

# Job Creation Strategies of the Goodluck Jonathan Administration (2011 – 2015) and Unemployment in Nigeria

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**Abstract:** *Unemployment and job creation have been a serious contemporary problem affecting developing countries, Nigeria inclusive, despite their administrative, natural, and human resources potentials to provide job opportunities to the masses. This study therefore deals with impact of job creation strategies on unemployment in Nigeria: a case study of Jonathan administration (2011-2015). The research is a descriptive study. The study found out that job creation strategies of SURE-P, YOU-WIN and YESSO have impacted on unemployment problem in Nigeria. It also discovered problems that reduces the level of its success such as corruption, inadequate patronage by local industries from Nigerians. To improve upon this, the study recommends among others that government should increase in management of graduate internship scheme (SURE-P) and the National Youths Corp program (NYSC) should become a one-year entrepreneurial training program for all graduate who will pass out to create jobs for themselves and avoid searching for jobs that are not there.*

**Keywords:** Job Creation, Employment, Subsidy, Unemployment, SURE-P, YESSO, YOU WIN

## I. INTRODUCTION

Nigeria as a nation has experienced several setbacks of which unemployment is among. Unemployment issue has become a world-wide phenomenon demanding for increased attention, though its effect is more devastating in developing nations (Wamukonya, 2003). Unemployment has been defined as a situation where people who are willing and capable of working are unable to find suitable paid employment (Fajana, 2000, p. 61). The same scholar further says, the higher the rate of unemployment, the higher the level of poverty and associated welfare challenges. The international labour organization (ILO) opined that unemployment are the numbers of the economically active population who are without work but are available for, and seeking for work, including people who have lost their jobs and those who voluntarily left work (world bank, 1998, p. 63). Lampman (1974, p. 287), gave apt definition of unemployment, as a social-economic situation in which persons who have no work but are able, willing to work and actively seeking for job opportunities but no work.

Unemployment trend in Nigeria remains significant despite high economic growth rate. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS 2010, p. 476) said “no fewer than 5.3 million youths are jobless in the country, while 1.8 million graduates enter the labor market every year”. The NBS (2012) further said that Nigeria rate of unemployment stand at 19.7%. This high rate of unemployment can be blamed on astronomical rise in the number of tertiary institutions in the country, increase in the number of graduates turned out every year, for whom there are no job and lack of adequate provision for job creation in the development plans. Poor power generation is another reason for high rate of unemployment and job creation, many foreign companies that would have come to invest in this country considering its big marketing vista which would have provided many employment opportunities to Nigerians to reduced unemployment have changed direction to other neighboring countries with constant power supply to prevent operating at loss with 24-hours running of generators (which) is now the tradition in Nigeria. No matter the nature of the economy, if the labour market of any nation is saturated, thus giving rise to youth unemployment, it will make the socioeconomic and political environment hostile, unsafe, unstable, and rancorous, and such can ruin the future of the country.

According to Okonjo-Iweala (2011, p. 8) “unemployment and poverty has become serious problems that all levels of government must tackle with sincerity of purpose to keep the nation’s youths productively engaged, and out of avoidable trouble”. To further buttress this, Dele, et al. (2009, p. 92) opined “to a responsive and focused government the deteriorating unemployment situation in Nigeria should be a source of worry especially with the attendant social dislocation, illustrated by high crime rate and youth restiveness.

The level of unemployment among Nigeria youths worsened during Jonathan’s administration. The 2011 performance monitoring report on government’s ministries, departments and agencies indicated that the unemployment rate in Nigeria in 2010 was 21.1 percent a figure that increased to 23.9 percent in 2011 (premium times). The fears by Nigeria youths that unemployment has been on the rise in the country with unofficial estimates of above 30 percent rise in the country was confirmed by the National planning commission. In effort to handle unemployment and job creation problem in the country Jonathan’s administration initiated YOU-WIN, SURE-P and YESSO policies with objectives of creating numbers of jobs for youth, improving skill acquisition, establishment of trade (self-employment).

Unemployment can be resolved using job creation if the strategies enact points more on skills acquisition and entrepreneurship. Bearing this in mind, the research work attempts to address the situation by interrogating problems affecting the impact of job creation strategy using Jonathan’s administration as a case study and possibly proffer the way forward in addressing the issue, through creation of employment opportunities.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### Unemployment

The problem of unemployment and job creation in the world is one that has over the years engaged the attention of the international community, governmental and non- governmental organization. Although this problem has been a global trend, it is perhaps more evident and appalling in developing nations where most African countries fall into, Nigeria inclusive.

Keynes (1935) stated that the term unemployment is used to apply in literal sense to all persons without work, but it must come to have more specific meaning in modern realization of social and economic policy. In his view the recent awareness of social-economic policy elaborates more meaning of unemployment to all people without work. Lampman (1974, p. 287-90), define unemployment, as a social-economic situation in which persons who have no work but are able, willing to work and actively seeking for job opportunities but no work. Based on his definition he observed that there is considerable controversy concerning the number and nature of persons who should be counted as unemployed in a country at a moment in time. Answering this controversy, Lampman asserted that only those persons not at work for more than a specified minimum of time and who are able and are willing to work, and actively seeking work, are generally considered as employed.

According to the Eight International Conference of employment Statisticians in Statistiques de Population Active Inactive Geneva, International Labour Office (Report No. 14, 1954), people legally considered unemployed fall under the following groups.

- Workers available for employment whose contract of employment has terminated or been suspended and who are without a job and seeking paid employment.
- Persons never previously employed, whose most recent status was other than that of employee, together with persons who had been in retirement who were available for work during a specific period (except for reason for non- malignant illness) and were seeking paid employment.
- Persons without a job and currently available for work who have made arrangement to start a new job at a date after specific period.
- Persons temporarily or indefinitely laid-off without pay.

The aim of such definition as put forward by Armin (1976, p. 110-213), is to expound and measure anomaly the way which economy of a country functions in providing employment.

Unemployed by Rodney (1985) is not applicable to everyone but only those of legal working age and older who are without jobs and seeking for work. According to Agueue (1991, p. 90-120), unemployment is the number of people in the population who are willing and offer themselves for employment but could not be employed because of lack of vacancies for them.

Adebayo (1999, p. 81-102) in Echebiri (2005), contended that unemployment exists when members of the labour force wish to work but cannot get job. This definition of unemployment by Adebayo corresponds with the remark of Obadan and Odusola (2001) which hinges on the fact that “unemployment is measured among people in the labour force”. Nicholas (2000, p. 69-80), a person is unemployed if he or she is eligible for work but does not have a job. He viewed unemployment as equivalent to no job.

According to Fayana (2000, p. 61-90), unemployment refers to a situation where people who are willing and capable of working are unable to find suitable paid jobs. It is one of the macro-economic problems which every responsible government is expected to monitor and regulate. The higher the unemployment rate in an economy the higher the poverty level and associated welfare challenges. In his opinion, every reliable government must tackle unemployment matters as it works hand in hand with poverty rate of the region they are ruling.

### Types of Unemployment:

**i. Frictional Unemployment:** Frictional unemployment is a temporary condition. This unemployment occurs when an individual is out of his current job and looking for another job. The time of shifting between two jobs is known as frictional unemployment.

**ii. Structural Unemployment:** Structural unemployment occurs due to the structural changes within an economy. This type of unemployment occurs when there is a mismatch of skilled workers in the labour market. Some of the causes of the structural unemployment are geographical immobility (difficulty in moving to a new work location), occupational immobility (difficulty in learning a new skill) and technological change (introduction of new techniques and technologies that need less labour force). Structural unemployment depends on the growth rate of an economy and on the structure of an industry.

**iii. Classical Unemployment:** Classical unemployment is also known as the real wage unemployment or disequilibrium unemployment. This type of unemployment occurs when trade unions and labour organization bargain for higher wages, which leads to fall in the demand for labour.

**iv. Cyclical Unemployment:** Cyclic unemployment occurs when there is a recession. When there is a downturn in an economy, the aggregate demand for goods and services decreases and demand for labour decreases. At the time of recession, unskilled and surplus labours become unemployed.

**v. Seasonal Unemployment:** A type of unemployment that occurs due to the seasonal nature of the job is known as seasonal unemployment. The industries that are affected by seasonal unemployment are hospitality and tourism industries and the fruit picking and catering industries.

**vi. Structural unemployment:** Structural unemployment exists where the number of workers looking for employment in a labour market far exceeds the number of job available, and as a result those workers remain unemployed. Structural unemployment is caused by many factors like displacement from jobs because of automatic, unemployed having difficulty in acquiring other jobs because of unemployable occasioned by skill inadequacy or obsolescence and because of discrimination related to gender, age, ethnicity, sexual preference and disability (Katharine, 1987, p. 779) Seasonal unemployment brought about the decline of an industry while others emerged (Anderton, 1990). Structural unemployment is more prominent in Nigerian system (Damachi, 2001).

Fashola (1992, p. 45) gave five categories of unemployment as structural employment, frictional equilibrium unemployment, wage unemployment, technological unemployment, and residual unemployment. Grolier in Paul Samuelson (1996) an economist identified three types of unemployment as frictional, structural, and cyclical. Bwar (1999, p. 72), thinks that another type of unemployment such as seasonal unemployment should be added to the Grolier's list to make them four, he further says that unemployment especially seasonal unemployment is caused by seasonally based fluctuations in labour demand, and it affects those in such industries as fishing, constructions, and farming.

Damachi (2001, p. 6-12) and Anderton (1990) identified four main types of unemployment. They include frictional, seasonal, structural, and cyclical unemployment. For Anderton (1990), "frictional unemployment is such that occurs when workers leave, or are forced to leave a job, and such workers spend some time out of work, looking for, or waiting to take up fresh employment". Frictional unemployment is inevitable in any economic system, but its size depends on several factors, among which is the efficiency of the system designed to link employers with job seekers. According to Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010, p. 831-35), though frictional unemployment is a feature of all economies, it is more prevalent in developing economy like Nigeria. This is because the more developed an economy is, the higher the probability of its population getting a job faster.

Cottrel (2012) opines that there are certain kinds of unemployment that tend to concentrate in a time of the year, which according to him is known as seasonal unemployment. Anderton (1990), contribute to this noted that many industries lay off workers at periods of low demand. He summarizes that although seasonal unemployment is generally dependent on weather not all is linked with poor weather conditions.

Cyclical or demand deficient unemployment occurs when there is too little spending in the economy to keep all the workers in job. Keynesian argued that cyclical unemployment occurs during the period in the trade cycle when the economy is in recession. This type of unemployment occurs in Nigeria during 1998 at the introduction of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), when the government lay off some of its workforce and when little money was being pumped into the Nigeria economy by the Nigeria government to sustain the workers.

### **Causes of unemployment in Nigeria**

Keynes (1935) in his book "The general theory of employment, interest and money" found that the amount of money industrialists and businessmen tried to hold out from investment causes unemployment. Instead of expanding industries with the acquired profit to create employment opportunities, they lavish them unnecessarily.

According to Lampman (1974), report on the causes of unemployment stated that agriculture is the source of our economy. His advice that any attempt to give agricultural activities a secondary attention in the economy of any nation would sooner or later create an unemployment situation.

Inquiry into Nigerians sources of revenue in the 1960 an early 1970 showed that agricultural products were the main source of income to the country. But with the abandonment of agriculture due to oil boom, the economy falls through, and has resulted into unemployment.

Lampman (1974), further point out the degree of unemployment in the developing countries were due to the neglect of indigenous technology and inadequate patronage received by local industries from the consumers and their government as well as the rate of profit reinvestment in the foreign owned industries in the country. He observed that in any economic system where indigenous technology and local industries were not encourage and patronized, there are tendencies of decrease in the production capacity and an increase in the dumping of the country's wealth in foreign countries in the name of purchasing foreign goods. With this, he arrived at the issues causing unemployment in developing countries (Nigeria).

Hanson (1977) carried out a research on the root cause of the economic setback in the post-colonial West Africa, with six countries, which included Nigeria, Kenya, Algeria, Ghana, and Ivory Coast. In his findings, he uncovered that the utter neglect paid on agricultural development in a bid towards the realization of industrial economic ambition in the underdeveloped Africa is

responsible for their employment problems. He maintained that in any economy where adequate attention is paid to agriculture, that almost everybody is self-employed and that the number of the unemployed is easy to control.

Achebe (1983), in his comparative analysis study on the “The trouble with Nigeria is simply and squarely a failure of leadership” discovered that lack of patriotism with Nigerians have contributed very much to our unemployment situation. He pointed out that the evidence in the past showed that unpatriotic act of most Nigerians in public industries on public properties, consideration of “self-first”, and the sweeping destruction of public property worsened Nigeria unemployment and poverty situation which is biting hard on the nation’s youths. Achebe (1985, p. 3) as cited in Ayittey (2000) noted sadly regarding Nigeria leaders that.

The fear that should nightly haunt our leaders (but does not) is that they may already have betrayed irretrievably Nigeria’s high destiny. The countless billions that a generous providence poured into our national coffers... would have been enough to launch this nation into the middle rank of developed nations and transformed the lives of our poor and needy. But what have we done with it? Stolen and salted away by people in power and their accomplices.

Furthermore, Achebe pointed out the issue of corruption as a cause of unemployment, our corrupt rulers, and their insatiable quest to loot the national treasury has sailed us into the “ocean” of economic confusion and unemployment. In his observation, it is true that Nigeria without corrupt rulers would be Nigeria freed from unemployment.

Ojukwu (1989), while analysing the cause of unemployment in Nigeria in his book, “I am involved” concluded that the production of many graduates was not responsible for the unemployment situation in the country. Rather, he observed that the social scourge unemployment caused by the inversely proportional pattern of education and economic advancement. He blamed the impropriety on the psychological “blindness of our economic planners in the oil boom period than on “over-production” of graduates.

Adebayo (1999); Alanana (2003); Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2012); Ayinde (2008); Echebiri (2005) and Morphy (2008), all identified rural-urban migration as causes of unemployment. Rural-urban migration is usually explained in terms of push-pull factors. These push-pull factors include the pressure resulting from man-land ration in the rural areas, and the existence of serious underdevelopment arising from the seasonal cycle of climate. The factors according to Alanana (2003) are further exacerbated in Nigeria by the lack of infrastructural facilities, which makes the rural life unbearable and unattractive.

For scholars like Ifamose (2005), Sodiende (2007), Rodney (1971), Osunde (1987), Afolobi (1986), the educational system of Nigeria should have the greater bulk of the blame for the causes of unemployment in Nigeria. This is because it has for long, impaired the development of the nation. This according to them follows from the fact that the Nigerian educational system has paid little or no attention in response to the contemporary societal plight. They believe in the current bookish educational system of Nigeria to overcome this problem of unemployment, the educational policy which has continued to turn out job seekers instead of job creators, must be totally overhauled (Dinn, 2007). Supporting this, Oguaju (2009), argued that ‘Nigeria’s educational system has not been producing creative and self-employment-oriented individuals who can initiate enterprises and generate employment for themselves and others.’ It is thus, a well-established fact that unemployment in the country is intensified by the educational system which does not match the social, economic, and industrial objectives of the society.

Also, though some scholars have blamed the population of school leavers in Nigeria for the emergence and persistence of youth unemployment in Nigeria, Ogunipe (2008) opines that youth unemployment, and its causes should not be directed to the school leaver’s population, but on the Nigerian school curriculum which have geared towards stereotyped goals and has failed to prepare the minds of the youths for future eventualities. However, Ifamose (2005), Afolobi (1986), and Sodeinde (2007), called colonial inheritance and bookish system of education we have in Nigeria is among the key causes of youth unemployment. They attributed the problem to the inability of Nigeria leaders (both past and present) to adopt the system of education that suits the nation’s socio-political and economic needs.

In a nutshell, Nigerian climate is not investor friendly, besides. The high levies and taxations being paid by the few existing industries, coupled with energy crises, the cost of doing business in Nigeria has become exorbitant. Thus, when the industries and factories close or move to a more economic friendlier environment, workers would be paid off, and these intensify the crises of unemployment in the labour market (Onifade 2011, and Adeloye 2012).

## Youth Unemployment

The importance of youths in the state could be better understood by the National Youth Development policy (2001) cited in Anasi (2010, p. 2). According to the National Youth Development Policy youth are the foundation of 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. Despite the youth importance as the determinant of the national development as well as the future hope of the nation, the inability to generate adequate jobs for them can hamper their future hopes and aspirations. The youth participation on labour since 2008 to date is increasing dropping, the Nigerian youth unemployment examination statistics are difficult to access. Notwithstanding, Nigeria’s population is said to have reached about 167 million people in 2012 (National Bureau of Statistics). The National Population Commission (NPoC, 2013) states about half of the population is made up of youth, defined as individuals between 15 and 34 years of age. Unfortunately, as the youth population grows, so does the unemployment rate which is numbered



about 11.1 million in 2012. The rising tide of unemployment and the fear of a bleak future among the youth have made them vulnerable to manipulations of agents. Adebayo (2013) avowed that the youth who supposed to be the driving force for development in Nigeria are turning volatile day-in-day out, because of their misdirected energies. The energies of the youths which supposed to be of great value and benefit to the nation are being misused to perpetrate crimes since the youths do not have a better engagement to which their energies could be applied, it is disheartening and disturbing to note the gravity of this social plague of youth unemployment in the country.

### III. JOB CREATION IN NIGERIA

Job creation is regarded as economic fundamentals and the availability of good jobs is mostly used as an important and strategic measure of the health of any economy. Ndebbio (1987) stated that “the hope for job creation lies in industrialization and it is possible to industrialize nation through the promotion of SMEs. In his opinion the need for employment generation and economic growth explains the essence of promoting SMEs in Nigeria to help in absorbing the rapid growing labour force. Okoro (1996) in his contribution, recognised importance of self-employment through SMEs having recognised that there is wide-spread unemployment involving all labour categories.

For Okwara (2002), considering Nigeria enormous population of 120 million people. It is imperative that only an SME set up could be meaningful to the Nigeria economy. This is because it is only an SME programme that can offer a responsible level of employment and skill to such a huge population.

According to Jhingan (2003), the general level of employment in an economy on aggregate demand and aggregate supply functions. Unemployment is thus caused by deficiency of effective demand. Full employment will only be restored through an increase in aggregate demand and not through the classical prescription of falling wages.

Levitsky (2004), asserted that SME’s help generate employment by using more labour in relation to capital invested. This is particularly important in developing countries where labour is abundant and capital relatively scarce.

Okonjo-Iweala (2012) sees entrepreneurship education as the solution to tackling unemployment in the country. Lere Baale, director, Business School Netherlands, Nigeria, noted that there is need for individuals, even within paid employment, to think of entrepreneurship. According to him, while many individuals have risen to the peak of their careers successfully, growing multi-national businesses, many of them have failed to achieve the same feat as entrepreneurs.

### **Problems Affecting Unemployment and Job Creation in Nigeria**

Achebe (1983); Lampman (1974); Okafor (2010); and Bush (2006), all identified the major problems affecting unemployment and job creations strategies. The first is poor governance which originated because of neglect of indigenous technology and inadequate patronage received by local industries from customers and government as well as the rate of profit investment in the foreign owned industries in the country. According to Lampman (1974) any economic system where indigenous technology and local industries were not encouraged and patronized, there tend to be a decrease in the production capacity and an increase in the dumping of the country’s wealth in foreign countries in the name of purchasing foreign goods. This view happened in Nigeria, especially during oil boom period that has resulted to the unemployment situation in Nigeria.

In January 2013, Nigeria’s Excess Crude Oil Account has \$10 billion in it. Governor Rotimi Amaechi led Nigerian governors, under the umbrella of the Governor Forum and asked the former President Goodluck Jonathan to share the money to the states. Jonathan and his minister for finance, world renowned economist Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala insisted that Nigeria should save the money for the rainy days. Rotimi Amaechi led the governors in taking the federal government to court. Jonathan’s led federal government offered to settle with the governors out of court by sharing \$1 billion and saving up the rest for the Nigeria’s youths. The governors rejected the offer they wanted all of it, money which would have provide employment opportunities to several youths. Since the law mandates that the proceeds of the ECA are shared the court gave judgment in favour of the governors and the \$10 billion was shared. With this illustration, the massive unemployment of Nigeria is an exhibition of bad governance.

For scholars like Okafor (2006) and Achebe (1983) corruption is another problem affecting unemployment and job creation strategies in Nigeria. Corruption has permeated the entire social structure of Nigeria; it has robbed the country from developing a vibrant economic base. Funds meant for development projects have been misappropriated diverted or embezzled and stashed away in foreign banks, while some incompetent and corrupt bureaucrats and administrators in the public enterprises have liquidated these organizations (Okafor 2010). In his view the collaboration of the political elites, local and foreign contractors in the inflation of contract fees have robbed Nigeria of the chances of using more than \$500 billion estimated revenue from the oil sale in the last 50 years to develop a vibrant economy that would have created jobs for the youths in various sectors of the economy. The ruling (political) class failed because they replaced the vision, policy and strategy which should be the thrust of every leadership with transactions (contracts award and other mundane money related activities) as each successive government took turns to prey on the nation’s wealth, by using public power, resources, good will, utilities, instrument of abuse and personal gains (Okafor, 2005, p. 83-92).

Supporting this Achebe (1983) argued that issue of corruption has continuously increased the unemployment and job creation strategy in Nigeria. Government seems to neglect the depth of disgust Nigerians feel for the increasing level of corruption

amongst high-ranking government officials and the impunity of perpetrators that has continuously increased unemployment in Nigeria. The former president Jonathan made dozens of speeches to roll out corruption in Nigeria. For example, the president once promised to fight for justice, for all the Nigerians to have access to power, for qualitative and competitive education, for more job's creations, for health care reforms, to fight corruption and to fight for rights. But is another administration as there was not any published asset declaration (to show the way in the fight against corruption) let alone reduce employment rate. Under Jonathan's administration no high-ranking public officials was bought to account for corruption, despite widespread and increase allegations of corruption at the highest level of government. Nigerians are very aware of the lack of integrity, trust and credibility of political institutions and the lack of quality behaviour from politicians. Nigeria government is largely run for the benefit of the very rich and socially and politically connected. When people say, it is not what you know but whom you have known as this has increase the rate of unemployment in the country. Corrupt judiciary and weak anti-corruption mechanism have prevented any fight against unemployment, this has created an impression that government officials are above the law. The more corrupt the country the less hope for the future of employment in the country (Achebe, 1983).

Corruption have been identified as the greatest obstacles to economic and social development. Corruption must be rooted out because it has misallocated resources, fostered misguided and unresponsive policies and regulation of unemployment lowered investment levels and undermined the rule of law. Most public job creations policies are formulated, and fund appropriated for, but corruption has continued to ravage, ruin, and make employment process impossible to achieve. It is said to note that most policies only exist as means to drain state resources by corrupt elites.

Furthermore, Olaniyi (1998), opines that frequent changes of government which result to lack of continuity in government policies and programmes is another problem affecting unemployment and job creation strategies, since each succeeding government would like to evolve its own policies to satisfy its whims and caprices. Absence of policy continuity led to wastage of human and material resources. There are lot of policies formulated by different government to solve the unemployment problem of which majority failed due to lack of continuity. Okeke (2001), vehemently agreed the view of Olaniyi (2001), by saying that lack of continuity in government policies and programmes is also an issue causing high rate of unemployment in Nigeria.

In a nutshell, the presence of large army of unemployed youth in Nigeria is a clear cause of corruption, absence of policy continuity and poor governance as these factors hindered the utilization of abundant human and natural resources in the country.

### **Overview of Past Policies and Programmes**

Unemployment policies, however, encapsulates the efforts of government, non- governmental organization, and other agencies, directed towards creating more jobs for the youth. The central feature of unemployment policies is job creation. Job creation is provision of new opportunities for paid employment, especially for those who are unemployed, empowerment embrace and underemployed. Unemployment policies involves a situation of redeeming the unpleasant jobless situation. Past governments have engaged in glorifying unemployment policies but failed to deliver.

### **National Directorate for Employment (NDE)**

National Directorate for Employment was set up by Decree number 24 of October 19, 1986. This Directorate commenced operations in January 1987 with the primary role of promoting skill acquisition, self-employment, and labour-intensive work schemes. It also collects and maintains a data bank on unemployment and vacancies in the country. It has been concerning itself with designing of employment programmes such as school leaver apprentice scheme, entrepreneurs training programmes for graduates, labour-based work programmes and resettlement of trained beneficiaries. It was also established to combat high unemployment in the country because of the Structural Adjustment programme during the economic downturn of the 1980's. The NDE developed quick interventions to meliorate the hardship experienced by the citizenry and averted related social consequences of unemployment through various programmes.

The NDE has trained more than 2 million unemployed Nigerians, provided business training for not less than 400,000 people, vocational training in up to 90 different trades, and assistance to more than 40,000 unemployed to set up their own businesses. The Directorate has organized labour-based groups through which 160,000 people benefited. The NDE suffers from inadequate funding from the Federal Government. It predicament is worsened by the fact that it has over stretched itself by engaging in skills acquisition, granting of loans, procuring and selling agricultural inputs such as fertilizers. Notwithstanding, its little achievement to youth employment, the political elites benefitted more from the programme. (Tell Magazine, 3/8/98).

### **Better Life Programme in Nigeria (BLP)**

Better Life Programme for Rural Women (BLPRW) was initiated by Late Mrs. Maryam Babangida in September 1987 to improve the lot of the rural women. The Blue print of the programme as indicated by Azikiwe (1992, p. 1-3), centred on stimulating and motivating rural women towards achieving better living standards, and sensitizing the rest of Nigerians to their problems; to educate rural women on family planning, simple hygiene, the importance of child care, and increased literacy rates; to mobilize women collectively towards improving their general lot, seek and achieving leadership roles in all spheres of society; to strengthen research activities of women that would catalyse into national and global policies for collective empowerment; to facilitate easier

access to education and training in skills acquisition and training of trainers (TOT); to encourage trade between states and nations thereby creating market outlet opportunities for more income; to encourage agricultural related programme that have huge trade and investment potentials through strengthening of cooperative societies. Although the (BLPRW) was widely heralded and acclaimed in government circles, but it was quickly observed that soon after the establishment, the programme became elitist and therefore hijacked by urban women.

### **The Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP)**

The Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) was established in 1997. This policy aimed at addressing the various economic problems of the rural masses with a special focus on income generation. Afolabi (1999, p. 230-33) notes that the noble objectives of the programme include; utilization of all available local resources for the benefit of the Nigerians through improved production, storage, preservation, recycling, packaging and marketing; to improve the living standard of the people; to promote production and development consciousness; create employment opportunities at ward levels through the establishment of enterprises and pilot projects in the wards; to provide facility for the procurement of machinery and equipment for Nigerians to set up and run cottage and small scale industries. It is disheartened to say that it fails to achieve its objectives. Like National Directorate for Employment Programme, FEAP also became elitist. Its funds were grossly mismanaged on May 29, 1999 the programme was consequently abandoned at the inception of the current democratic dispensations.

### **Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI)**

Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure was initiated on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1986 for mobilization of rural communities and the development of the rural areas in Nigeria. DFRRI goals include substantially improving the quality and nutritional balance of food intake of the rural people, raising the quality of rural housing as well as general living and working environment in the rural areas, creating greater opportunities of human development and employment, particularly self-employment and thereby enhancing their income level, use enormous resources of the rural areas to lay a solid foundation for the security, socio-cultural, political and economic growth and development of the nation by linking the growth and development activities of the rural areas to those of the local government areas, the states and the nation, to ensure deeply rooted and self-sustaining development process based on effectively mobilized mass participation, starting from the grassroots and encompassing the entire nation.

### **Green Revolution (GR)**

Green Revolution was a major agricultural policy of the Shehu Shagari administration in April 1980. The programme encompassed a wide range of projects supportive to the nation's agricultural development like the 11 river basin development authorities, the ministry of Water Resources, National Food Production Programme, the Agro Service center. The goals of Green Revolution include the expansion of employment opportunities to absorb the increasing labour force of nation, increased production of livestock and fish to meet domestic needs and create surplus for export, increased production, and processing of export crops with a view to expanding the diversifying the country's export earnings. The programme was criticized as creating growth opportunities for wealthy investors without relief for small farmers (self-employment).

### **National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS)**

National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy were initiated by the government in March 2004 as a working framework for the reform of the Nigerian socio-political and economic structure. NEEDS seek to achieve poverty alleviation and economic revivalism by stimulating the well acknowledged creative energies of most the population with collaboration, with the effort of both the states and local government SEEDS and LEEDS. Its goals are creation of wealth, generation of employment, reduction of poverty and re-orientation of values. In the generation of employment, NEEDS commit all stakeholders, particularly the Federal government to create a minimum of one million new jobs from 2003 to 2004 and two million yearly from 2005 to 2007. NEEDS failed in achieving its objective as there was no conscious effort to involve the people through a horizontal give- and- take (not top down) communication process, corruption, and fraud as it was also hijack by the elitist in the country.

The above policies take a close look at Nigeria's youth employment challenges and examines government's approaches to tackling the menace of unemployment. It also outlines on the strategic roles and capacity of it to create jobs which is crucial in addressing the pressing unemployment problem in Nigeria. However, they lack a result-based monitoring and evaluation system to track and adjust the implementation of the policy and supporting initiatives to assess results and impacts. It also fails to recognise that capital is scarce, and labour is available in surplus quantity, therefore policy makers should adopt labour intensive techniques of production, as it has been observed that industrial and agricultural section deals on substantial increase of capital than labour. It is disheartening of its claim that it achieved its goals by providing employment opportunities to the people, of which their activities were those of exaggeration than reality going by claims and counter claims of high rate of unemployment in Nigeria.

In the light of the above, it might be a conclusive statement that most of these policies fall short of their objectives because of corruption, bad governance, formulation and especially implementation which involves control, participation, delegation of

authority etc. In addition, the employment policies so far were mostly designed to serve the people, but elite benefited more from it. Thus, emphasis of this study is to analyse the impact of job creation strategies of Goodluck Ebele Jonathan (YOUWIN, SURE-P and YESSO) in solving the unemployment challenges in Nigeria.

### **Emergence and Overview of Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria Programme (YOU-WIN)**

YOUWIN is an initiative that involved the collaboration of Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and the Ministry of Youth Development, supported by bilateral donors and private sector organizations. It took the form of an annual Business Plan competition for aspiring young entrepreneurs in Nigeria. Its overall objectives are to generate jobs by encouraging and supporting entrepreneurial youth to develop and execute business ideas that will lead to job creation. It is anticipated that three annual cycles will generate 40,000-50,000 new jobs for currently unemployed youth, it was initiated against the scale of unemployment in Nigeria (YOUWIN Administrative Review February 2013).

There were 24,000 applicants that participated for the first round of YOUWIN, on the second round the Ministry of Finance made it open that it was only for female entrepreneur because of low turnout of the female during the first round. There were 66,000 applicants on the second round and the third estimate was up to 100,000 applicants. All the selected applicants participated in the training process and the finalist also benefited from the post-award training, mentoring and other support. During the programme 3,600 entrepreneur were supported in implementing and monitoring the success of their business plans. There was also benefit like networking among beneficiaries, generation of new business ideas and development of database for aspiring entrepreneurs across Nigeria (NSRP interview with PDF manager Abuja, July 2013).

Early 2014, the management team were considering including the 'non-winners' in the activities in recognition of their entrepreneurial potential. The third and final round was due to be completed before 2015 but the continuity of You Win was disrupted based on the election result.

### **Emergence and Overview of Nigerian Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P)**

Subsidy is an assistance given to a business or economic sector mainly by government to prevent the decline of an industry (Todaro, 2009). Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary, (2001) defined subsidy as money paid by organization to reduce the cost of services or cost of producing goods so that their prices can be kept low. The issue of fuel subsidy is familiar to Nigerians and could be traced from the administration of Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (IBB) in 1982 when refineries failed due to non- maintenance. Subsidy was introduced as a temporary measure to stabilize the price of petroleum products while refineries underwent rehabilitation for the period of six months.

The Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment (SURE) programme of the President Goodluck Jonathan's administration was announced towards the end of 2011. Implementation of the policy was embarked on February 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 during which the members of the SURE Board was headed by Dr Christopher Kolade.

According to Obuzuwa (2012, p. 37-45) the fundamental socio-economic and political issues that led to the establishment of the SURE programme was the January 1, 2012 federal government of Nigeria's announced removal of the popular fuel subsidy which increased the pump price of the premium motor spirit (PMS) to over 100 percent. In the exercise, the pump price of fuel was increased from its last price of N65.00 per litre to all high price of N145.00 per a litre. The arguments of the federal government for the removal of the fuel subsidy were multifaceted. Among some of the arguments is that:

- The Federal Government intends to save that subsidy money and invest same in the economic development of the nation and thereby eradicate the suffering of the Nigerian masses; and that
- The Federal Government intends to spend the subsidy savings in improving the various sectors of the economy especially in infrastructural and services development (Obuzuwa 2012, p. 17).
- Fuel subsidies do not reach the intended beneficiaries. Subsidy level is directly correlated with household income, as richer households consume larger quantities of petroleum products. Consequently, the subsidy benefits mostly the rich.
- Subsidy administration is beset with inefficiencies, leakage, and corruption.
- Subsidy has discouraged competition and stifled private investment in the downstream. Due to lack of deregulation, investment in the development of refineries, petrochemicals, fertilizer plants etc. It is important to note that since the year 2000, government has issued 20 licenses for new refineries, none of which has resulted in the construction of new refineries.
- The deregulation of the downstream of the petroleum industry will lead to rapid private sector investment in refineries and petrochemicals, which will generate millions of jobs and lead to increased prosperity of our people.
- Huge price disparity has encouraged smuggling of petroleum products across the borders to neighboring countries, where prices are much higher. (SURE-P Annual Report, 2012).

Based on the eventual partial removal of subsidy on the pump price of the fuel product that later settled at N97.00 per a liter, the SURE programme of the Federal Government of Nigeria, under the administration of Goodluck Jonathan was birthed.

There are two broad categories of federal SURE programme:



- Social Safety Net (Community Service, Women and Youth Empowerment Programme (CSWYE), Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS), maternal and child health care, public works, vocational training; mass transit)
- Infrastructural Development (roads and bridges, Niger Delta Project (East-West Road), railways).

### **Emergence and Overview of Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO)**

The Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) was launched in September 2013, it applied a social safety-net approach to youth unemployment. It was financed through a USD30 million loan from the World Bank and is a response to low overall federal spending on social protection overall.

The YESSO project has four (4) components: Component 1 is to assist the strengthening of the Social Safety Net coordination unit at Federal Government level in partnership with States, LGAs, and other partners for Coordination management and monitoring as well as evaluation of the assistance program and development of a Social Protection policy and program for the Country. Component 2 will support the institutional strengthening of the public workfare scheme in the participating States to ensure provision of immediate, labour-based, and temporary work opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled unemployed youth and women. Component 3 will support existing mechanism at Federal and State levels and the partnership between them and the private sector for enhancing employability of skilled unemployed youth and women from poor households. Component 4 will promote the effectiveness of conditional cash transfer mechanisms to provide adequate incentives for extremely poor families to use available education and health services for children and pregnant women while at the same time increasing household consumption

Generally, YESSO supported the government in developing a social protection system focusing on public works, and skills for job. The programme supported the development of a central administrative arrangement (including a unified registry of potential beneficiaries) that coordinate and harmonize the various safety net interventions across state. It provided employment for youths from the poorest households, aged between 18 and 35, with opportunities for work and skills acquisition training and improved access to social services for the vulnerable. Participation was open to all states implementing similar schemes for a minimum period of two years with established budget lines. Participated state sign a subsidiary credit agreement with the Federal Ministry of Finance and adopted the generic YESSO operational framework.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

From the study, it was revealed that job creation strategies of Jonathan administration significantly impacted on the unemployment problem in Nigeria. The findings of the study also reveal showing key challenges such as poor governance, neglect of indigenous technology on the part of the government, inadequate patronage received by local industries from Nigerians, among others affected job creations strategies of (SURE-P, YOU-WIN, and YESSO) of the Jonathan administration.

The findings also show that the identified key challenges are inversely and significantly related with the level of success recorded in the job creations strategies of the Jonathan administration. The problems, however, are correctable if certain steps could be taken such as, government increasing in management of graduate internship scheme (SURE-P) and the National Youths Service Corp program (NYSC) should also become a one-year entrepreneurial training program for all graduates who will pass out to create jobs for themselves and avoid searching for jobs that are not there. Government should support and encourage adequate patronage of local industries and indigenous technologies by reforming Agric sector which is the second largest employer of labour in Nigeria.

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