conflict with values and beliefs, Emotional Stress, academic performances, protests among many others in the past have been linked to the influence of peer pressured that is not well monitored and tamed (Kornhauser, 2013). While it's true that peer pressure is a natural aspect of adolescent development, when it gets too great or harmful to a young person's wellbeing, it can cause restlessness. It is crucial to assist youth in making autonomous, well-informed decisions in order to lessen the detrimental impacts of peer pressure. Parents, carers, educators, and communities must support and mentor young people in order to address youth restlessness brought on by peer pressure (Uriah *et al.*, 2015).

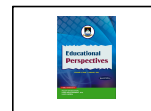
The problem of youth restlessness in Lagos, Nigeria, has gotten to a dangerously high degree. It currently presents a serious risk to the security of the state as well as to the disruption of educational advancement from elementary to university levels. Road users are gripped by a

pervasive sense of terror and concern regarding possible kidnappings for ritualistic purposes and hostage situations while thuggery is increasing rapidly (Agbaje, 2022). There is no longer a guarantee of safety whether driving, going to markets, entering houses of worship, or even being at home. The reports of armed bandits launching attacks on communities in Alimosho and Oshodi-Isolo Local Government areas, resulting in loss of life and property damage, are deeply troubling. Equally distressing are the prevalent incidents of kidnapping, political violence, and market robberies, which have reached alarming levels, primarily perpetrated by young individuals, leading to widespread chaos and assaults on residents (Ekemena, 2018). The Daily Post (2021) reported on the April 19, 2021, “Heist in Lagos”, where the suspects were captured with automobiles, handguns, and ATMs. Youth restiveness in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State has become a growing concern with potential consequences for social stability and development.

The causes, effects, and difficulties of youth restlessness have been the main topics of previous research on the subject. Rarely are studies found in the literature on parental income and peer group as risk factors for youth restlessness. Given the severity of the problems caused by youth restlessness and its serious consequences for the corporate existence of Lagos, namely the Alimosho Local Government, this study aims to close the gap. Thus, this study assessed peer group and parental income as predisposing factors for youth restiveness among young adults in Alimosho Local Government Area, Lagos State.

Methodology

The descriptive research design of survey type was adopted because of its capability to examine the relationship between variables under study, hypotheses testing and development of generalisation. The population for this study comprised of all young adults in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. The sample for this study comprised four hundred (400) selected respondents within the age range of 18years – 30years using convenience sampling techniques. The research instrument for this study was a self-developed questionnaire, titled “Youths Restiveness Questionnaire” (YRQ). The questionnaire was divided into two sections: A and B. Section A contained demographic data of respondents, while Section B was structured to test the hypotheses. The questionnaire adopted a four (4) point Likert modified scale ranging from Strongly agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). The face and Content validity of the instrument were ascertained by a panel of three experts in the departments of Human Kinetics, Sports and Health Education, Faculty of Education, Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos. The reliability of the instrument was tested using the Cronbach alpha technique after administering twenty (20) copies to selected youths in Ojo local Government of Lagos State. An r-value of 0.77 was obtained and used as basis for the adoption of the instrument for data collection. Four hundred (400) copies of the questionnaires were distributed and collected by the researcher with the help of three trained research assistants to the respondents. Copies of the administered questionnaires were checked to ensure that they were well completed. Daily review meetings were held at the beginning and end of each day with the research assistant’s data collection lasting two weeks. Data collected were analysed using appropriate descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages for data presentation. While the inferential statistics of chi-square was used to test stated hypothesis at 0.05 alpha level of significance. The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 23 was used for analysis.



Results and Discussion

Hypothesis One

Peer group will not be significantly predisposed to youth restiveness among young adults in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. This hypothesis was tested using Chi-square at 0.05 level of significance. The result is presented on the table below.

Table 1: Chi-Square result on peer group as predisposing factor for youth restiveness in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

Responses	Freq	%	DF	LS	Cal X^2	P-Value	RMK
SA	147	36.81	9	0.05	189.595	<0.000	Sig
A	113	28.38					
D	83	20.34					
SD	57	14.47					
TOTAL	400	100					

Table 1 reveals the data collected from the respondents on hypothesis one. It shows that 36.81% of the respondents strongly agreed while 28.38% respondents agreed, 20.34% respondents disagreed and 14.47% respondents strongly disagreed to the items. However, it further reveals a calculated X^2 value of 189.595 which is statistically significant at $p = 0.000 < 0.05$ at 9⁰ of freedom hence the rejection of the null hypothesis. It therefore implies that Peer group was significantly predisposed to youth restiveness among young adults in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

This finding is in agreement with Ezebuilo, (2023) study carried on the people of Ukanafun Local Government Area where 300 respondents were purposively sampled to identify if peer pressure is a factor responsible for youth restiveness occurrence in this community. Result from this research revealed that peer pressure is a factor responsible for youth restiveness among residents of Ukanafun L.G.A Akwa Ibom State. In addition, result of this finding corroborates Akinpelu, (2023) study on the role of peer pressure in involvement of political issues and restiveness in Lagos Metropolis, Lagos State. Akinpelu examined the relationship between peer pressure, alongside other predisposing factors (drug abuse, social dominance and gang membership) and involvement in restiveness (political violence) among street urchins in Lagos metropolis, Lagos State, Nigeria. Three hundred and eighty-seven (387) street urchins were randomly selected from the four areas of Lagos metropolis (Oshodi, Mushin, Lagos Island and Ijora). Findings revealed that peer pressure jointly predicted restiveness (Political violence) at $R^2 = 0.63$, $F(3,384) = 23.18$, $p < .01$).

It could therefore be inferred that peer group is a predisposing factor to youth restiveness among young adults in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. Many of the crimes, vices and delinquencies committed by young adults are resultants of their peer pressuring them into it.

Hypothesis Two

Parental income will not be significantly predisposed to youth restiveness among young adults in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. This hypothesis was tested using Chi-square at 0.05 level of significance. The result is presented on the table below.



Table 2: Chi-square result on personal income as predisposing factor for youth restiveness in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

Responses	Freq	%	DF	LS	Cal X ²	P-Value	RMK
SA	158	39.5	9	0.05	35.95	<0.000	Sig
A	136	34.0					
D	71	17.75					
SD	35	8.75					
TOTAL	400	100					

Table 2 reveals the data collected from the respondents on hypothesis two. It shows that 39.5% of the respondents strongly agreed while 34.0% respondents agreed, 17.75% respondents disagreed and 8.75% respondents strongly disagreed to the items. However, it further reveals a calculated X² value of 35.95 which is statistically significant at $p = 0.000 < 0.05$ at 9⁰ of freedom hence the rejection of the null hypothesis. It therefore implies that Personal income was significantly predisposed to youth restiveness among young adults in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

This is in agreement with the findings of Uriah *et al.*, (2015) who revealed significant relationships exist between socio-economic background (Parental income) of parents of the restive youths and their agitations (F-ratio = 20.236; $p > .000$, tested at .05 level of significance). This could be because many youths opined that their parents' were not socially inclusive or lacked equal access to the political, social and economic policy making processes. Many revealed that as youths they were denied privileges, rights and assert that the Nigerian political, economic, and policy elites have established an authoritarian power structure that allows for central control of strategic resources including the country's substantial oil deposits. Additionally, this finding corroborates Igbo and Ikpa, (2013) on their study on 1200 National Youth Service Corp members in Benue State in a bid to unravel the causes, effects and ways of curbing youth restiveness in Nigeria. The study revealed that youth restiveness is mostly caused by unequal distribution of national resources as well as presence of many other predisposing factors like unemployment, inflations and inability to enjoy basic life needs due to bad economy.

It could therefore be inferred that parental income is predisposed to youth restiveness in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State. Many of the respondents revealed their inability to access basic life necessities due to their incapacitation which is as a result of poverty and unequal flow of the national resources among all. Many of them are unemployed and unemployable as a result of the cumulative effects of poverty and social decadence.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that:

1. Peer group is a predisposing factor to youth restiveness among young adults in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.
2. Parental Income is a predisposing factor to youth restiveness among young adults in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusions above, the following were recommended.

1. Community based interventions should be developed to target peer groups and address negative peer influence through focusing on promotion of positive peer relationships and



providing opportunities for positive youth development among residents in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State as well as other areas with similar challenges.

2. Government should formulate policy that would promoting entrepreneurship and vocational training. This can be achieved by creating programs that provide training and resources for starting a business or learning a trade. Such programs can provide young people with the necessary skills and knowledge to become self-reliant and financially independent, even if their parents have low income.
3. Government should also provide social safety nets by creating programs that provide financial support to families with low income, such as cash transfer programs or food subsidies. These programs can help to alleviate the financial burden on families and reduce the likelihood of youth restiveness.



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