

INTRODUCTION

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has the highest labour force among all regions, which stood at 70.9 % – compared to global average of 63.5% in 2014 (ILO, 2018). However, the quality of job for this labour force remains very poor (ILO,2018). In Nigeria, unemployment rate has been on the increase and rises consistently from 21.1% in 2010 to 23.9 % in 2011 meaning that about 38.24 million Nigerians have no job, it rose to 29.7 in 2018, suggesting that about 58.74million persons are jobless (NBS,2018). The absence of formal sector employment has resulted in the rise in informal sector jobs with low income generation. There are about 34million of such jobs which are not formally registered (NBS,2018). They are largely small scale enterprises with family and household labor. This predominantly dominates the agricultural sector with low productivity. The NBS survey reveals that the median net income for each household is NGN 92,000 or an equivalent of USD 585 (NBS, 2018). Yet the question regarding transforming the oil extractive sector for decent and productive job creation in Nigeria remains unresolved.

BACKGROUND

Key players in the extractive oil sector include; Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) International Oil Companies (IOCs), National (indigenous) oil Companies. Youth unemployment and environmental degradation from the extractive sector resulted in militancy, vandalization of oil pipelines and abduction of expatriate oil workers in the Niger Delta. In 2009, the federal government granted amnesty to the youths. Central Research Question: Has post amnesty oil extractive sector been transformed to provide decent and inclusive jobs for the ex-combatants? Evidence from the findings of this study suggests the contrary.

DATA AND EMPIRICAL APPROACH: TABLES. GRAPH AND PICTORIALS

Panel data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) were adopted. The NBS survey is Nigeria's authoritative data set. It includes all unemployed youths in Nigeria from 2009 to 2018. tables and pictorials were also used for the study.

TABLE 1. AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE UNEMPLOYED AND UNDEREMPLOYED

Age Group	Unemployment Rates
15-24	25.2
25-34	15.4
35-44	8.8
45-54	8.9
55-64	9.8
Age Group	Under Employment Rates
15-24	36.5
25-34	22.1
35-44	14.5
45-54	12.4
55-64	15.1

NBS(2016)

TABLE 2 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN NIGERIA 2000 TO 2018

2000	13.1
2001	13.6
2002	12.6
2003	14.8
2004	13.4
2005	11.9
2006	12.3
2007	12.7
2008	14.9
2009	19.7
2010	21.1
2011	23.9
2012	-
2013	29.5
2014	-
2015	13.7
2016	19.1
2017	25.5
2018	29.7

Sources: NBS,(2010,2018)

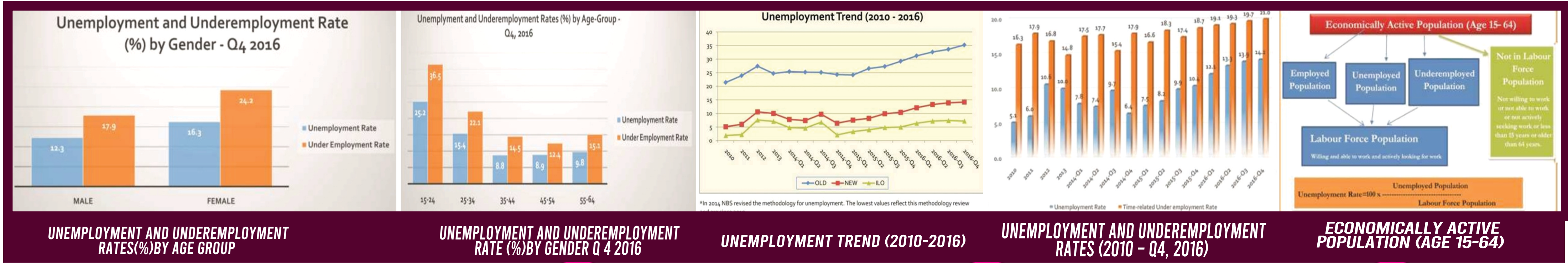


Plate One: Youth unemployment, militancy and abduction of expatriate oil worker  
Source: Reuters ,(2006)



Plate Two: Post amnesty and surrender of arms by ex-militants at an arms collection centre at Tourist Beach in Port Harcourt (October, 2009).  
Source: Reuters/Austin Ekeinde, (2010)



Plate Three: Ex-militants queue to register at an arms collection centre in Ogoloma-Okrika district, Rivers State (August 2009). Source: Ekeinde (2010)



Plate Four: Post Amnesty, Youth unemployment and return to militancy; the rise of the Niger Delta Avengers (NDAs), Source: Reuters,(2016)

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This paper attempted to provide some key analyses and information that could inform policy choices concerning transforming the oil extractive sector in Nigeria for inclusive youth employment. Based on the findings of this study, we conclude that the transformation of the oil extractive sector will provide decent jobs for the youth stimulate the attainment of SDG 8 & 5 and impact on economic growth and development of Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Fox & Kaul (2017) raised an important concern regarding how youth employment programs in low-income countries should be designed and suggested economic and structural transformation including rigorous evaluation of youth employment intervention programmes. We recommend strategic overhaul of the oil extractive sector involving the CSOs and relevant stakeholders.

REFERENCES

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