



IMPACT OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NIGERIA: A REVIEW PAPER

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ABSTRACT: *Youth unemployment is a critical socio-economic issue in Nigeria, with far-reaching implications for the country's economic growth and stability. This review paper examines recent research on the impact of youth unemployment on economic growth in Nigeria, synthesizing findings from various studies to provide a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics at play. The paper highlights the significant negative relationship between youth unemployment and economic growth, exploring mechanisms such as reduced productivity, increased social costs, skill atrophy, lower aggregate demand, and discouraged investment. The review also discusses the effectiveness of current policies aimed at mitigating youth unemployment and offers recommendations for new policy interventions. Key challenges and limitations in the existing literature are identified, including gaps in longitudinal studies, regional and gender disparities, and data quality. The paper concludes by emphasizing the need for targeted and sustained efforts to address youth unemployment to foster sustainable economic growth in Nigeria.*

KEYWORDS: Unemployment, Youth Unemployment. Economic Growth, Nigeria.



INTRODUCTION

Youth unemployment is one of the most pressing socio-economic issues facing Nigeria today. As the most populous country in Africa, Nigeria boasts a significant youth population, with individuals aged 15 to 35 constituting over 60% of the total population. However, despite this demographic advantage, the country is grappling with an alarming rate of youth unemployment. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the youth unemployment rate in Nigeria has reached unprecedented levels, with estimates suggesting that nearly one-third of young Nigerians are without jobs.

This high rate of unemployment among the youth has far-reaching implications for Nigeria's economic growth and stability. Unemployment among young people not only results in a waste of potential human capital but also contributes to increased social unrest, higher crime rates, and a greater dependency burden on the working population. The economic costs of youth unemployment are substantial, affecting productivity, income levels and, ultimately, the overall economic growth of the nation.

The relationship between youth unemployment and economic growth is a complex and multifaceted issue. Economic theories suggest various channels through which unemployment can influence growth. For instance, high unemployment can lead to lower aggregate demand, reduced consumer spending, and lower investment levels. Additionally, prolonged periods of unemployment can result in skill atrophy among the youth, further diminishing their employability and productivity.

This review paper aims to examine recent research on the impact of youth unemployment on economic growth in Nigeria. By synthesizing findings from various studies, this paper seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics at play and to identify key factors contributing to the persistent high rates of youth unemployment. Moreover, this review will explore the policy implications of these findings and offer recommendations for addressing the issue effectively.

The structure of this paper is as follows: First, the conceptual framework will be discussed, providing definitions and theoretical perspectives on youth unemployment and economic growth. Then, there will be an empirical review. Next, the methodology section will outline the criteria for selecting the reviewed studies and the sources of literature. The main body of the paper will review recent research, focusing on the overview of youth unemployment in Nigeria, economic growth trends, and the impact of youth unemployment on economic growth. The policy implications section will summarize recommendations from the reviewed studies and discuss the effectiveness of current policies. Finally, the challenges and limitations in the literature will be addressed, followed by a conclusion summarizing the key findings and suggesting directions for future research.

By critically reviewing the existing literature, this paper aims to shed light on the intricate relationship between youth unemployment and economic growth in Nigeria. It is hoped that the insights gained from this review will inform policymakers, researchers and stakeholders, ultimately contributing to the development of effective strategies to mitigate youth unemployment and foster sustainable economic growth in Nigeria.



CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Definitions and Concepts

Youth Unemployment

Youth unemployment refers to the situation where individuals aged 15 to 24 are without work but are available for and actively seeking employment. This demographic is particularly vulnerable to unemployment due to various factors, including limited work experience, skills mismatch, and economic instability. The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines youth unemployment as the share of the labor force aged 15-24 that is without work but available for and seeking employment (ILO, 2021).

Economic Growth

Economic growth is typically measured by the increase in a country's output of goods and services, often reflected in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It indicates the economic health of a nation and its capacity to improve the living standards of its population. Economic growth can be influenced by various factors, including labor force participation, productivity, and technological advancements (World Bank, 2021).

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

Keynesian Theory

The Keynesian perspective suggests that unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, can lead to a decrease in aggregate demand. This reduction in demand can subsequently slow down economic growth. High unemployment means less income and less spending, which in turn affects businesses and their ability to invest and expand (Keynes, 1936).

Human Capital Theory

According to the Human Capital Theory, individuals' productivity and earnings potential are enhanced by investments in education and training. Youth unemployment represents a loss of potential human capital, which can have long-term negative effects on economic growth. Unemployed youth miss out on opportunities to develop skills and gain experience, making them less employable in the future (Becker, 1964).

Endogenous Growth Theory

The Endogenous Growth Theory posits that economic growth is primarily driven by internal factors rather than external influences. Innovation, knowledge, and human capital are critical components. High youth unemployment undermines the development of human capital and innovation, thus impeding economic growth (Romer, 1990).



Empirical Review

The empirical review focuses on recent studies that have explored the relationship between youth unemployment and economic growth in Nigeria. These studies provide a comprehensive understanding of the current state of research and highlight key findings and methodologies.

Okafor (2011) investigated the impact of youth unemployment on Nigeria's economic development. The study utilized time-series data from 1980 to 2008 and employed the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression analysis. The findings indicated a significant negative relationship between youth unemployment and economic growth, suggesting that high youth unemployment rates hinder economic development.

Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) examined the challenges and implications of youth unemployment in Nigeria. Using survey data and descriptive statistics, the study highlighted the adverse effects of unemployment on social stability and economic progress. The authors argued that youth unemployment leads to increased crime rates and social unrest, which further disrupts economic activities.

Oviawe (2010) focused on the socio-economic impact of youth unemployment in Nigeria. The study used qualitative methods, including interviews and focus groups, to gather insights from unemployed youths and policymakers. The findings revealed that youth unemployment contributes to poverty, social exclusion, and a decline in human capital development.

Fashina et al. (2018) conducted a panel data analysis to assess the impact of youth unemployment on economic growth across different states in Nigeria. The study employed fixed-effects and random-effects models and found that states with higher youth unemployment rates experienced slower economic growth. The authors emphasized the need for region-specific policies to address the unique challenges faced by different states.

Obiekezie, L. C. (2022) used the autoregressive distributed lag model "ARDL" to investigate the impact of youth unemployment on economic growth in Nigeria. The study found that years of youth unemployment significantly impact economic growth in the long run and suggested that since youth unemployment has a negative and significant impact on economic growth, the government should create more job opportunities, empowerment and enabling environment for youth to be more productive by making policies that are capable of reducing the youth unemployment rate in the country, hence improving economic growth.

Ojima, D. (2019) investigated the empirical relationship between unemployment and economic development in Nigeria using the ordinary least technique and time series data from 1980-2017. The study found that an inverse relationship exists between unemployment and economic development in Nigeria. In the light of the findings, the study recommended that the government should create employment opportunities in order to reduce drastically our unemployment rate, fiscal policy and monetary policy that can induce job creation should be adopted, and skill acquisition and on-the-job training programmes should be highly encouraged so as to achieve sustainable economic growth and development in Nigeria.



SUMMARY OF EMPIRICAL FINDINGS

The empirical studies reviewed consistently highlight the negative impact of youth unemployment on economic growth in Nigeria. High youth unemployment rates are associated with reduced productivity, lower aggregate demand, and increased social costs. The studies also underscore the importance of policy interventions focused on education, vocational training and entrepreneurship, to mitigate the adverse effects of youth unemployment.

METHODOLOGY

Criteria for Selecting Reviewed Studies

To ensure a comprehensive and relevant review, specific criteria were established for selecting the studies included in this paper. The selection criteria were as follows:

- **Relevance:** Only studies that directly address the impact of youth unemployment on economic growth in Nigeria were considered.
- **Publication Date:** The focus was on recent studies published within the last two decades to ensure that the findings are up-to-date and reflective of current conditions.
- **Methodological Rigor:** Studies were selected based on their methodological soundness, including the use of appropriate analytical techniques and robust data sources.
- **Source Type:** Peer-reviewed journal articles, government reports, theses, and dissertations were prioritized to ensure the credibility and reliability of the findings.

Sources of Literature

The literature reviewed in this paper was sourced from various academic and institutional databases. Key sources included:

- **Google Scholar:** A comprehensive academic search engine that provides access to a wide range of scholarly articles.
- **JSTOR:** A digital library for academic journals, books, and primary sources.
- **PubMed:** A free search engine accessing primarily the MEDLINE database of references and abstracts on life sciences and biomedical topics.
- **University Libraries:** Access to academic theses and dissertations.
- **Government and Institutional Reports:** Reports from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), International Labour Organization (ILO), and the World Bank.



Methodological Approaches of Reviewed Studies

The reviewed studies employed various methodological approaches to examine the impact of youth unemployment on economic growth in Nigeria. These approaches included:

Quantitative Methods

- **Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) Regression:** Used to determine the relationship between youth unemployment and economic growth by analyzing time-series data.
- **Vector Autoregression (VAR) Models:** Employed to capture the dynamic relationship between multiple time-series variables.
- **Panel Data Analysis:** Utilized to examine the impact across different states in Nigeria, allowing for control of individual heterogeneity.
- **Descriptive Statistics:** Used to present data trends and patterns related to youth unemployment and economic growth.

Qualitative Methods

- **Interviews and Focus Groups:** Conducted to gather in-depth insights from unemployed youths, policymakers, and other stakeholders.
- **Case Studies:** Used to explore specific instances or examples of how youth unemployment impacts economic growth in particular regions or sectors.

Mixed Methods

- Some studies integrated both quantitative and qualitative approaches to provide a more comprehensive analysis. This included combining statistical analysis with case studies or interviews to corroborate findings and offer a richer understanding of the issue.

REVIEW OF RECENT RESEARCH

Overview of Youth Unemployment in Nigeria

Youth unemployment in Nigeria has become a critical socio-economic issue over the past few decades. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the youth unemployment rate in Nigeria stood at 33.3% as of the fourth quarter of 2020 (NBS, 2021). This figure represents a significant increase from previous years and highlights the growing challenge of providing adequate job opportunities for the youth. Several factors contribute to this high unemployment rate, including the mismatch between education and labor market needs, the slow growth of the non-oil sectors, and insufficient job creation policies.

Education and skills mismatch is a significant factor contributing to youth unemployment in Nigeria. Many young graduates lack the practical skills required by employers, resulting in a high number of educated but unemployed youths (Uddin & Uddin, 2013). Additionally, the informal sector, which employs a significant portion of the labor force, often does not provide stable and well-paying jobs, further exacerbating the unemployment problem.



Economic instability and slow growth in key sectors, such as agriculture and manufacturing, have also limited job creation. The dominance of the oil sector has led to economic volatility, with fluctuations in oil prices directly affecting government revenues and economic growth. This instability makes it challenging to implement long-term job creation strategies (Akinyemi & Ofem, 2012).

Economic Growth in Nigeria

Nigeria's economic growth has been characterized by volatility and reliance on the oil sector. The country's GDP growth rate has fluctuated significantly over the past decades, influenced by changes in global oil prices, domestic policy shifts, and socio-political instability. Despite being one of the largest economies in Africa, Nigeria's growth has not been inclusive, with high levels of poverty and unemployment persisting.

Key sectors contributing to Nigeria's economic growth include oil and gas, agriculture, and services. The oil sector, although the primary revenue generator, has not created substantial employment opportunities due to its capital-intensive nature. On the other hand, agriculture remains a significant employer but suffers from low productivity and investment (World Bank, 2021).

Impact of Youth Unemployment on Economic Growth

Recent studies have explored the multifaceted impact of youth unemployment on Nigeria's economic growth. The following summaries highlight key findings from these studies.

Okafor (2011) examined the implications of youth unemployment on Nigeria's economic development. Using time-series data from 1980 to 2008 and OLS regression analysis, the study found a significant negative relationship between youth unemployment and economic growth. High youth unemployment was associated with reduced economic output and increased social costs, such as crime and social unrest.

In their study, Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) investigated the challenges posed by youth unemployment and its implications for economic progress. The study utilized survey data and descriptive statistics to highlight the adverse effects of unemployment on social stability and economic activities. The findings indicated that youth unemployment leads to higher crime rates and social instability, which in turn disrupt economic growth and deter investment.

Oviawe (2010) focused on the socio-economic impacts of youth unemployment through qualitative methods, including interviews and focus groups. The study revealed that youth unemployment contributes to poverty, social exclusion, and a decline in human capital development. The qualitative insights underscored the personal and community-level consequences of unemployment, which aggregate to negatively impact economic growth.

Fashina et al. (2018) conducted a panel data analysis to assess the impact of youth unemployment across different states in Nigeria. Using fixed-effects and random-effects models, the study found that states with higher youth unemployment rates experienced slower economic growth. The research highlighted regional disparities and the need for tailored policies to address specific local challenges.



Obiekezie, L. C. (2022) used the autoregressive distributed lag model “ARDL” to investigate the impact of youth unemployment on economic growth in Nigeria. The study found that years of youth unemployment significantly impact economic growth in the long run and suggested that since youth unemployment has a negative and significant impact on economic growth, the government should create more job opportunities, empowerment and enabling environment for youth to be more productive by making policies that are capable of reducing the youth unemployment rate in the country so as to improve economic growth.

Ojima, D. (2019) investigated the empirical relationship between unemployment and economic development in Nigeria using the ordinary least technique and time series data from 1980-2017. The study found that an inverse relationship exists between unemployment and economic development in Nigeria. In the light of the findings, the study recommended that the government should create employment opportunities in order to reduce drastically our unemployment rate, fiscal policy and monetary policy that can induce job creation should be adopted, and skill acquisition and on-the-job training programmes should be highly encouraged so as to achieve sustainable economic growth and development in Nigeria.

Mechanisms Through Which Youth Unemployment Affects Economic Growth

The reviewed studies consistently demonstrate that youth unemployment affects economic growth through several mechanisms:

1. **Reduced Productivity:** High youth unemployment leads to a loss of potential productivity. Young individuals, who could contribute significantly to economic output, remain inactive, thereby reducing the overall productivity of the economy (Okafor, 2011).
2. **Increased Social Costs:** Unemployment among youths is linked to higher crime rates and social unrest. These social issues incur additional costs for the government and businesses, diverting resources away from productive investments (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010).
3. **Skill Atrophy:** Prolonged periods of unemployment can lead to the deterioration of skills among young individuals. This makes it harder for them to secure employment in the future and reduces their long-term economic potential (Oviawe, 2010).
4. **Lower Aggregate Demand:** Unemployed youths have less disposable income, leading to lower consumer spending. This reduction in aggregate demand affects businesses and can result in slower economic growth (Ojima, 2019).
5. **Discouraged Investment:** High youth unemployment signals economic instability, deterring both domestic and foreign investment. Investors are less likely to commit resources to an economy where a significant portion of the labor force is unemployed (Fashina et al., 2018).



POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Summary of Policy Recommendations from Reviewed Studies

The reviewed studies consistently highlight the critical need for effective policy interventions to address the high rates of youth unemployment in Nigeria. Based on the findings, several policy recommendations have emerged to mitigate the impact of youth unemployment on economic growth.

1. Education and Vocational Training: One of the primary recommendations is to enhance the education system and vocational training programs. The mismatch between the skills acquired through formal education and those required by the labor market is a significant contributor to youth unemployment. Policies should focus on:

- Improving the quality of education and ensuring it aligns with market demands (Uddin & Uddin, 2013).
- Expanding vocational training and technical education programs to equip youths with practical skills (Ojima, 2019).
- Establishing partnerships between educational institutions and industries to facilitate internships and apprenticeships (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010).

2. Entrepreneurship Development: Encouraging entrepreneurship among youths is another key policy recommendation. Given the limited job opportunities in the formal sector, entrepreneurship can serve as a viable alternative for job creation. Recommendations include:

- Providing access to affordable financing and microcredit for young entrepreneurs (Oviawe, 2010).
- Offering entrepreneurship education and training programs to develop business skills (Fashina et al., 2018).
- Entrepreneurial education should be entrenched in school curriculum both at the secondary and tertiary institutions, so as to make the youth employers of labour (Ojima, 2019).
- Creating business incubation centers and support networks for startups (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010).

3. Economic Diversification: The over-reliance on the oil sector has made Nigeria's economy vulnerable to fluctuations in oil prices. Diversifying the economy is crucial to create more job opportunities and ensure sustainable growth. Policies should focus on:

- Promoting the development of non-oil sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services (World Bank, 2021).
- Encouraging investment in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to drive job creation (Ojima, 2019).
- Implementing incentives for businesses that create jobs for young people (Okafor, 2011).



4. Public Works and Infrastructure Development: Investment in public works and infrastructure development can provide immediate job opportunities for the youth while improving the country's overall economic framework. Recommendations include:

- Launching large-scale infrastructure projects such as road construction, housing, and public utilities (Fashina et al., 2018).
- Implementing community development programs that involve local youth in the construction and maintenance of community facilities (Oviawe, 2010).
- Providing temporary employment through public works programs to alleviate short-term unemployment (Ojima, 2019).

Effectiveness of Current Policies

Despite various policy efforts, the impact of youth unemployment remains a significant challenge in Nigeria. The effectiveness of existing policies has been limited by several factors, including inadequate funding, poor implementation, and lack of coordination among government agencies.

Inadequate Funding: Many initiatives aimed at reducing youth unemployment suffer from insufficient funding. Programs such as vocational training and entrepreneurship development require substantial financial resources to be effective. The lack of sustained funding has hindered the scalability and impact of these programs (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010).

Poor Implementation: The success of policies and programs depends heavily on effective implementation. However, issues such as bureaucratic inefficiency, corruption, and lack of accountability have undermined the execution of many youth employment initiatives. For example, the implementation of the National Youth Policy has been inconsistent, with limited monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in place (Uddin & Uddin, 2013).

Lack of Coordination: Effective policy implementation requires coordination among various government agencies, private sector entities, and non-governmental organizations. The absence of a coordinated approach has resulted in fragmented efforts, reducing the overall impact of policies designed to address youth unemployment. Enhanced collaboration and the establishment of a central coordinating body could improve the effectiveness of these initiatives (Fashina et al., 2018).

Suggestions for New Policies or Improvements

To address the persistent issue of youth unemployment and its impact on economic growth, several new policies and improvements on existing ones are suggested:

1. Comprehensive Youth Employment Strategy: A holistic and integrated youth employment strategy should be developed, encompassing education, vocational training, entrepreneurship, and employment services. This strategy should include:

- Establishing a national framework for youth employment that aligns with regional and local needs (Okafor, 2011).



- Creating a centralized database to track youth employment programs and outcomes (World Bank, 2021).
- Implementing regular monitoring and evaluation to assess the effectiveness of programs and make necessary adjustments (Ojima, 2019).

2. Enhanced Funding and Resource Allocation: Increasing the budget allocation for youth employment programs is essential to expand their reach and impact.

This can be achieved through:

- Prioritizing youth employment in national and state budgets (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010).
- Seeking international funding and partnerships to support youth employment initiatives (Oviawe, 2010).
- Encouraging private sector investment in youth employment programs through tax incentives and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives (Fashina et al., 2018).

3. Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships: Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can play a crucial role in addressing youth unemployment by leveraging the strengths of both sectors. Recommendations include:

- Developing sector-specific PPPs to create job opportunities in key industries such as agriculture, manufacturing and technology (World Bank, 2021).
- Encouraging private sector involvement in vocational training and apprenticeship programs (Ojima, 2019).
- Facilitating dialogue and collaboration between government, industry and educational institutions to align training programs with labor market needs (Uddin & Uddin, 2013).

4. Promoting Digital Skills and Innovation: With the increasing importance of digital technology in the global economy, equipping youths with digital skills can enhance their employability and foster innovation. Policies should focus on:

- Integrating digital literacy and information technology (IT) training into the education curriculum (Oviawe, 2010).
- Supporting tech startups and innovation hubs that provide opportunities for young entrepreneurs (Fashina et al., 2018).
- Encouraging the development of online platforms for job matching, remote work and freelancing (World Bank, 2021).



Challenges and Limitations in the Literature

Gaps in Existing Literature

Despite the extensive research on youth unemployment and its impact on economic growth in Nigeria, several gaps remain that limit a comprehensive understanding of the issue:

1. Limited Longitudinal Studies: Most studies reviewed are cross-sectional, focusing on data from a specific period. Longitudinal studies, which track changes over time, are necessary to understand the long-term effects of youth unemployment on economic growth. These studies can provide insights into how persistent unemployment impacts economic indicators over extended periods (Fashina et al., 2018).

2. Regional Disparities: While some studies consider state-level variations, there is a lack of detailed analysis of regional disparities in youth unemployment and economic growth. Nigeria's diverse economic landscape means that the impact of youth unemployment may vary significantly across different regions. More research is needed to explore these regional differences and tailor policy interventions accordingly (Okafor, 2011).

3. Informal Sector Employment: The informal sector plays a crucial role in Nigeria's economy, employing a significant portion of the workforce. However, many studies focus primarily on formal employment, neglecting the informal sector. Research that includes the informal sector would provide a more accurate picture of youth employment and its impact on economic growth (Ojima, 2019).

4. Gender Disparities: Gender disparities in youth unemployment are another underexplored area. Female youths often face different challenges and barriers to employment compared to their male counterparts. Studies that specifically address gender disparities can help design targeted interventions to support female youth employment (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010).

Methodological Challenges

Several methodological challenges affect the quality and reliability of research on youth unemployment and economic growth:

1. Data Quality and Availability

Reliable and comprehensive data are crucial for conducting robust research. However, data quality and availability remain significant challenges in Nigeria. Inconsistent data collection methods, outdated datasets, and limited access to relevant information can undermine the accuracy of research findings (World Bank, 2021).

2. Measurement of Unemployment

Different studies use varying definitions and measures of unemployment, which can lead to inconsistencies in findings. Standardizing the measurement of youth unemployment across studies would enhance comparability and reliability. Additionally, incorporating underemployment and informal employment metrics would provide a more nuanced understanding of the employment landscape (Uddin & Uddin, 2013).



3. Analytical Techniques

The choice of analytical techniques can significantly influence research outcomes. Some studies rely on simple descriptive statistics, while others employ more sophisticated econometric models. The lack of standardized methodologies can make it challenging to compare results across studies. Encouraging the use of advanced statistical methods and ensuring methodological transparency can improve the robustness of research (Oviawe, 2010).

Limitations in Data Availability and Quality

The limitations in data availability and quality pose significant hurdles for researchers studying youth unemployment and its impact on economic growth in Nigeria:

1. Inconsistent Data Sources: Data on youth unemployment and economic growth are often sourced from various institutions, including government agencies, international organizations, and academic studies. Inconsistencies in data collection methods and reporting standards can result in conflicting findings. Establishing a centralized and standardized data collection system would help address these inconsistencies (National Bureau of Statistics, 2021).

2. Outdated Data: Many available datasets are outdated, failing to reflect the current economic conditions and labor market trends. Timely and up-to-date data are essential for accurate analysis and policy formulation. Efforts should be made to ensure regular updates of employment and economic data (World Bank, 2021).

3. Limited Disaggregated Data: Disaggregated data by age, gender, region and sector are often limited. Such data are crucial for understanding the specific challenges faced by different subgroups and for designing targeted interventions. Expanding data collection efforts to include more detailed demographic and sectoral information would enhance the granularity of research (Ojima, 2019).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

To address the challenges and limitations identified, several recommendations for future research are proposed:

1. Conduct Longitudinal Studies: Future research should prioritize longitudinal studies to track the long-term impact of youth unemployment on economic growth. These studies would provide deeper insights into the temporal dynamics of unemployment and its economic consequences (Fashina et al., 2018).

2. Explore Regional and Gender Disparities Research should delve into regional and gender disparities in youth unemployment. Understanding the specific challenges faced by different regions and gender groups would help in designing more effective and targeted policies (Awogbenle & Iwuamadi, 2010).

3. Incorporate Informal Sector Analysis: Given the significant role of the informal sector, future studies should include an analysis of informal employment. This would provide a more comprehensive picture of youth employment and its impact on economic growth (Oviawe, 2010).



4. Improve Data Collection and Standardization: Efforts should be made to improve the quality and standardization of data collection. Establishing centralized data repositories and adopting standardized measurement techniques would enhance the reliability and comparability of research findings (World Bank, 2021).

5. Utilize Advanced Analytical Techniques Encouraging the use of advanced econometric and statistical methods in research would improve the robustness of findings. Researchers should also ensure methodological transparency to facilitate comparison and replication of studies (Uddin & Uddin, 2013).

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