

# Effect Of Youth Unemployment And Crime Rates In Uganda, A Case Study Of Mityana District.

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**Abstract:** *This study is a consequence of how youth unemployment affects crime rates both locally in Mityana District and nationally in Uganda. The study's goals were to look into the connections between young unemployment and crime rates, the reasons why youth unemployment affects crime rates, and potential solutions being proposed in Mityana District to deal with the issues brought on by unemployment levels. 252 participants, including teenagers and community officials in the Mityana District, were included in the descriptive bridge study design. The study's findings indicated that, among other things, a variety of sociodemographic variables are responsible for adolescent unemployment. Poor university degree, a skills shortage in the labor market, a conceptual education program, and attempt to pass all contribute to the region's rapid growth in population. According to the study, males are the most impacted by unemployment levels, which has a strong effect on criminal rates (about 60%), and due to the majority's rapid growth and low tax contributions, it is difficult to provide social services. The report recommended that, among many other factors, efforts be made to combat the issue of joblessness; Limit rural-urban mobility, which causes rapid population increase. Review and restructure the educational system in Uganda. Use lending facilities to overcome the financial limitations on younger people's entrepreneurial. Build institutions that teach practical skills so that training is accessible and inexpensive for young people in various areas of the nation. Luring in foreign capital to advance industrialization*

**Keywords:** YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND CRIME RATES

## Background of the Study.

Poverty undoubtedly has many global effects and costs for society, and one of those effects and costs might be a rise in crime and its associated costs. This connection between joblessness and criminal activity is frequently taken for granted in public discourse. However, empirical research yielded contradictory findings Agellet at (2008). Other social science disciplines like criminology and sociology have historically researched various factors that contribute to crime, including race and ethnicity. In comparison to the disciplines described above, the labor market plays a more significant role in the field of economics of crime, and both the theoretical and methodological methods frequently diverge Substantially (2010). According to Eide et al., there is disagreement over whether the achievements of the economic principles of crime should be viewed as an addition to or a replacement for other fields examining delinquency (2016)

The Nationals Bureau of Economic Research of Nigeria found in September 2010 that the depression, which started in December 2007 and concluded in June 2009, was the deepest in the post-Africa conference period. Given that the unemployment rate has hit double digits for the first time since the 1980s depression and that more than 8.4 million jobs have been lost, many people wonder if the impacts of the downturn will ever go away. By the end of 2009, the unemployment rate in African nations including Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and others had doubled from a startlingly low level in 2017. With an average jobless rate of in 2021, many Africans were concerned about the influence such high unemployment rates might have on the continent's crime rate. Any government's top priorities are to lower crime rates and maintain the rule of law. It should be emphasized that while youth unemployment and its impact on criminality have been investigated in the past in East Africa, more sophisticated explanation variables than unemployment have been utilized in some earlier studies conducted. Ahmed et al. (2019) build a measure that includes wage levels, unemployment figures, and welfare payments to evaluate the effects of modifications to general labor market conditions.

However, I only concentrate on employability for the sake of simplicity and comparability with earlier research that used Kenya's statistics.

## Problem Statement

The demographic of the Republic of Uganda is expanding at one of the most rapid rates worldwide. More than 50% of the population is under the age of 18 as a result of both the high population growth rate and the high fertility rate. Due to this

rapid population expansion, underemployment has increased significantly over the past few years (Nelson. K, 2021). According to a survey conducted by Action Aid and the Uganda National NGO Forum, Uganda's young women's unemployment figure was 61.6% in 2012. (Action Aid, 2012, p. 27). Given that more than 50% of the community is under 18, Uganda has a staggering amount of unemployed individuals. As the youth are frequently the cause of upheavals and political upheaval, among which the Arab Spring is only one example, this may and will most probably have disruptive and troubling consequences for the economy as well as the general population of the nation in the not-too-distant future.

### **Objectives of the study**

1. To examine the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in Mityana District.
2. To find out the causes of Youth unemployment and its impact on crime rates among the youth in Mityana District.
3. To identify the aspiring strategies on how to reduce unemployment among the youth in Mityana District.

### **Research questions**

1. What is the relationship between youth unemployment and crime rates in Mityana District?
2. What are the causes of unemployment among the youth and its impacts on crime rates in Mityana District?
3. What are the aspiring strategies that are being put forward in order to address the problems caused by youth unemployment in Mityana District?

### **Methodology**

#### **Research Design**

The Study used a descriptive survey design in which both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used.

#### **Qualitative Research**

In order to get a thorough analysis of the issue being investigated, the qualitative methodology was employed in order to document explanations of the study's components in a form that was not quantitative in nature (Creswell et al. 2003). The qualitative approach was also used to describe the present situation or to look into partnerships, including successful relationship.

Also, it assisted the researcher in responding to inquiries about the state of the research topic at the time.

#### **Quantitative Research**

Quantitative research design was also used to capture details of the study which were expressed in numerical terms like percentages, ratios, and population and sample sizes, among others.

#### **Study Population**

The study population constituted mainly the population of Mityana District, these will include 131 managerial staff and 260 operational staff totaling to 391 staff.

This population will be chosen because it was assumed to have adequate knowledge of the subject under investigation and the research variables under investigation.

#### **Sampling Design**

##### **Sampling technique**

Both analytical and quasi sampling methods were used in the investigation. Random, methodical, and sampling methods were statistical probability sampling used, and the participants were divided into distinct clusters, mostly the managers and operational employees. After that, a random sample technique was used on the operational crew because of their

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size. Purposive sampling, rather than statistical sampling, was chosen because there aren't many management staff members.

### Sampling Procedure

Respondents were chosen by simple random sampling from the operational personnel. Paper with distinctive numbers on it was distributed to potential respondents, who were instructed to pick at random from the vessel containing the numbers. The sample consisted of the respondents who consistently selected the numbers 1, 6, 12, 18, and 26 throughout a six-interval span. This strategy was adopted to avoid bias and to ensure that every individual in the population had an equal chance of being picked. Purposive sampling took into account managerial personnel, particularly those in the security department, who are directly active in lowering rates of crime amongst young people.

### Sample Size and Composition

The sample size was 252 respondents selected from the population of 391 using Krejcie and Morgan of (1970) method. The researcher first divided the targeted population into two non over lapping strata namely, Operational staff and Managerial staff of the local government based on roles before the sample size was determined in each stratum using Krejcie and Morgan table as illustrated in table 1:

**Table 1: The required Sample size**

Category	Population	Sample Size	Selection Method
Managerial staff	131	97	Purposive Sampling
Operational staff	260	155	Simple Random and systematic sampling
<b>Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>252</b>	

### Data Collection Methods and Instruments

#### Questionnaires

This research used self-administered questionnaires for the respondents. These was distributed among the respondents. The justification for using this instrument is that questionnaires were easy to quantify and analyze. In addition, the questionnaire was used because the study focused on opinions, attitudes, feelings and perceptions of respondents.

#### Interviews

The participants had access to an interview protocol with pre-designed, structured queries. This device's information collection assisted the investigator to improve the responses from the identity questionnaires, which enabled the researcher to cross-examine certain important study questions. The decision to use this instruments was taken with the understanding that it was an effective way to generate data that addressed the subject in depth. The use of interviews as a reliable strategy for gathering information based on interviewees' priorities, attitudes, and ideas. Participants had the chance to elaborate on their thoughts, defend their opinions, and specify what they believed to be the most important elements.

### Research Procedure

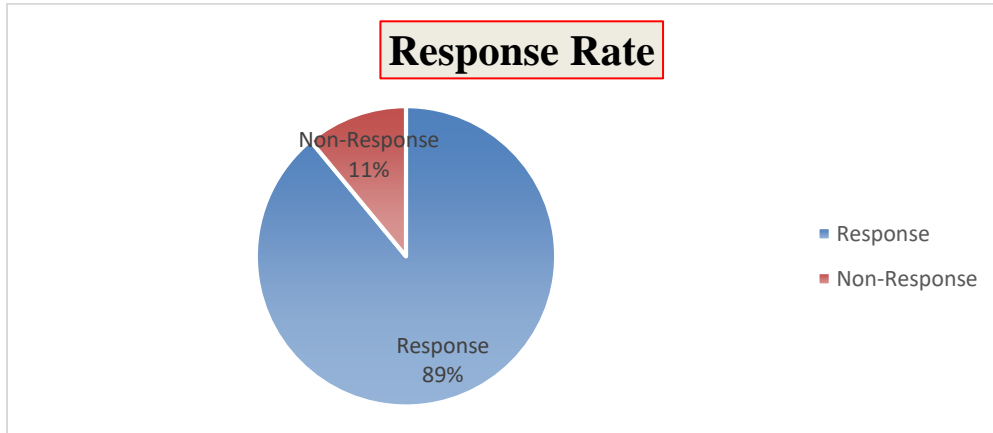
The researcher has a document allowing her to begin her research from the Faculty of Education and Sciences. She then sent the letter to the Mityana District Chairperson asking for permission to carry out her research there, and she used the interviewing techniques on the selected respondents. Those who rarely had time to complete the interview guide during business hours were sent questions. They were instructed to answer the survey at home and return it the following morning. The managerial as well as operational employees were among the respondents to whom these data gathering tools were deployed.

### RESULTS

**Response Rate**

The researcher collected data from 252 respondents of which 225 registered completed and returned questionnaires posing a response rate of 89% as showed in table 2 below.

**Figure .2 Response rate**



*Source: primary data, 2021*

**Bio Data**

The demographic features of the unit of inquiry consisted of the respondents' characteristics that included Age of Respondents, Education level, years in service in Mityana District, and gender.

**Gender of respondents**

Respondents of different sex in Mityana District and divisions were sought. Below in table 3 shows the gender of respondents who participated in the study.

**Table .3 Gender of respondents**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	72	32
Male	153	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: primary data, 2019*

The above table 3 shows that male respondents constituted 153(68%) while female respondents were 72(32%) who participated in the study. This implies that males were the major respondents of the study in respect to assessing the effect and relationship of youth unemployment on crime rates in Mityana District.

**Age of respondents**

**Table .4 Age of respondents**

Age group	Frequency	Percentage (%)
20-30	68	30.0
31-40	59	26.0
41-50	54	24.0
50+	44	20.0

<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100.0</b>
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Source: primary Data, 2021

The table above presents that 68(30.0%) of the respondents were between 20-30 years, 59(26.0%) were between 31-40 years, 54(24.0%) were between 41-50 years, while 44(20.0%) were above 50 years. This implies that most of the respondents were between 20-30 years and the least number of respondents was of 50 years under the study.

### Education Level of Respondents

**Table .5 Education Level of Respondents**

Education level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Master's degree	56	25.0
Degree	75	33.0
Diploma	63	28.0
Certificate	26	12.0
Others	5	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: primary Data, 2021

The table 5 above shows Education levels of respondents and it reveals that 56(25.0%) of respondents had attained Master's Degree of Education level, 75(33.0%) of respondents had attained Degree level of Education, 63(28.0%) of respondents had attained Diploma in Education level, 26(12.0%) of respondents had a Certificate in Education level. This implies that the, highest percentage of the respondents were Degree holders followed by respondents having Diploma, Master's Degree, and Certificate holders. The least number of respondents fall under other various level of Education under the study.

### Working Experience of Respondents

The respondents with different years in service with Mityana District participated in the study and below in table marked 6 were the results.

**Table. 6 of working experience of respondents**

Working Experience (years)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Less than 5	20	9
5-10	51	23
11-15	65	29
16-20	61	27
21-25	15	7
Above 25	13	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Primary Data, 2021

According to table 6 above, 20 (or 9.0%) of the survey participants had less than five years of professional experience, 51 (or 23.0%) had between five and ten years, 65 (or 29.0%), between eleven and fifteen years, 61 (or 27.0%), between sixteen and twenty years, 15 (or 7.0%), between twenty-one and twenty-five years, and thirteen (or 5.0%) had more than twenty-five years of work experience. According to the findings, 29.0% of the respondents have worked for KCC for between (11 and 15) years. The respondents were able to provide replies based on a variety of experiences with the subject under consideration thanks to their length of employment, which was an essential factor in the study.

### The effect of Youth unemployment on crime rates in Mityana District.

**Table 7: The effect of Youth unemployment on crime rates in Mityana District.**

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RESPONSE	SA	A	UD	D	DS	TOTAL

	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Youth unemployment lead to political insecurity.	58	26.0	78	34.0	37	16.0	27	12.0	25	11.0	225	100
Youth unemployment lowers the levels of development in the country	98	44.0	75	33.0	27	12.0	25	11.0	0.0	0.0	225	100
Youth unemployment reduces the good reputation of the ruling government	89	39.0	69	31.0	60	27.0	7	3.0	0.0	0.0	225	100
Youth unemployment lead to armed violence	65	29.0	82	36.0	52	23.0	16	7.0	10	4.0	225	100
Without access to employment or livelihood opportunities, most young people cannot afford a house hence leading violence as the way for survival.	49	22.0	91	40.0	29	13.0	36	16.0	20	9.0	225	100
Youth unemployment lowers the tax base for the country	58	26.0	87	39.0	56	25.0	17	7.0	7	3.0	225	100

Source: primary Data, 2021

In accordance with the table, 56 (26%) of those surveyed agreed and 78 (34%) agreed that youth unemployment, which contributed to political unrest and other forms of violence, was a major factor in the large rise in crime in the Mityana District.

As a result, just 11(5%) strongly disagreed with the proposal, while 27(12%) disapproved and 37(16%) were not sure.

98 (or 44%) of the respondents firmly agreed with the statement that youth unemployment retards national growth.

According to the majority of respondents, youth unemployment tends to lower economic production through increasing reliance on the few working classes.

The following table reveals that 89 (39%) of those polled strongly believed that youth unemployment hurts the standing of the current administration, 69 (36%) agreed, 60 (27%) said they were unsure, 7 (3%), disagreed, and non-strongly agreed to the idea.

Most of the respondents to the verbal interview agreed that youth unemployment hurts the reputation of the ruling administration because young people turn to illicit activities to survive.

If youth programs are well-designed, the nation is likely to reap many advantages from them.

According to the table, 16 (7% of respondents) highly agreed and 10 (4% of respondents) strongly agreed that youth unemployment contributed to violent conflict in Mityana District, whereas 82 (36%) and 65 (29%) of respondents agreed but were unsure. The table reveals that 49 (or 22%) of the respondents strongly agreed that most young people cannot afford a housing and other daily necessity without employment and education or other sources of income, which leads them to turn to assault as a way of surviving.

91 people (or 40%) agreed with the statement, 29 (13) were unsure, 36 (16%) disagreed, and 20 (or 9%) strongly disagreed. According to the industry research findings, 58 (26%) of those surveyed agreed that underemployment reduces the nation's tax base; 87 (39%) agreed; 56 (25%) were unsure; 17 (12%) disagreed; and 7 (3%), severely disagreed.

The respondents concurred that youth unemployment reduces the revenue base for the nation since many people turn to illegal activities like smuggling.

Relationship between Youth unemployment and crime rates in MD

**Table 8: Relationship between Youth unemployment and crime rates in MD.**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	105	47.0
No	52	23.0
Not sure	68	30.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Primary data, 2021

According to the participants, as shown in the table above, youth unemployment does undoubtedly have an impact on Maryland's crime rates.

While 52 (23% of the 225 respondents) did not identify any connection between young unemployment and crime rates in society in general or MD in particular, 105 (47.0%) of the 225 respondents believed that the consequences of youth unemployment on crime rates in society are numerous and primarily negative.

This is due to the fact that, in the verbal interviews, the majority of participants claimed that everyone who comes to town every day is busy and eventually manages to survive, therefore they did not indicate how well these people survive. The study's findings also show that 68 (30%) of the respondents were unsure about the relationship between teenage unemployment and crime rates in general or in Maryland in particular, saying that it is the jobless individual who is affected and society is unaware of their burden.

However, based on the majority of study participants, as indicated in the table above, the study established that there is a negative correlation between unemployment levels and Maryland's crime rates, as indicated by the majority of 105 (47%) of the respondents who were included in the process of gathering data.

The Causes of Unemployment among the Youths and its effects on crime rates in Mityana District.

RESPONSE	SA		A		UD		D		SD		TOTAL	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Tribalism increases unemployment among the youth	48	21.0	77	34.0	104	46.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	225	100
Non-development programs increase unemployment levels among the youth	60	27.0	105	47.0	60	26.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	225	100
Mismatch between skills and the labour market lead to youth unemployment	82	36.0	93	41.0	40	18.0	10	5.0	0.0	0.0	225	100
Rural-Urban migration leads to unemployment among the youth.	102	45.0	60	27.0	63	28.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	225	100

Theoretical education system leads to unemployment among the youths	49	22.0	76	34.0	59	26.0	41	18.0	0.0	0.0	225	100
High dependency on foreign labour force lead to unemployment among the youths	76	34.0	97	43.0	39	17.0	13	6.0	0.0	0.0	225	100

Source: Primary, 2019

From the table, 48 (21%) of the participants highlighted that nepotism and tribalism MD are among the elements that cause unemployment levels, which in tends to result in illicit acts for survival. 77 (34%) of the participants agreed with this, while 104 (46%) were unsure.

The study then reveals that non-development programs had a detrimental impact on young jobless in Maryland, with 60 (27%) of participants responded agreeing, 105 (47%) agreeing, 60 (26%) unsure, and non-disagreeing and strongly disagreeing.

Another factor contributing to youth unemployment in Maryland is a disparity between abilities and the labor market. Of the 120 participants (or 36% of the sample), 80 (or 36% of the respondents, agreed that this factor contributed to youth unemployment in Maryland and had a negative impact on society.

Only 10 (5%) of the respondents disagreed, though not vehemently, while 40 (18%) of the respondents were unsure.

The chart shows that 102 (45%) of the respondents observed that rural-urban movement causes youth unemployment, which has an impact on crime rates in the neighborhood because of population growth. 60 (27%) of the respondents agreed, while 63 (28%) were unsure. The majority of the verbally interview sessions participants claimed that high population increase was caused by rural-urban migration, claiming that many new people, especially the youth, come to MM every day in search of jobs and other services but many cannot seek work ending in unemployment and girls venture into prostitution and other areas, resulting in high crime rates in MD.

The report also found that the theoretical education system contributed to youth unemployment in WMC and to the area's high crime rates.

The research revealed that MD

It should be highlighted that 49 (22%) respondents bitterly emphasized that the theoretical education system does not depict the practical purpose for the essential abilities.

In accordance with the table, 76 (34%) of the participants stated that the country's heavy reliance on foreign labor caused unemployment levels in general and MD in particular.

As a result, the research area has high crime rates, according to 97 (43%) of the respondents, 39 (17%) were unsure, and only 13 (6%) disagreed.

It was determined that the aforementioned issue has an impact on the nation's economy since it can occasionally have a significant negative impact on the nation's performances in terms of economic growth and progress.

The original study verbal findings also suggested that MD as a community still has obstacles to overcome regarding adolescent unemployment and how it affects crime rates.

**The possible solution to the causes of poor financial reporting in MD.**

**Table 10: The possible solution to the causes of poor financial reporting in MD.**

RESPONSE	SA		A		UD		D		SD		TOTAL	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Control population growth reduces the unemployment among the youth	98	44.0	57	25.0	70	31.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	225	100
Reviewing the education curriculum for job makers than job seekers	57	25.0	68	30.0	43	19.0	37	16.0	20	9.0	225	100



Financial assistance to youths for setting up small business	86	38.0	59	26.0	21	9.0	39	17.0	20	9.0	225	100
Attract more foreign investors to create more jobs to the youths	62	28.0	83	37.0	42	19.0	38	17.0	0.0	0.0	225	100
Forming youth groups for social development	46	20.0	77	34.0	60	27.0	15	7.0	25	11.0	225	100

**Source: primary, 2021**

The data shows that 98 (44%) of the respondents strongly agreed and 57 (25%) of the participants indicated that controlling population growth rates lowers youth unemployment in general and in MD in particular, while 70 (31%) of the respondents were unsure and none of the participants answered.

The majority of the verbal findings suggested that the country's ruling government has a duty to limit birth rates.

The researcher's findings are shown above and show that 57 (25%) of the participants thought that the education curriculum in MD should be reviewed with an eye toward job creation rather than job seekers, 68 (30%) agreed, 43 (19%) were not sure, 39 (17%) disagreed, and only 20 (9%) strongly disagreed.

Additionally, the results in the table show that 62 (28%) of the participants strongly believed that the administration should recruit more international investors to increase the number of jobs for young people. In the field, the majority of the respondents who were asked to interview agreed that the Uganda Asset Authority should recruit more investors and industrialists to come to Uganda in order to increase the number of jobs for young people, but they issued a warning the government about doing so.

In regards to this, 83 (37%) agreed, 42 (19%) were unsure, and 38 (17%) disagreed although not strongly. The table indicates that 46(20%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Forming youth groups for social development.

### **Conclusion**

The study concluded that the prevalence of youth unemployment in Mityana District is high at over 60 % and nearly 35% of those who seem to be working are under employed in a way disguised employment that their output is limited.

It was noted that the male gender is adversely affected given the responsibilities in their homes and society.

The study concluded that is a cost in a way that providing social services like education, health services, and security becomes difficult since unemployment lowers the tax base.

### **Recommendations**

In order to address unemployed among the youth in Mityana District the study has come out with some recommendations that if put in place, the problem of youth unemployed and solutions to curb it.

Measures should be put in place to control the rate of population growth especially resulting from rural-urban migration since a number of youths were from distant areas and ended up in this area. This habit needs to be checked. Plans need to be made for resettlement and rehabilitation of these children of Uganda (youth of Uganda).

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