

## **Youth Restiveness and Sustainable Rural Development in Ukanafun L.G.A-Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, 2015 – 2020.**

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### **Abstract**

The youths in every community are strong force to reckon with towards achieving meaningful rural development, if only when their strengths are been controlled, harnessed and properly utilized. Therefore, this paper assesses the effects of Youth Restiveness on Sustainable Rural Development in Akwa Ibom State, with a focus on Ukanafun L.G.A. Social Strain and Frustration theory was adopted as the theoretical framework of analysis. This paper adopted descriptive survey research design. Primary and secondary sources of data collection were employed. This paper targeted the entire population of Ukanafun L.G.A. thus; purposive random sampling technique was applied while, 300 respondents were targeted as the sample size while 260 returned questionnaires were used for the data analysis. The data collected were presented on Logical Data Framework (LDF) and analyzed using quantitative method of statistical analysis of frequency table, mean and chi-square parametric test. The paper finds out that; bad governance/leadership, unemployment, poverty/hunger, peer group pressure/influence, marginalization etc. are the major causes of youth restiveness thus, leading to the serious escalation of various social vices such as kidnapping, cultism, armed robbery, killing/assassination, dehumanization, issuing of life threatening letters; sexual harassment/rape; destruction/burning of private/public properties etc. in Ukanafun L.G.A., Akwa Ibom state. The paper recommended that; there is need for job creation, skill acquisition centers and youth empowerment programme; inclusion of positive peace education and building in education curriculum, making policy for youth enlightenment, counseling; granting of amnesty etc.

**Keywords:** *Youth, Restiveness, Sustainable and Rural Development.*

### **Introduction**

Presently, many societies are faced with the challenges of bringing up their youth in a responsible manner towards realizing and utilizing their potentials for positive change, national growth and development. The glory of the youth is their strength. This task of bringing up the youth, making them good members of the society, imbibing positive culture, attitudes and behaviors in them begins at home and continues in the institution of learning. When there is poor process of socialization, the result is not always favourable for the society. Many a times, the effort of the homes are thwarted by other factors that tend to inhibits internalization of cherished domestic

values. Such factors like the peer and media tend to influence the youths to deviate from the acceptable norms and values. In all, youth is seen as a phase, a transition from dependence to independence. As a result of the strength that exudes from every youth, the tendency to be uneasy and resist control tends to be high among youths.

Since the last decade there has been a proliferation of unrivalled violence, characterized by kidnapping, abduction and destruction of valuable infrastructures as well as lives and personal property. This negative development according to Igbo & Ikpa (2013) is unfortunate and has become one of the security challenges facing the country. It is commonly reported that poverty, unemployment and lack of access to education among others were responsible for this high level of insecurity orchestrated by youth restiveness in the form of bombing of places of worships, markets and killing of innocent people. The problem of insecurity has become a nightmare to Nigerians and other countries residents in the country. Furthermore, this scenario has been exacerbated by the seeming helplessness on the part of government in taking drastic steps to confront the situation.

Youth restiveness has become a behaviour pattern which has degenerated into a topical global issue that affects the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Youth restiveness portrays man's negative side of social development. This negative development is rather unfortunate and has become one of the many security challenges facing man in the contemporary society. In many occasions, lives and properties worth millions of naira have been lost or vandalized and some razed down by restive youths. As observed by Chukwuemeka & Agbara (2010), human society and in fact the entire universe is simply and squarely a complex entity. In view of this, individuals and groups have their complexities, needs, aspirations, hopes, goals, opinions, views and values which could be social, economic, religious, psychological or political. Consequently, there is bound to be restiveness among different groups of people especially youths who are at their prime age.

Many youths have shunned the path to social order to social disorder by forming themselves into violent and criminal gangs. Group fight and clashes are common place with each struggling for supremacy. The implication of their actions is always maiming, killing, looting, thuggery, looting and snatching of people's valuables, stealing, raping and other activities relating to the total breakdown of law and order in the society. The exhibition of this undesirable behaviour by the

youths gives rise to a disorganized and underdevelopment of such society thereby posing as a hindrance towards achieving sustainable rural development. This, in no doubt put the future of the entire society in great jeopardy. Again in Nigeria, youths are often regarded as leaders of tomorrows but recent activities of our youths show that the future of the society is moving from bad to worse Chukwuemeka & Agbara (2010).

Nonetheless, the residents of Ukanafun LGA in Akwa Ibom state has witnessed in the past few years a high surge of youth restiveness and social disorder that has marred achieving a sustainable rural development. This is as a result that almost all the government/public offices and private establishments, organizations and businesses were been abandoned and deserted by staff/workers, peoples house and properties, various shops and goods were set ablaze, no electricity due to vandalization of high tension cable wires and transformers, indigenes and non-indigenes running/moving away from this areas for their safety (life), small and medium scale enterprises and businesses got crippled due to incessant threat letters received from the cult members demanding that the targeted individual or household should pay a heavy ransom within a short given period of time otherwise; should leave/desert area or face the wrath of losing his life and burning of the residential house and shops. Therefore, it is on this background that this paper assesses the effects of youth restiveness on sustainable rural development in Ukanafun L.G.A, Akwa Ibom state, Nigeria.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The incidence of youth restiveness has account of alleged long running injustice perpetuated against them by their political elites and leaders despite their abundant God given resources as a serious headache that needs policy guided solutions (Reje, 2013). Youth restiveness has greatly contributed to insecurities, unrest and uncertainties in any community. Youth restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A. has resulted to loss of many lives and properties, kidnapping just as the populaces in the crisis prone areas lived in palpable tension and fear. Life has become more precarious and issues of security were dangerously drifted towards complete decay, despite the huge government spending on security in the state. However, the situation in this area has remained unabated as there was a continuous fear of social disorder in the area and beyond such as kidnapping, unnecessary and killings and assassinations, violence and unwarranted intimidation, maiming, rape and all other kinds of social vices.

Undoubtedly, the menace of rural development has surreptitiously crept into Akwa Ibom state in recent years ago tends to taint the ages long image of the state as the most secure, safer and peaceful place in Nigeria. Ukanafun L.G.A. has not known such social vices and crisis that resulted to a serious insecurity in the area with the youths as the main perpetrators of several political sponsored killings, kidnapping, cultism, arson, sexual harassment, armed robbery until between the periods of 2015 to 2020. The security of lives, property and other developmental infrastructures are basic necessities for inauguration of sustainable rural development policies and programmes. Thus, no meaningful rural developmental projects and programmes has survived and transcend for good in order to attain its sustainability in a rancorous and chaotic social system no matter how strong and beautiful it might look like.

Nevertheless, the issue of youth restiveness has resulted to crisis and insecurity in the area which is of great concern to the state government i.e. it has become a major problem bedeviling the area and the entire state. However, this restiveness demonstrated by the youths is to the detriment of achieving sustainable rural development. Therefore, it is against these backdrops that this paper poses the following research questions;

- i. Does youth restiveness affect sustainable rural development in Ukanafun L.G.A., Akwa Ibom State?
- ii. What are the causes of youth restiveness Ukanafun L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State?
- iii. What are the ways to mitigate youth restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State?

### **Objectives of the Study**

This paper tends to achieve the following specific objectives;

- i. To ascertain the effect of youth restiveness on sustainable rural development in Ukanafun L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State.
- ii. To examine the causes of youth restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A, Akwa Ibom state.
- iii. To proffer possible ways to mitigate youth restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A., Akwa Ibom State.

### **Hypotheses**

- i. **H<sub>0</sub>**: Youth restiveness has not affected sustainable rural development in Ukanafun L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State.
- ii. **H<sub>0</sub>**: Bad governance/leadership, peer group/pressure and unemployment are not the causes of youth restiveness in Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom state.
- iii. **H<sub>0</sub>**: Introduction of positive peace education and building, granting of amnesty, job creation/empowerment and strict enforcement of law against cultism are not the possible ways to mitigate youth restiveness in Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom state.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This paper adopted Frustration and Social-strain theory as theoretical framework. The Frustration theory presupposes that a continuing or unresolved motivational conflict is a source of frustration (Atkinson & Atkinson, 1975). This theory argued that when a person's progress towards a desired goal is blocked, delayed, or otherwise interfered with, such a person encounters frustration. Blocked goal seeking therefore produces confusion, bewilderment, and annoyance. Frustration, by implication, connotes an event rather than an emotional state; thwarting circumstances rather than their consequences. Apart from the various types of conflict that provide a major source of human frustration, there are other barriers to the satisfaction of drives (Atkinson & Atkinson, 1975). Frustration, whether it is the result of obstacles, deficiencies, or conflict, has both immediate and remote consequences. This viewpoint is premised on the reasoning that when blocked in goal seeking, the individual or youth may react immediately or develop attitudes towards uncertainty or risk taking that has more enduring consequences.

The Social-strain theory of deviance was propounded by American Sociologist Robert K. Merton (1968). The theory argued that deviant behavior results are not from pathological personalities; rather, it is a consequence of culture and structure of society itself. He reasoned that because all members of the society are placed in different strata of the social structure, they do not have the same access to the realization of their shared values and goals. The shared values and goals translate into cultural goals which could be material possession, educational attainment, and significant others. Merton further noted that people feel strained when they are incapable of meeting the cultural goals to which they are exposed owing to inaccessibility to the culturally

approved and acceptable means of realizing the goals. The tendency therefore is to sort to deviant and unacceptable means.

The adoption of social strain theory explained the persistent nature of youth restiveness which is transmitted and has its open evidence and practices from generation to generation thus, affects the desired sustainable peace and development. However, within the confines of this paper, the theoretical explanation to the rationale behind the youth restiveness (i.e. youth's engagement in violent behaviour) is also as a result of frustration that is located in the structural imbalance in Ukanafun L.G.A, Akwa Ibom state.

Nonetheless, restlessness and tensions are usually associated with many actions indicating unhappiness, dissatisfaction, and frustration and closely related to increased tensions; and restless movements are the rage states that lead to destructiveness and hostile attacks that have become commonplace in the communities of Ukanafun L.G.A. Thus, the inability of youths to actualize their goals through the institutionalized means in the face of the opportunities that abound in their local government and state as a whole has resulted to social strain and frustrations culminating in all shapes of social problems and deviant practices that consequently pose serious threats to the area.

In Ukanafun L.G.As in Akwa Ibom state, most of the youths that are given to violent crimes are basically those who cannot meet up with middle class values and standard set in the society. They are engaged or manipulated into cultism and other kinds of violent activities because they are all frustrated by falling short in meeting up with the basic necessities of life and societal expectations. Thus, most of the youths struggle against social oppression (peer group pressure), unemployment etc. and are made to suffer social degradation and inequality which they can hardly resist. Frustration and social strain theory therefore has the utilitarian explanatory value for the youth restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A., Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

## **Literature Review**

### **Concept of Youth Restiveness**

Youth restiveness is defined as a situation in which youths who are experiencing feelings of dissatisfaction become incapable of being still or quiet and often display a lack of control

(Ejumudo, 2014). In every socio-economic and political domain in Nigeria, youth restiveness has been a thematic and contemporary issue. It is a fact that Nigeria cannot thrive and progress substantially with its youths being restive. The escalating and damaging effects of this phenomenon have been very noticeable as the levels of insecurity have increased exponentially, along with the increase in riots, kidnappings, armed robberies, and cultism. These causal effects have led to underdevelopment and sometimes failure of systems, policies, programmes in many sectors in Nigeria (Akpokighe & Ejovi, 2021).

This has become too prevalent in our society and the effects of this can be long term and damaging for sustained peace, security, and development as a country). Some of the causes of youth restiveness are but not limited to the high rates of unemployment, lack of basic education and skill training, lack of opportunities, lack of inclusivity, lack of basic and quality healthcare, lack of equity and equality, inadequate mental health services, discrimination based on tribe and religion, inadequate social amenities, inequitable distribution of national resources among others (Maciver & Igbojinwaekwu, 2019).

The National Youth Development Policy (2001) defines youth as people that are within the age bracket of 18 years to 35 years. They constitute about 40% (percent) of the more than 140 million people of Nigeria. The term “youth” according to Ndu (2000) and Yusuf (2001) is neither adolescents nor children characterized by excessive energy that needs to be exerted, which if not guarded, is channeled into negative tendencies. The United Nations General Assembly and World Bank cited in Adewuyi (2008) defined the youth as people between ages 15 to 24 years. In Nigeria, the people within the age limit of 30 years are considered as youths hence they are allowed to participate in the National Youth Service Scheme (NYSC). The NYDP, (2001) defines youth as people aged 18 to 35. They constitute about 40 percent of the more than 140 million people of Nigeria. The total population of youth between 10 and 24 in Nigeria was 45.4 million in 2006, which is 34 percent of the total population.

Youth occupy a prominent place in any society. Apart from being the owners and leaders of tomorrow, they outnumber the middle-aged and the aged (Onyekpe, 2007). Besides numerical superiority, youth have energy and ideas that are society's great potentials (Onyekpe, 2007). According to NYDP (2001), youth are the foundation of a society. Their energies, inventiveness, character and orientation define the pace of development and security of a nation. Through their

creative talents and labour power, a nation makes giant strides in economic development and socio-political attainments. In their dreams and hopes, a nation finds her motivation; on their energies, she builds her vitality and purpose. And because of their dreams and aspirations, the future of a nation is assured". The statement acknowledges the role of the youth in the peace and security of a nation. As the most active segment of any society, youth are the major determiners of peace and stability of a nation (Ozohu-Sulaiman, 2006). Conversely, the degree of disorderliness and instability in society is also determined in part by youth. Peace is a precursor of development. The absence of peace means that no meaningful development can take place.

The NYDP, (2001) affirms that the extent of the youth's "responsible conduct and roles in society is positively correlated with the development of their country". Youth Restiveness is a sustained protestation embarked upon to enforce desired outcome from a constituted authority by an organized body of youths. It is marked by violence and disruption of lawful activities in a given jurisdiction. Youth restiveness is the extreme form of deviant behaviour among youth which is socially unacceptable in any society. Youth restiveness involves the combination of actions behaviours and attitudes exhibited by youths which are socially unacceptable and unwholesome in the society (Igbo & Ikpa 2013). The authors further alluded that youth restiveness has been a major device employed by youths to obtain what they want from relevant authorities. Similarly, Elegbeleye (2005) views restiveness as a sustained protestation embarked upon to enforce desired outcome from a constituted authority by organized body of youths. It is accompanied by disruption of lawful activities, conflict and violence. The common features of these organized bodies of youth are the resort to violence, and wanton destruction of lives and property.

To be restive is to be unable to stay still, or unwilling to be controlled especially because one is bored or not satisfied with certain decisions, changed or existing laws considered to be unfavorable. Youth restiveness involves the combination of actions, conducts and behavior which constitutes unwholesome, socially unacceptable behavior exhibited by youths in the society. Youth restiveness has been a device used by the youth to get what they want from the relevant authority. Youths are filled with energy and when this energy is positively channeled or guarded, they are highly productive, and hence are likely to contribute to the overall development of the society. On the other hand, when the energy is negatively channeled, restiveness and its resultant effects are likely to be felt (Chika & Onyene, 2010).



Chika & Onyene (2010) asserted that youth resistance to conditions, issues and unwelcomed leadership regimes dates back to 1934 when Herbert Macaulay floated a political party to kick against dependency with fellow elite youths that had contact with the West. Youth restiveness may be caused by a number of factors like composite unemployment in the Local Government within the state and the nation as a whole.

Chukwuemeka (2010) observed stated that structural unemployment results in talents not being used where they are available, hence idle mind is definitely the devil's workshop. He found out that dissatisfaction of the youths on the level of attention given to development of their region and the damages to their ecology by oil spillage are the major causes of the alarming rate of youth restiveness.

### **Concept of Sustainable Development**

Development is a complex concept. At its most basic level, development means reaching an acceptable standard of living for all people such that they have the basic things they need to live. National social and economic development is a cooperative effort of many. Different countries have different priorities in their development policies and as such different indicators exist to help measure the relative progress they make. Development is understood as a social condition within a nation, in which the needs of its population are satisfied by the rational and sustainable use of natural resources and systems (Reyes, 2001).

Development is seen as a multi-dimensional process that involves major changes in social structures, attitudes, and institutions, as well as economic growth, reduction of inequality, and eradication of absolute poverty (Todaro et al., 2006). Development is the general improvement in the well being of all citizens of a country which is measured by the unhindered access to all available convenience of life for the greatest number in a nation-state. (Alanamu et al., 2006).

According to Yusuf (2013), development is all about stability. At the same time, development can also refer to the growth of humans throughout their lifespan, from conception to death. The scientific study of human development seeks to understand and explain how and why people change. This includes all aspects of human growth, the development of the physical, emotional, intellectual, social, perceptual, and personality.

Sustainable development is a core concept within global development policy and agenda. It provides a mechanism through which society can interact with the environment while not risking damaging the resource for the future. Thus, it is a development paradigm as well as concept that call for improving living standards without jeopardizing the earth's ecosystems or causing environmental challenges such as deforestation and water and air pollution that can result in problems such as climate change and extinction of species (Benaim & Raftis, 2008).

The concept of sustainable development was popularized by the Brundtland Report in 1987 (Usono & Modo 2012). Sustainable development is therefore, defined as the tendency for any developmental programme or policies to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations. Sustainable development is all about existing structures for stability in development (Yusuf, 2013).

Sustainable development is defined as the tendency for any developmental programme or policies to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations. Taken literally, sustainable Development is the development that meets the needs of present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Iyad, 2019).

Thus, Jhingan (2006) is of the opinion that sustainable development means development should keep going. It emphasizes the creation of sustainable improvement in the quality of life of all people through increase in real income per capita, improvements in education, health and general quality of life and improvement in quality of natural environmental resource.

### **Concept of Rural Development**

The phenomenon of Rural Development revolves around attempts by governments and people to address the basic factual problems bedeviling the rural areas in respect of basic needs such as safe and hygienic drinking water, the provision of primary health care, feeder road, electricity, schools and so forth. Any area that is without such things is backward and life in it, is certainly miserable and frustrating (Lapalomebra, 1987).

According to Oakley & Marsden (1984), rural development is defined as the participation of the people in mutual learning experience involving them, their local external change agents and

outside resources. People cannot be developed i.e. they can only develop themselves by participation in decision and co-operation activities which affect their well-being. People are not being developed when they are barded like animals into new ventures.

Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people- the rural poor. It involve the extending the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas. Rural development strategies can realize their full potential only through motivation, active involvement and organization at the grassroots level of rural people. Communities that have a say in the development of policies for their locality are much more likely to be enthusiastic about their implementation (Burkey, 1993).

Rural development is clearly designed to increase production and raise productivity. Rural development however, tends to improve food supplies and nutrition, together with basic service such as health and education, can not only directly improve the physical well-being and quality of life in the rural poor, but can also directly enhance their productivity and their ability to contribute to the national economy.

### **Causes of Youth Restiveness**

Several scholars and researchers have advanced several causes of youth restiveness in Nigeria. Anasi (2010) identified six factors: bad governance, unemployment, poverty, inadequate educational opportunities and resources, lack of basic infrastructures and inadequate communication and information flow. According to Chukwuezi (2009), the causes of youth restiveness are many, ranging from individual to societal factors such as marginalization, unemployment to exuberance and the role of politician in employing youth against their perceived enemies as the main causes of restiveness among youth in Nigeria. Similarly, Snapps et al., (2011) in their studies of “youth restiveness and industrial Disruption in the Niger Delta” have identified factors such as economic, political and socio-cultural factors as the causes of youth restiveness.

To Ofem & Ajayi (2008), they identified lack of humanitarian and social welfare, lack of good governance, corrupt practices of government officials, inadequate training programmes, unemployment, inadequate recreational facilities, lack of quality education, and so on, as the

reasons for incessant youth restiveness. This implies that catalogues of closely-related factors are responsible for youth restiveness. Generally, the notable causes of youth restiveness include:

- i. **Bad Governance/Leadership:** Good governance and leadership is required for the growth and development of any nation. Unfortunately, in Nigeria bad governance is more common than good, resulting in disjointed development. Onyekpe (2007) observes that successive administrations in Nigeria have not been able to allocated much to the needs of the youth, and, worse still, the meager allocation are often diverted by government officials to their private accounts and projects. Thus, youth are restive and agitated when they perceive that resources meant for them are being wasted by those in authority.
- ii. **Peer Group Pressure:** Peer group are members of the same age grade sharing equal status and pursuing some interest in common. The peer group has a significant influence on an individual behaviour, members of peer group are exposed to knowledge, which they have no access to within their individual families i.e. they have their norms and values, which members strive to follow. Peer group often proper out youths to doing evil. Some of these peer group members are groomed in violent and hostile families where there is a transfer of such behaviours to the group, which they belong to; hence they compelled their members to adopt them. When the youth abandoned their parents, they find solace in gang groups.
- iii. **Unemployment:** Unemployment is a hydra-headed monster which exists among the youth in all developing countries. Experts believe that the number of jobless youth is twice as high as official estimate. Ozohu & Suleiman (2006) notes Nigerian youth are trapped by unemployment. Zakaria (2006) believes that “the rising tide of unemployment and the fear of a bleak future among the youth in African countries have made them vulnerable to the manipulations of agents' provocateurs”. These include aggrieved politicians, religious demagogues, and greedy multinationals that employ these youths to achieve their selfish ambitions. Zakaria (2006) strongly believes that the absence of job opportunities in developing countries is responsible for youth restiveness with disastrous consequences.
- iv. **Poverty:** Poverty connotes inequality and social injustice and this traumatizes the poor. More than 70 percent of people in Nigeria are in abject poverty, living below the poverty line, and one- third survive on less than US \$1 dollar a day (Zakaria, 2006). This figure

includes an army of youth in urban centers in Nigeria who struggle to eke out a living by hawking chewing sticks, bottled water, handkerchiefs, belts, etc. The sales-per-day and the profit margin on such goods are so small that they can hardly live above the poverty line. Aworawo (2000) and Zakaria (2006) agreed that there is a link among poverty, loss of livelihood, inequality, and youth restiveness as evidenced by the numerous violent protests against the wielders of power in Nigeria.

- v. **Marginalization:** There is also an agitation for equitable distribution of resources. According to Chukwuezi (2009), many youths resort to restiveness because of their perceived marginalization by leaders of their communities. Where their plights are not attended to, they resort to violence to draw attention of community leaders to their situation. Other causes of youth restiveness include; environmental degradation, discontent with multinational companies, just to mention a few.
- vi. **Lack of Policy on the Youths:** The proliferation of youth restiveness among the youths in Nigeria show that government at all levels lack effective and aggressive youth policy. According to Anger (2006) “the reality is that in Nigeria today there is absence of good governance and it is as a result of this that all sectors of the economy are fast collapsing”. Under such unfriendly environment, the future of our youth looks gloomy and uncertain. Government at all levels needs to set youth empowerment agency i.e. an empowerment geared towards youth development should be prioritized by the government.

### **Panacea to Youth Restiveness**

According to Anikpo (2005) the followings are ways which would help to minimize or eliminate the reoccurrence of restiveness in communities:

- i. Government ensuring that all the needful is been done and given to host communities, who are deeply involved in production.
- ii. Oil industries should upgrade and accept services from local business operators, to facilitate youth inclusion in societal development.
- iii. Federal and state government should create enabling environment for transparent management of resources and infrastructural development of the region.
- iv. Corruption and bad governance by the leadership should be checked.
- v. Improvement of transportation and communication in region should be enhanced.

- vi. Enhanced commitment by both the federal, state and local governments in the development of the region should be followed.
- vii. Contracts should be secured to host communities by oil and gas industries

Nevertheless, Adegoke (2012) outlined some following solutions to tackle youth restiveness, and they include that:

- i. Families must take time to reengage the youth within the home.
- ii. Parents need to spend quality time with them.
- iii. Educational institutions should ensure that the school is a place of trusted relationship.
- iv. Government at all levels should provide care and protection for all the young people.
- v. Youths should acquire assertive skills Thus, restiveness can be still or quiet, controlled and even eliminated totally.

#### **Effects and Notable Cases of Youth Restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A.**

The youth restiveness, criminality and brigandage was attributed to the activities of the notorious criminal group (cultist) led by Mr. Akaninyene Jumbo Monday Uko who was also nicknamed “*Iso Akpafid*”. He was the then youth leader of Ikot Ibekwe while also engaging in cult related activities, and was used by desperate and corrupt politicians in the area to be carrying-out/executing most of the killings/assassination in the area. Unfortunately, he met his waterloo on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, when He was captured and killed by the Joint Operations of the security agencies in the state.

However, the people’s jubilation was cut short by the emergence of Stainless, a wicked and brutal self-crowned successor to the late Iso-Akpafid. Successively, Stainless led other hoodlums on a revenge mission and unleashed terror in Ukanafun and the neighboring Local Government Area like Etim-Ekpo. by continuous killing, maiming, raping, kidnapping, issuing of threat letters, destruction and burning of houses indiscriminately leading to displacement of people from their various homes. On 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2018, the acclaimed successor “Stainless” was killed by the security agents after a serious exchange of gun.

The killing of a teacher of Community Secondary School (CSS) Nkek, *Mr. Aniekan Udofia*, a newly posted policeman to Ukanafun and a pregnant woman were gunned down at a filling station near Ukanafun Divisional Station. It was revealed that the cultists served the owner of petrol station and the teacher who is from Okoyo village death threat letters. The ugly arm bush and bloody murder of two young business men at who are scrap dealers going back to Aba, Abia state after their daily business activities along at Iwukem along Ukanafun/Etim Ekpo Road. The migration and sending of residents of various communities in Ukanafun L.G.A. and Chief Udo Ikpe a Village Head of Ikot Ibekwe into exile where the king reigns but does not rule.

Nevertheless, there have been various notable cases of victims of youth restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A. This upsurge by youth has been targeted on, and affected many indigenes and non-indigenes of the local government area. Therefore, the notable cases and victims of youth restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A., Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria within the period of the study (2015 to 2020) are recorded as follows;

| Date of Incident                 | Cases and Victims  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| January 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. | <i>Chief Emmanuel, Jim Umahaeyo</i> was assassinated in the village of Ikot Anta Eneng Obom.   |
| April 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2017.    | <i>Dr. Idongesit, Demas Udom</i> , a native of Idung-Nneke Village, a retired Exxon Mobil staff and the Proprietor of Sure Foundation Polytechnic Ikot-Akai, Ukanafun was abducted (kidnapped). He was asked to pay the sum of <i>Ten Million Naira (N10,000,000.00)</i> before he regained his freedom in a dehumanized manner as his right hand/arm was chopped/cut-off. |
| April 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2017.   | <i>Mr. Obong, Ime Atakpa</i> , a newly sworn-in Ukanafun Local Government Council Secretary was assassinated in his backyard livestock farm.   |
| July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017.     | <i>Mr. Paragi</i> , a youth leader of Nkek Urua Uko Village was killed inside a barbing saloon in his village.   |
| July 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2017.     | <i>Barr. Mfon Etukudo</i> , a private Legal Practitioner was attacked and killed that early morning in his residence at Idung Nneke Village.   |

July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

*Mr. Aniekeme, Brownson Essien*, the Vice Principal of Community Secondary School, CSS, Nkek, was shot dead in the school premises in the presence of staff and students.

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

*Mrs. Enobong, Monday Isaiah* was killed alongside *Chief Rufus Tommy Ikpe* and a youth, *Mr. Idara, Bassey Idiong*. *Mrs. Enobong* is a sister to the Commissioner for the Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, a Family Head, *Chief Rufus Tommy Ikpe* and a youth, *Mr. Idara, Bassey Idiong*.  
b. *Elder Aniekan Akpan's* residential home and that of former Commissioner for Education in Akwa Ibom state, at Ikot Oku Usung were invaded by the youth in the areas.

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The overnight killing of two (2) security personnel, destruction and razing/burning down of Ukanafun L.G.A. popular and biggest market known as "*Urua Akpan-Esiet*" where goods worth of millions of Naira was destroyed. This was as a protest and in retaliation against the crackdown on their members by the Joint Task Force (JTF).

July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

There was an allegedly killing of two (2) soldiers and kidnapping of an expatriate engineer working with *Al-Madal Construction Company*, inspecting an ongoing construction work in Ikot Ibritam, Inen Ekeffe and Odoro Ikot to Ukanafun/Abak Road project awarded by the Akwa State Government.

**Source:** "*Report on the Rising Youth Restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A. (2017-2020)*"; *Ezebuilo Paul* (2023).

In a nutshell, the implications of youth restiveness is that, youths often times copy what their peers do for reasons of group acceptance, trust and assistance. Most Ukanafun youths smoke marijuana and other dangerous substances, results to killing, kidnapping, maiming, looting, raping, shoplift, hired as thugs, steals and hawk drugs. These activities compelled them to engage in restiveness and other crimes which affect the communities in the area. Therefore, the major effects on the society include enthronement of unacceptable moral values, militancy and crime.



## Methodology

This paper adopted descriptive survey research design. The population of the study comprises all inhabitants of the seventy-seven (77) communities in Ukanafun L.G.A. of Akwa Ibom State. Data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The paper adopted purposeful random sampling size technique by engaging 300 respondents as the sample size. Thus, out of the 300 copies of questionnaire administered to the respondents in the various communities, 260 copies were returned and used for data analysis. However, the data collected were presented and analyzed using quantitative method of statistical analysis of frequency table, mean and chi-square. Logical Data Framework was adopted to scientifically analyze the research questions by making use of the key indicators. Thus, a 5-point summated likert scale, frequency distribution tables, weighted mean and chi-square parametric test at 0.05 (5%) significant level were used.

| S/N | Statement of the Problem  | Hypotheses   | Variables                            | Main Indicators of the Variables  | Sources of data  | Method Of Data Collection               | Method of Data Analysis  |
|-----|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| i.  | How does youth restiveness affect Sustainable Rural Development in Ukanafun L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State? | Youth Restiveness has not affected the Sustainable Rural Development in Ukanafun L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State. | (X)<br>Youth Restiveness             | Killings/assasination, kidnapping, maiming, raping, destruction of public/private properties etc, | *Primary Sources : Questionnaire, Observation etc. and *Secondary sources : Internet sources, journal, magazines, newspapers, Reports etc. | Quantitative Method of Data Collection. | Frustration and Social-strain theory; Logical Data Framework; Frequency distribution table, simple percentages, mean, mean and Chi-square. |
|     |   |  | (Y)<br>Sustainable Rural Development |   |  |   |  |
| ii. | What are the causes of Youth Restiveness  | Bad governance/leadership, peer  | (X)<br>Causes of Youth Restiveness   | Bad government /leadership, peer  | *Primary Sources : Questionnaire,  | Quantitative Method of Data Collection. | Frustration and Social-strain theory;  |

|     |  |  |                                      |  |  |   |  |
|-----|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
|     | Ukanafun L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State.?  | group/pressure, unemployment, poverty/hunger etc. are not the causes of youth restiveness in Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom state.  |                                      | group/pressure, unemployment, poverty/hunger, marginalization etc.   | Observation etc. and *Secondary sources : Internet sources, journal, magazines, newspapers, Reports etc.                                   |   | Logical Data Framework; Frequency distribution table, simple percentages, mean, mean and Chi-square.                                       |
|     |  |  | (Y) Sustainable Rural Development.   |  |  |   |  |
| iii | What are possible ways to mitigate youth restiveness in Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom state? | Introduction of positive peace education and building, granting of amnesty, job creation/empowerment and strict enforcement of law against cultism are not the possible ways to mitigate youth restiveness in Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom state. | (X) Mitigations of Youth Restiveness | Introduction of positive peace education and building, granting of amnesty, job creation/empowerment and strict enforcement of law against cultism and drug abuse. | *Primary Sources : Questionnaire, Observation etc. and *Secondary sources : Internet sources, journal, magazines, newspapers, Reports etc. | Quantitative Method of Data Collection. | Frustration and Social-strain theory; Logical Data Framework; Frequency distribution table, simple percentages, mean, mean and Chi-square. |
|     |  |  | (Y) Sustainable Rural Development.   |  |  |   |  |

### Logical Data Framework (LDF) Data Presentation and Analysis

## Frequency and Distribution of Respondents Demographic Information

**Table I:** Respondents by Gender

| Gender       | Frequency  | Percentage (%) | Cumulative (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| Male         | 162        | 62.3           | 62.3           |
| Female       | 98         | 37.7           | 100            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>260</b> | <b>100</b>     |                |

*Source: Ezebuilo Paul Field Survey, 2023.*

The table I shows that, 162 represented by 62.3% of the sample are the male respondents while, 98 represented by 37.7% are the female respondents. Therefore, it shows that there were more male respondents than the female respondents.

**Table II:** Respondents by Age

| Age Interval | Frequency  | Percentage (%) | Cumulative (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| 15 - 20 yrs. | 59         | 22.7           | 22.7           |
| 21 - 30 yrs. | 76         | 29.2           | 51.9           |
| 31 - 40 yrs. | 72         | 27.7           | 79.6           |
| 41 - 50 yrs. | 53         | 20.4           | 100            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>260</b> | <b>100</b>     |                |

*Source: Ezebuilo, Paul Field Survey, 2023.*

The table II shows that, 59 represented by 22.7% are the 15-20 years sample respondents; 76 represented by 29.2% are the of the 21-30 years sample respondents, 72 represented by 27.7% are the of the 31-40 years sample respondents while 53 represented by 20.4% are of the 41-50 years sample respondents. Therefore, it shows that there were more 21-30 years of respondents among others.

**Table III:** Respondents by Marital Status

| <b>Marital Status</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage (%)</b> | <b>Cumulative (%)</b> |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Single                | 172              | 66.2                  | 66.2                  |
| Married               | 88               | 33.8                  | 100                   |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>260</b>       | <b>100</b>            |                       |

*Source: Ezebuilo Paul Field Survey, 2023.*

The table III shows that, 172 represented by 66.2% of the sample are the single respondents while, 88 represented by 33.8% are the married respondents. Therefore, it shows that there were more single respondents than the married respondents.

**Table IV:** Respondents by Level of Education

| <b>Qualification</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage (%)</b> | <b>Cumulative (%)</b> |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| FSLC                 | 122              | 46.9                  | 46.9                  |
| WAEC/NECO            | 68               | 26.2                  | 73.1                  |
| OND/NCE              | 48               | 18.5                  | 91.6                  |
| OTHERS               | 22               | 8.4                   | 100                   |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>260</b>       | <b>100</b>            |                       |

*Source: Ezebuilo Paul Field Survey, 2023.*

The table IV shows that, 122 represented by 46.9% are of FSLC sample respondents; 68 represented by 26.2% are the of the WAEC/NECO sample respondents, 48 represented by 18.5% are the of the OND/NCE sample respondents while, 22 represented by 8.4% are of the OTHERS sample. Therefore, it shows that there were more respondents with FSLC among others.

**Table V: Analysis of Questionnaire Responses for Research Question One:** How does youth restiveness affect sustainable rural development in Ukanafun L.G.A., Akwa Ibom State?

| Questionnaire Items   | Alternative Responses |             |             |            |            | $\sum FX$  | $\bar{X} = \frac{\sum FX}{N}$ | Decision Rule |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
|   | SA<br>(5)             | A<br>(4)    | N<br>(3)    | D<br>(2)   | SD<br>(1)  |            |                               |               |
| 1. Youth restiveness witnessed in Ukanafun L.G.A. has undermined the sustainable rural/community development and progress in the area.  | 89<br>(450)           | 78<br>(312) | 40<br>(120) | 33<br>(66) | 20<br>(20) | 260<br>963 | 3.7                           |               |
| 2. Killings, kidnapping, rape, cultism, maiming, dehumanization and all kinds of human right abuse witnessed in Ukanafun L.G.A. were as a result of restiveness/insurgency in the area. | 90<br>(450)           | 82<br>(328) | 48<br>(144) | 26<br>(52) | 14<br>(14) | 260<br>988 | 3.8                           | Most          |
| 3. Restriction of movement (curfew), shut down of businesses, markets, schools and other social activities in Ukanafun L.G.A. were as a case of youth restiveness in the area.          | 84<br>(420)           | 85<br>(340) | 35<br>(105) | 22<br>(44) | 34<br>(34) | 260<br>943 | 3.6                           |               |
| 4. Destruction and burning of public/private properties like market, resident building/houses among others in Ukanafun L.G.A. were as a result of youth restiveness in the area.        | 77<br>(385)           | 68<br>(272) | 58<br>(174) | 32<br>(64) | 25<br>(25) | 260<br>920 | 3.5                           |               |

**Source:** Ezebuilo Paul Field Survey, 2023.

**Table VI: Test of Hypothesis One:** Youth restiveness has affected sustainable rural development in Ukanafun L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State.

| <b>Responses</b>   | <b>Fo</b>  | <b>Fe</b> | <b>Fo – Fe</b> | <b>(Fo – Fe)<sup>2</sup></b> | <b><math>\frac{(Fo - Fe)^2}{Fe}</math></b> |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------------|--|
| Strongly Agreed    | 90         | 52        | 38             | 1444                         | 27.7                                       |
| Agreed             | 82         | 52        | 30             | 900                          | 17.3                                       |
| Undecided          | 48         | 52        | -4             | -16                          | -0.3                                       |
| Disagreed          | 26         | 52        | -26            | -676                         | -13  |
| Strongly Disagreed | 14         | 52        | -38            | -1444                        | -27.7                                      |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>260</b> |           |                |                              | <b>4.0</b>                                 |

*Source: Ezebuilo Paul Field Survey, 2023.*

The result from the Chi-square parametric test analysis (table) conducted using the most accepted mean amongst others from opinion of respondents on the research question one analysis as it was tested at 0.05 level of significance revealed that hypothesis one was rejected because the chi-square tabulated (**9.49**) was greater than ( $\geq$ ) the calculated (**4.0**).

**Table VII: Analysis of Questionnaire Responses for Research Question Two:** What are the causes of youth restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A., Akwa Ibom State?

| Questionnaire Items   | Alternative Responses |             |             |            |            | $\sum FX$  | $\bar{X} = \frac{\sum FX}{N}$ | Decision Rule |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
|   | SA<br>(5)             | A<br>(4)    | N<br>(3)    | D<br>(2)   | SD<br>(1)  |            |                               |               |
| 5. Bad governance and leadership has caused youth restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A.<br>Accepted.   | 93<br>(465)           | 84<br>(336) | 45<br>(135) | 22<br>(44) | 16<br>(16) | 260<br>996 | 3.8                           | Most          |
| 6. Peer group influence and pressure, has fueled the youth restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A.<br>Accepted.                                | 80<br>(400)           | 65<br>(260) | 55<br>(165) | 35<br>(70) | 25<br>(25) | 260<br>920 | 3.5                           |               |
| 7. High rate of unemployment and lack of youth empowerment has led to youth restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A.<br>Accepted.               | 89<br>(445)           | 80<br>(320) | 37<br>(111) | 28<br>(56) | 26<br>(26) | 260<br>958 | 3.6                           |               |
| 8. Increase in poverty rate and marginalization of youth in Ukanafun L.G.A. has triggered youth restiveness in the area.<br>Accepted. | 92<br>(460)           | 75<br>(300) | 40<br>(120) | 30<br>(60) | 23<br>(23) | 260<br>783 | 3.7                           |               |

**Source:** Ezebuilo Paul Field Survey, 2023.

**Table VIII: Test of Hypothesis Two:** Bad governance/leadership, peer group/pressure, unemployment and poverty are the causes of youth restiveness in Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom state.

| <b>Responses</b>   | <b>Fo</b>  | <b>Fe</b> | <b>Fo – Fe</b> | <b>(Fo – Fe)<sup>2</sup></b> | <b><math>\frac{(Fo - Fe)^2}{Fe}</math></b> |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------------|--|
| Strongly Agreed    | 93         | 52        | 41             | 1681                         | 32.3                                       |
| Agreed             | 84         | 52        | 32             | 1024                         | 19.6                                       |
| Undecided          | 45         | 52        | -7             | -49                          | -0.9                                       |
| Disagreed          | 22         | 52        | -30            | -900                         | -17.3                                      |
| Strongly Disagreed | 16         | 52        | -36            | -1296                        | -24.9                                      |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>260</b> |           |                |                              | <b>8.8</b>                                 |

*Source: Ezebuilo Paul Field Survey, 2023.*

The result from the Chi-square parametric test analysis (table) conducted using the most accepted mean amongst others from opinion of respondents on the research question two analysis as it was tested at 0.05 level of significance revealed that hypothesis two was rejected because the chi-square tabulated (**9.49**) was greater than ( $\geq$ ) the calculated (**8.8**).



**Table IX: Analysis of Questionnaire Responses for Research Question Three: What are the possible measures to mitigate youth restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A., Akwa Ibom State?**

| Questionnaire Items   | Alternative Responses |             |             |            |            | $\sum FX$   | $\bar{X} = \frac{\sum FX}{N}$ | Decision Rule |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
|   | SA<br>(5)             | A<br>(4)    | N<br>(3)    | D<br>(2)   | SD<br>(1)  |             |                               |               |
| 9. Inclusion of positive peace education and building in school curriculum are Accepted.<br>ways of curbing youth restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A.              | 82<br>(410)           | 60<br>(240) | 58<br>(174) | 38<br>(76) | 22<br>(22) | 260<br>922  | 3.5                           |               |
| 10. Granting of amnesty, sensitization, counseling and rehabilitation of restive Accepted.<br>youth shall help to stop restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A.         | 87<br>(435)           | 70<br>(280) | 42<br>(126) | 36<br>(72) | 25<br>(85) | 260<br>938  | 3.6                           |               |
| 11. Strict enforcement of law against cultism and drug abuse/trafficking Accepted.<br>shall help to deter the youth from indulging in such act.               | 90<br>(450)           | 77<br>(308) | 48<br>(144) | 25<br>(50) | 20<br>(20) | 260<br>972  | 3.7                           |               |
| 12. Creation of jobs, skill acquisition centers and youth empowerment, Rejected.<br>programmes are good measures to curb youth restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A. | 98<br>(490)           | 80<br>(320) | 50<br>(150) | 18<br>(36) | 14<br>(63) | 260<br>1010 | 3.8                           | Most          |

**Source:** Ezebuilo Paul Field Survey, 2023.

**Table X: Test of Hypothesis Three:**

| Responses          | Fo         | Fe | Fo – Fe | (Fo – Fe) <sup>2</sup> | $\frac{(Fo - Fe)^2}{Fe}$ |
|--------------------|------------|----|---------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Strongly Agreed    | 98         | 52 | 46      | 2116                   | 40.6                     |
| Agreed             | 80         | 52 | 28      | 784                    | 15.0                     |
| Undecided          | 50         | 52 | -2      | -4                     | -0.07                    |
| Disagreed          | 18         | 52 | -34     | -1156                  | -22.2                    |
| Strongly Disagreed | 14         | 52 | -38     | -1444                  | -27.7                    |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>260</b> |    |         |                        | <b>5.6</b>               |

*Source: Ezebuilo Paul Field Survey, 2023.*

The result from the Chi-square parametric test analysis (table) conducted using the most accepted mean amongst others from opinion of respondents on the research question three analysis as it was tested at 0.05 level of significance revealed that hypothesis three was rejected because the chi-square tabulated (**9.49**) was greater than ( $\geq$ ) the calculated (**5.6**).

### Discussion of Findings

From the data presentation and analysis, the major findings were summarized as follows;

From the analysis of distributed questionnaire on table V which is on research question one, the questionnaire item **1, 2, 3** and **4** has their calculated mean as **3.7, 3.8, 3.6** and **3.5** respectively therefore, they were all accepted on the fact that their calculated mean was above the cut-off mean which is **3.0**. Therefore, it was observed that the respondents were of the opinion that youth restiveness has affected the sustainable rural development in Ukanafun L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State.

From the analysis of distributed questionnaire on table VII which is on research question two, the questionnaire item **5, 6, 7** and **8** has their calculated mean as **3.8, 3.5, 3.6** and **3.7** respectively therefore, they were all accepted on the fact that their calculated mean was above the cut-off

mean which is **3.0**. Therefore, it was observed that the respondents were of the opinion that bad governance/leadership, peer group/pressure, unemployment, poverty/hunger etc. are the causes of youth restiveness in Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom state.

From the analysis of distributed questionnaire on table IX which is on research question three, the questionnaire item **9, 10, 11** and **12** has their calculated mean as **3.5, 3.6, 3.7** and **3.8** respectively therefore, they were all accepted on the fact that their calculated mean is above the cut-off mean which is **3.0**.was observed that the respondents were of the opinion that introduction of positive peace education and building, granting of amnesty, job creation/empowerment and strict enforcement of law against cultism and drug abuse are the possible measures to mitigate youth restiveness in Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom state.

### **Conclusion**

It was observed that there is a huge relationship that exists between youth restiveness and sustainable rural development, that's why Ukanafun L.G.A has not been able to attain or actualize her desired sustainable rural development in their various communities because of the restiveness orchestrated by the aggrieved youth in the area. The results obtained from the data analysis show that bad governance/leadership, unemployment, poverty, youth marginalization, peer group influence among others are the major causes of youth restiveness in Ukanafun L.G.A, Akwa Ibom state. Finally, the study contends that unless this scenario is remedied via adoption of the recommendations made on this paper, sustainable rural development will continue to erode and be a mirage in Ukanafun L.G.A, Akwa Ibom state.

### **Recommendations**

The following measures were the possible measures proffered to mitigate youth restiveness in Ukanafun I.G.A. Akwa Ibom state and across other states in Nigeria. They include:

- i. Communities and government must prioritize skill acquisition as their main stay of sustainable rural and peace development strategy i.e. government should create more jobs

for employment, through youth empowerment and skill acquisition and a soft loan should be made available to the trained youths.

- ii. Strict enforcement of law against cultism, drug trafficking and consumption with stiffer penalties should be established to deter the youth from indulging in such social vices.
- iii. There is need for the establishment of peace/integrity clubs in schools (primary and secondary) to inculcate positive peace building and education among pupils and students i.e. positive peace building and education should be included in the school curriculum for a sustainable rural development.
- iv. Granting of amnesty, sensitization, counseling and rehabilitation of restive youth and street children for a better society should be made paramount.
- v. There should be equity in the management of communities' resources i.e. a law should be enacted spelling out the percentage that will be used for the development of host communities to avoid marginalization.
- vi. Parents must be conscious of peer group influence on their children and a comprehensive policy on the youth should be put in place (youth inclusive) to empower them and develop the community.

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