



ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND SECURITY CONCERNS ON SOCIOECONOMIC GROWTH IN KAURA LOCAL GOVERNMENT, KADUNA

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Abstract: Unemployment and security challenges are critical issues affecting socio-economic development in Kaura Local Government Area, Kaduna State. This research explores the interconnectedness of these phenomena and their impact on the region's development. Using a descriptive research design, the study examines how unemployment exacerbates security challenges such as banditry, communal violence, and youth militancy, which in turn hinder agricultural productivity, disrupt economic activities, and limit access to essential social services like education, healthcare, and infrastructure. Data was collected in 6 wards randomly selected from the 18 wards in the local government areas. A sample size of 2,556 farmers and youths was selected using the Yaro Yamane formula for determining the sample size. Data were collected using a 35-item, five-point likert scale questionnaire, developed and validated with a reliability index of 0.865. The research questions were analyzed using mean and standard deviation, while regression analysis tested the null hypothesis at a 0.05 significant level. The findings reveal that there is significant difference between the mean unemployment compounded and security challenges on socio-economic development in the area, and that high unemployment rates contribute to youth vulnerability to recruitment by criminal and militant groups, intensifying insecurity, while insecurity in turn, disrupts livelihoods and discourages investment, creating a vicious cycle that undermines socioeconomic progress. The researchers recommends targeted interventions such as job creation programs, improved security measures, and collaborative strategies between government and local communities to address these dual challenges and foster sustainable development in Kaura while addressing the root causes of insecurity through conflict resolution mechanisms, equitable resource distribution, and inclusive governance is critical

Keywords: Unemployment, Security Challenges, Socio-economic Development, Youth Militancy, Kaura Local Government Area

Introduction

Unemployment and security challenges are two critical issues that significantly influence socio-economic development in many regions across Nigeria. In Kaura Local Government Area (LGA) of Kaduna State, these problems have become particularly pressing, creating a complex web of challenges that hinder sustainable growth and stability. Unemployment, characterized by the lack of gainful employment opportunities for a significant portion of the population, contributes to economic stagnation, increased dependency rates, and a decline in living standards. It not only undermines individual and community livelihoods but also fosters conditions conducive to criminal activities and social unrest.

Security challenges, on the other hand, manifest in various forms such as banditry, communal clashes, and insurgency. These issues have disrupted lives and livelihoods, displacing residents, weakening local governance, and creating an atmosphere of fear and instability. Kaura LGA, situated in the southern part of Kaduna State, has experienced its share of violence and insecurity, which further exacerbates unemployment and hampers economic activities such as farming, trade, and small-scale industries that form the backbone of the local economy.

The interplay between unemployment and security challenges is particularly detrimental to socio-economic development. High unemployment rates often lead to frustration and desperation among youths, who may become susceptible to recruitment by criminal groups or extremist organizations. In turn, persistent insecurity discourages investment, disrupts education, and limits the effectiveness of government policies aimed at economic growth.

This study seeks to explore the extent to which unemployment and security challenges affect socio-economic development in Kaura LGA. By analyzing these issues and their interconnectedness, the research aims to provide insights into their root causes, consequences, and potential solutions. focussing these challenges is crucial for fostering stability, improving livelihoods, and ensuring sustainable development in the region.

Background of the Study

Unemployment in Nigeria is a persistent challenge that has far-reaching implications for the nation's socio-economic development. It is characterized by a high percentage of the population, particularly youth and graduates, who are unable to secure gainful employment despite being willing and able to work. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2022), Nigeria's unemployment rate has consistently risen over the years, driven by factors such as population growth, poor economic planning, lack of industrialization, and the mismatch between skills and labor market demands. The current economic underperformance is erratic and short of expectations, such that 60% of Nigerians citizen live below the international poverty line at just 100 a day or 300 a year. This is an indication that the country over the years has gradually disintegrated from its highly buoyant and expected position among competing countries of Africa. This phenomenon exacerbates poverty, widens inequality, and contributes to social unrest across the country. In rural and semi-urban areas like Kaura Local Government Area (LGA) in Kaduna State, unemployment poses unique challenges. Kaura LGA, known for its agricultural potential and cultural diversity, is predominantly inhabited by farming communities. However, factors such as land scarcity, insecurity, and a lack of modern farming techniques have limited agricultural productivity, reducing employment opportunities in this critical sector. Moreover, inadequate access to vocational training, poor infrastructure, and limited industrial activities in the area further exacerbate the unemployment crisis. (Adebayo 2013).

The youth population in Kaura LGA is particularly vulnerable to the effects of unemployment. With few opportunities for formal or informal employment, many young people face economic marginalization and social frustration. This situation has a ripple effect on the local economy, as reduced household incomes limit spending and investment, further stifling development. Additionally, the high unemployment rate in Kaura LGA is closely linked to the region's security challenges. Frustrated and idle youth are often drawn into criminal activities,

communal conflicts, or extremist movements, exacerbating instability and making it even harder to attract investment or promote economic growth.

Adewale (2016), suggests that addressing unemployment requires a multifaceted approach, including investment in education, skill acquisition programs, support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and the development of infrastructure that can boost agricultural and nonagricultural employment opportunities. Tackling unemployment in this area is crucial not only for improving the livelihoods of its residents but also for fostering peace, stability, and sustainable socio-economic development in the region.

Security challenges has significantly impacted the socio-economic development in Nigeria, particularly in areas like Kaura Local Government, Kaduna State. These challenges manifest in various forms, including communal clashes, banditry, herder-farmer conflicts, and insurgent activities. Bello (2018), affirms that the region has experienced recurrent violence, leading to loss of lives, destruction of property, displacement of residents, and the disruption of agricultural and commercial activities—the backbone of the local economy. The socio-economic consequences are far-reaching. Insecurity discourages investment, stifles infrastructure development, and exacerbates poverty by hindering access to markets, education, and healthcare. The inability to secure livelihoods due to violence forces many to abandon productive economic activities, further deepening unemployment and underdevelopment, (World Bank, 2021). In regions like Kaura, insecurity not only destabilizes the economy but also fuels a vicious cycle of poverty and violence. Youth unemployment and marginalization increase the likelihood of recruitment into criminal groups, perpetuating instability, (Nwosu,2020). Addressing these security challenges is also crucial for fostering peace, economic growth, and sustainable development in the region.

Problem Statement

The intersection of unemployment and security challenges presents a significant obstacle to socio-economic development in Nigeria, particularly in Kaura Local Government, Kaduna State. High levels of unemployment, especially among youth, have created a pool of economically vulnerable individuals who are more likely to engage in criminal activities or be recruited into violent groups. This has exacerbated security challenges, including communal clashes, banditry, and insurgency, which in turn disrupt livelihoods, displace populations, and destroy local economies. Insecurity on the other hand has discourages investment and economic activity, further deepening unemployment and poverty. For regions like Kaura, where agriculture and small-scale businesses form the backbone of the economy, these challenges result in reduced productivity, limited market access, and increased dependency on humanitarian aid. The cyclical relationship between unemployment and insecurity has created a development trap, undermining efforts to achieve sustainable socio-economic growth and stability in the region.

While high levels of unemployment leave many young people idle, increasing their vulnerability to recruitment by criminal groups or participation in communal violence. This fuels insecurity and perpetuates cycles of violence in the region. Saheed (2019), affirms that security challenges such as banditry and communal clashes disrupt farming, trade, and small-scale businesses, which are vital to Kaura's economy, leads to reduced income levels and food insecurity for many households. Loss of Investment and Infrastructure Development deters both local and external investments. Investors avoid regions with persistent unrest, resulting in underdeveloped infrastructure and limited economic growth opportunities. Insecurity has also displaced a significant portion of Kaura's population, creating a humanitarian crisis. The loss of workforce from displaced communities further hinders economic recovery and local development.

The government often redirects resources toward security measures, leaving limited funds for social services such as education, healthcare, and job creation programs. This further deepens poverty and reduces resilience to economic shocks. These challenges are deeply interconnected, requiring coordinated efforts to address them as

part of broader socio-economic development initiatives, (Anuoha, 2019). This study seeks to explore the linkages between unemployment and security challenges in Kaura Local Government and their collective impact on socio-economic development, with the aim of identifying actionable solutions to break this cycle.

Objectives of the Study

Security challenges have led to the destruction of farmland, livestock, and businesses, which form the backbone of Kaura's economy. Farmers, who dominate the area's workforce, face restricted access to their land due to fear of attacks, reducing agricultural productivity and causing food insecurity. Commercial activities, such as trade, are also hindered as markets are often unsafe. The study aims at:

1. To examine the relationship between unemployment and security challenges by analyze how unemployment contributes to rising insecurity and vice versa in Kaura LGA.
2. To identify the socio-economic impacts of unemployment in the region by showing how unemployment affects income levels, productivity, and overall economic growth in the area.
3. To evaluate the role of security challenges in hindering socio-economic development through investigating how issues like banditry, communal clashes, and displacement disrupt local economic activities and public services. And,
4. To recommend actionable solutions to address unemployment and security issues by proposing strategies for job creation, youth empowerment, and enhanced security measures to promote sustainable development in Kaura LGA.

Analysis: How Security Challenges Exacerbate Socio-Economic Issues in Kaura Local Government

Research Questions

1. What is the relationship between unemployment and rising insecurity in Kaura Local Government Area?
2. How have security challenges in Kaura affected local agricultural productivity and economic activities?
3. To what extent does the high level of youth unemployment in Kaura LGA contribute to vulnerability to recruitment by criminal or militant groups?
4. Does unemployment and security challenges hamper socio-economic development in Kaura Local Government?

Hypothesis

H0: There is no significant difference between the mean unemployment compounded and security challenges on socio-economic development in Kaura Local Government.

Theoretical Frame Work

The major theoretical framework for this study is Conflict Theory, which is rooted in the works of Karl Marx and expanded upon by other sociologists. This theory explains how inequalities in resources, power, and opportunities lead to social conflicts that disrupt societal harmony and development. It is particularly relevant for analyzing the interplay between unemployment, insecurity, and socio-economic development in Kaura Local Government.

Conflict theory emphasizes the role of economic disparities in creating social tensions. In Kaura, high unemployment rates—especially among youth—lead to frustration, marginalization, and vulnerability to criminal activities or recruitment into armed groups. These economic inequalities perpetuate a cycle of poverty and unrest. The theory suggests that struggles over limited resources, such as land or employment, are major sources of conflict. In Kaura, disputes between farmers and herders over land use exemplify this dynamic, often escalating into violence that destabilizes the region's economy and society.

According to conflict theory, unresolved tensions within a society disrupt its ability to achieve collective goals, such as socio-economic development. In Kaura, insecurity arising from conflicts and criminal activities hinders education, health services, and infrastructure development, perpetuating underdevelopment. The theory also

highlights the role of systemic inequalities, where societal structures fail to provide equitable opportunities. Insecurity in this area reflects structural challenges such as weak governance, inadequate job creation, and insufficient security measures, (Yusuf, 2023).

Conflict theory is very relevant because it helps explain how unemployment and insecurity are not isolated problems but are deeply interconnected with systemic inequalities. Addressing these issues requires understanding their roots in unequal access to resources and opportunities, as well as designing solutions that address these structural causes. By applying conflict theory, the study highlights the need for interventions such as equitable job creation, conflict resolution mechanisms, and inclusive governance to break the cycle of unemployment and insecurity while fostering socio-economic development in Local Government Area.

Methodology of the Research

The methodology of this research involves a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches to explore the relationship between unemployment, security challenges, and socioeconomic development in Kaura Local Government. A descriptive survey research design was suitable and used in the study, involving stratified sampling of 6 wards randomly selected from the 18 wards in the local government areas of Kaduna state. A sample size of 2,556 farmers was selected using the Yaro Yamane formula for determining the sample size. Through a combination of quantitative and qualitative methodologies, including Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping, econometric modeling, stakeholder interviews, and field observations, the study comprehensively analyzed the agricultural landscapes, products endowments, and climate patterns of the selected local government areas and reviewed the current agricultural practices, productivity and challenges faced by farmers in each senatorial zone to achieve its goals. Four research questions and a hypothesis were used to guide the study

This study adopts a descriptive design to systematically describe the nature and extent of unemployment and security challenges in the region and their impact on socio-economic development. Aloysius,(2011), describes research design as the scheme, outline or plan that is used to generate answers to research problems. This study employed descriptive survey design. Aloysius, (2011), explains that descriptive study determines and reports the way things are and commonly involves assessing attitude, opinions towards individuals, organizations and procedures. In qualitative methods, the knowledge claims used by researchers are primarily based on constructivist perspectives – such as the different meanings of individuals’ life experiences, historically and socially constructed meanings. Alternatively, qualitative research could also make knowledge claims based on advocacy/participatory perspectives – such as collaborative or issueoriented). The researcher typically gathers responses to open-ended queries with the main objective of deriving themes from these data. Four research questions and a hypothesis were used to guide the study. Data were collected using a 35-item, five-point likert scale questionnaire, developed and validated with a reliability index of 0.865. The research questions were analyzed using mean and standard deviation, while regression analysis tested the null hypothesis at a 0.05 significant level

Results

Research Questions One: The relationship between unemployment and rising insecurity in Kaura Local Government Area. Table 1, showing the Mean and Standard Deviation of unemployment on rising security.

S/N	Statement/Items	Mean	SD	Remark
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1	Unemployment has significantly contributed to the rise in	2.96	2.65	Accept
2	insecurity in Kaura.	2.04	1.75	Reject
3	The majority of unemployed individuals in Kaura are prone to criminal activities.	2.81	2.58	Accept
4	Economic hardship caused by unemployment leads to	2.79	2.50	Accept
5	social unrest in Kaura.	1.95	1.72	Reject
6	Rising insecurity is directly linked to the lack of job	3.02	2.65	Accept
7	opportunities in the region.	3.06	2.68	Accept
	The government has failed to address unemployment as a way to mitigate insecurity.	18.63	16.53	
	Unemployment increases youth involvement in violent activities.			
	There is a need for urgent job creation to address insecurity in Kaura. Total			

All items except item 2 and 6 on this table have mean rating of 2.50 and above. This implies that those items were considered having relationship between unemployment and rising insecurity in Kaura Local Government Area. All the other items with mean rating less than 2.50 implies that they were not considered high risk to rising insecurity as caused by unemployment. This implies that unemployment has significantly contributed to the rise in insecurity in Kaura and the majority of unemployed individuals in Kaura are prone to criminal activities. Also, economic hardship caused by unemployment leads to social unrest in Kaura and rising insecurity is believed to have directly linked to the lack of job opportunities in the region. Where the government has failed to address unemployment as a way to mitigate insecurity, hence unemployment increases youth involvement in violent activities. The grand mean value of the item is 18.63 with standard deviation of 16.53

Research Questions Two: Security challenges in Kaura affected local agricultural productivity and economic activities. Table 2, showing the Mean and Standard Deviation on effect of security challenges on the economy

S/N	Statement/Items	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Insecurity has led to reduced agricultural output in Kaura.	3.41	2.95	Accept
2	Farmers frequently abandon their farms due to security	3.33	2.88	Accept
3	threats.	3.40	2.90	Accept
4	Banditry and communal conflicts significantly disrupt local	3.38	2.89	Accept
5	trade.	3.49	3.00	Accept
6	Security issues have led to increased food prices in Kaura.	3.41	2.94	Accept
7	Farming communities in Kaura feel unsafe working in their fields.	3.38	2.89	Accept
	Economic activities have declining due to persistent insecurity.	23.80	20.45	
	Resolving security challenges can help restore agricultural productivity.			
	Total			

All items in this table have a mean rating of 2.50 and above. This implies that these items were considered Security challenges in Kaura affecting local agricultural productivity and economic activities. This also implies that Insecurity has led to reduction in agricultural output in Kaura and farmers frequently abandon their farms due to security threats as banditry and communal conflicts significantly disrupt local trade. This security issues have led to increased food prices in Kaura as farming communities in Kaura feel unsafe working in their fields. Economic activities have declining due to persistent insecurity but resolving these security challenges can help restore agricultural productivity. The grand mean value of the item is 23.80 with standard deviation of 20.45

Research Questions Three: The extend youth unemployment in Kaura contributed to vulnerability to recruitment by criminal or militant groups. Table 3, showing the Mean and Standard Deviation of unemployment and criminal activities

S/N	Statement/Items	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Unemployed youth are vulnerable to recruitment by criminal groups.	3.49	2.90	Accept
2	Lack of job opportunity is a major factor driving youth into militancy.	3.40	2.89	Accept
3	Insecurity is fueled by jobless youth seeking alternative livelihoods.	3.38	3.00	Accept
4	Job creation programs reduces youth involvement in criminal activity	3.38	2.89	Accept
5	Criminal groups exploit economic vulnerabilities to recruit members in Kaura.	2.25	1.99	Reject
6	Government has not done enough to prevent youth unemployment.	2.96	2.61	Accept
7	Providing employment opportunities would weaken militant recruitment efforts.	3.40	2.89	Accept
	Total	22.26	19.17	

All items except item 5 had mean rating of 2.50 and above. This implies that these items are considered having relationship between youth unemployment in Kaura and the vulnerability to recruitment by criminal or militant groups. The other item with mean rating less than 2.50 implies that there is no relation. This also implies that unemployed youth are vulnerable to recruitment by criminal groups as lack of job opportunity is a major factor driving youth into militancy. It also indicated that Insecurity is fueled by jobless youth seeking alternative livelihoods but Job creation programs reduces youth involvement in criminal activity; Criminal groups exploit economic vulnerabilities to recruit members in Kaura that Government has not done enough to prevent youth unemployment by providing employment opportunities would weaken militant recruitment efforts.

The grand mean value of the item is 22.26 with standard deviation of 19.17

Research Questions Four: Strategies implemented to address the dual challenges of unemployment and insecurity in Kaura to foster socio-economic development. Table 4, showing the Mean and Standard Deviation of strategies to foster socio-economic development.

S/N	Statement/Items	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Economic empowerment programs are essential for reducing insecurity in Kaura.	3.20	2.80	Accept
		3.18	2.79	Accept

2	Job creation initiatives can significantly reduce crime rates in the area.	2.91	2.56	Accept
3	Improved security measures are needed to attract investment in Kaura.	2.09	2.17	Reject
4	Vocational training programs can help reduce youth unemployment.	3.03	2.68	Accept
5	Collaborative efforts between government and communities are crucial for development.	2.91	2.56	Accept
6	Implementing social welfare schemes can mitigate unemployment-related insecurity	3.07	2.69	Accept
7	Resolving farmer-herder conflicts is vital for socioeconomic stability in Kaura.			
	Total	19.63	18.25	

All items except item 4 have mean rating of 2.50 and above. This implies that these items are considered strategies implemented to address the dual challenges of unemployment and insecurity to foster socio-economic development. This also implies that economic empowerment programs are essential for reducing insecurity, job creation initiatives can significantly reduce crime rates in the area while improved security measures are needed to attract investment in Kaura. Vocational training programs could help reduce youth unemployment and collaborative efforts between government and communities are crucial for development. Also, implementing social welfare schemes can mitigate unemployment-related insecurity and resolving farmer-herder conflicts is vital for socio-economic stability in Kaura. The grand mean value of the item is 19.63 with standard deviation of 18.25

Research Question five: Unemployment and security challenges hinder socio-economic development in Kaura Local Government. Table 5, showing the Mean and Standard Deviation of effect of unemployment and insecurity on socio-economic activities.

S/N	Statement/Items	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Unemployment significantly hinders the socio-economic development of Kaura.	3.20	2.80	Accept
2				
3	Security challenges, such as banditry and communal violence, disrupt economic activities in Kaura.	3.18	2.79	Accept
4	Poor employment opportunities have contributed to increased insecurity in the region.	3.49	2.99	Accept
5	Insecurity in Kaura has led to reduced agricultural productivity and food insecurity.	3.58	3.08	Accept
6	Economic investments in Kaura are declining due to rising insecurity.	3.03	2.68	Accept
7	Youth unemployment in Kaura exacerbates criminal activities and militancy.	3.41	2.94	Accept
	Addressing unemployment and insecurity is key to fostering socio-economic development in Kaura.	3.07	2.69	Accept
	Total	26.96	19.97	

All items have mean rating of **2.50** and above. This implies that these items are considered Unemployment and security challenges hampering socio-economic development in Kaura Local Government. This also shows that unemployment significantly hinders the socio-economic development of Kaura, as security challenges, such as banditry and communal violence, disrupt economic activities. Poor employment opportunities have also contributed to increased insecurity in the region just as insecurity in the area has led to reduced agricultural productivity and food insecurity. Economic investments in Kaura are declining due to rising insecurity just as youth unemployment has exacerbates criminal activities and militancy in the area. The grand mean value of the item is **26.96** with standard deviation of **19.97**

Hypothesis Testing

H₀: There is no significant difference between the mean unemployment and security challenges as interconnected issues that significantly impact socio-economic development in Kaura LGA

Regression analysis of unemployment and insecurity on socio-economic Development of Kaura Local Government

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
X1	4.910627	0.052479	2.108015	0.0267
X2	4.891712	0.053627	3.947844	0.0019
C	12.30407	1.294937	1.103096	0.0212

R-squared	0.900612	Mean dependent var	3.280000	Adjusted R-squared	3.181095	S.D. dependent var	2.205314
S.E. of regression	2.223132	Akaike info criterion	2.025299				
Sum squared resid	4.547665	Schwarz criterion	3.162240				
Log likelihood	3.822908	Hannan-Quinn criter.	1.012622				
F-statistic	0.003369	Durbin-Watson stat	1.455221				
Prob(F-statistic)	0.006638						

X₁ (Unemployment) has a coefficient of 0.910627 which shows that it has a positive relationship with insecurity and socio economic underdevelopment (Y), with a probability value of 0.0267. This means that, as X₁ increases by one unit, it will lead to an increase of the Dependent Variable Y, by 4.910627 and the probability value is 0.0267 which is less than 0.05, meaning that it is very significance in showing the variation in Y.

X₂ (Insecurity) also shows a positive relationship with Y, with a coefficient of 4.891712 and a probability value of 0.0019. This means that, if X₂ increases by one unit, it will lead to an increase of the Dependent Variable Y by 4.891712. The probability value of 0.0019 is significance in explaining the variation in Y too.

The R² value of 0.900612 indicates that about 90% of the explanatory variables affecting socioeconomic development in the model, only about 10% are explained by other variables outside the model. The Prob(F-statistics) of 0.006638 shows the variables are significance in explaining the variation in Y. Durbin Watson statistic of 1.45221 is within 1.5 – 2.5 showing that there is no autocorrelation in the model. The value of Standard Deviation is greater than the Mean which means that the analysis is correct.

Discussion

The study on unemployment and security challenges in Kaura Local Government Area (LGA) of Kaduna State highlights the intricate linkages between these issues and their profound impact on socio-economic development. The findings shed light on the dynamic interplay of unemployment and insecurity, revealing a mutually reinforcing cycle that exacerbates underdevelopment and poses significant challenges to the region's stability.

The research confirms a strong correlation between unemployment and rising insecurity in Kaura. High unemployment rates, particularly among the youth, have created a pool of economically marginalized individuals who are more susceptible to recruitment by criminal and militant groups. The study's results indicate that unemployment significantly contributes to social unrest, with economic hardships often fueling grievances and leading to increased involvement in violent activities. The inability of the government to effectively address unemployment has further aggravated the situation, perpetuating cycles of crime and instability.

Security challenges, including banditry, communal clashes, and herder-farmer conflicts, have disrupted critical socio-economic activities in Kaura. Agricultural productivity—a primary economic driver in the region—has been severely affected, with many farmers unable to access their lands due to fear of attacks. The destruction of farmland, livestock, and businesses has led to food insecurity and reduced income levels for many households. Similarly, trade and small-scale enterprises, which are vital to the local economy, have been hindered by insecurity, limiting market access and stifling economic growth.

Displacement caused by violence has further compounded the socio-economic challenges, as displaced populations lose access to livelihoods, education, and healthcare. The redirection of government resources toward security efforts has also left limited funding for essential social services and infrastructure development, deepening poverty and reducing resilience to economic shocks.

The findings emphasize the cyclical relationship between unemployment and insecurity. Unemployment drives individuals toward criminal activities, while insecurity disrupts economic activities and discourages investment, further deepening unemployment. This vicious cycle undermines efforts to promote socio-economic development and creates an environment of persistent instability. For instance, insecurity deters local and external investors, resulting in underdeveloped infrastructure and limited job opportunities, which, in turn, exacerbate unemployment and poverty.

The study's findings discovered the need for a multifaceted approach to breaking the cycle of unemployment and insecurity in the LGA. Although Yusuf (2020) supported emphasis on the importance of targeted job creation programs, youth empowerment initiatives, and enhanced security measures. Investing in vocational training, supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and modernizing agriculture to provide alternative employment opportunities and reduce youth vulnerability to recruitment by criminal groups, however, addressing the root causes of insecurity through conflict resolution mechanisms, equitable resource distribution, and inclusive governance is critical. Strengthening local security structures and fostering collaboration between government, communities, and other stakeholders can also help build trust and create a more conducive environment for development.

Conclusion

The findings of this study underscore the urgency of addressing unemployment and security challenges as interconnected issues that significantly impact socio-economic development in Kaura LGA. By implementing comprehensive and coordinated interventions, policymakers and stakeholders can mitigate these challenges and foster a path toward sustainable development, stability, and improved livelihoods for the residents of Kaura.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study on unemployment and security challenges in Kaura Local Government Area, the following recommendations are proposed to address these interconnected issues and foster socio-economic development:

Establish skill acquisition centers to train youth in marketable skills, such as carpentry, tailoring, ICT, and modern farming techniques, to improve employability and entrepreneurship; provided financial support, such as microloans and grants, to promote small-scale businesses and encourage self-employment and also promote modern farming practices, provide access to agricultural inputs, and support agro-processing initiatives to boost productivity and create employment opportunities.

Strengthen Local Security Systems by deploying more security personnel, establish community policing, and invest in surveillance technology to prevent criminal activities and reduce insecurity; promote dialogue among conflicting groups, especially herders and farmers, to address disputes over land and resources peacefully and involve local leaders, traditional rulers, and youth organizations in security initiatives to foster trust and cooperation between communities and security agencies; create platforms for youth to participate in decision-making processes and community development projects, giving them a sense of ownership and responsibility and organize programs that engage youths in constructive activities to reduce idleness and the likelihood of involvement in criminal activities.

Improve educational infrastructure, hire qualified teachers, and provide scholarships to ensure that more children and youths can access quality education; integrate entrepreneurship education into school curriculums to equip students with the knowledge to start their own businesses after graduation and develop road networks to connect farms and markets, enabling better trade and reducing losses due to inaccessibility and invest in health, water supply, and electricity infrastructure to improve living standards and support economic activities in the area.

Encourage partnerships between government and private organizations to create employment opportunities and improve security measures; establish a reliable database to monitor unemployment and security trends, ensuring that interventions are informed and targeted; Develop initiatives for the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals involved in criminal activities back into society through counseling and vocational training and ensure women are actively involved in economic empowerment programs and decision-making processes to address their unique challenges.

Implementing these recommendations requires a coordinated effort from government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector actors, and local communities. A comprehensive and inclusive approach will help break the cycle of unemployment and insecurity, fostering sustainable development in Kaura Local Government Area.

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