

**A MIXED-METHODS STUDY OF THE CAUSES, EFFECTS,
AND SOLUTIONS OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN GHANA**



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ABSTRACT

The damaging impact that joblessness poses to Ghana's economy, social fabric, and individual satisfaction is an issue of grave importance. Researching into the factors powering unemployment in the country and illuminating viable solutions while utilizing natural phrasing and complex expression is crucial to this study. The research investigates notably into how joblessness negatively influences social connections as well as mental health, exploring public undertakings' contribution to creating jobs alongside analyzing how education and employment-related expertise plays a role. Utilizing interviews, surveys, and secondary sources will aid this hybrid approach project in collecting data comprehensively. Overall, the primary goal of this study remains to heighten knowledgeability surrounding the effects of unemployment in Ghana with an enthusiasm for recommending policies and programs which would facilitate economic advancement and maximize employment opportunities.

INTRODUCTION

Ghana battles with the ongoing problem of youth unemployment much like other developing countries do.

Alarming projections from the Ghana Statistics Authority forecast a high rate of joblessness at 7.3%, reaching almost twice that figure at an unsettling 13.8% for young adults in the year 2021. This issue has had and will continue to have, major consequences in many important areas, including national economic development, social stability, and personal well-being.

The perpetual scarcity of diverse employment prospects contributes heavily to deepening poverty levels whilst urging up extensive societal restiveness; both ultimately leading to far worse outcomes featuring criminal behavior amongst young adults in checkered economic situations. Additionally, ongoing research shows persistent sociological implications like depression due to

intensified stress levels and anxiety disorders tied mostly upon unwavering job seekers' desires and unfulfilled hopes - altogether having long-lasting effects on mental health as a whole.

The complexities that underlie Ghana's unemployment dilemmas are assorted and complicated. This mess is characterized by a web of interdependent variables, including subpar governmental policies and strategies, insufficient infrastructure, constraints in accessing financial loans and credit facilities, as well as inadequate access to top-tier education and training resources. Despite efforts made by the government aimed at strengthening economic growth and promoting job creation, there still exists a dearth of substantial and sustainable outcomes.

RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This inquiry aimed to consider into the contributing factors as well as the consequences of joblessness in Ghana and to develop practical solutions accordingly.

In particular, the study intends to:

- I. Kindly indulge me in an exploration of the interconnection between education and employment prospects within the borders of Ghana.
- II. Analyze how public initiatives and regulations promote job growth.
- III. Analyze how unemployment affects social outcomes and mental health.
- IV. Make suggestions for policy and program changes to support Ghana's economy's expansion and employment creation.

RESEARCH APPROACH/METHODS

To fully grasp the subject matter at hand, an elaborate and extensive mixed methods approach is suggested by this investigation. In order to accomplish our desired goal, we will be utilizing a combination of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods for the purpose of gathering and analyzing diverse sets of information from various sources.

To acquire critical insights on the unbearable problem of unemployment among young Ghanaian adults aged between 18 and 35 years, a survey questionnaire will be utilized in this research endeavor. Focusing specifically on respondents' academic qualifications, employment-seeking behavior, credit accessibility, mental health wellbeing and social outcomes, crucial information will be extracted. A thorough comprehension of how these individuals perceive and navigate the issue shall resonate from the extensive data exuded by collecting information through detailed surveys. In order to augment clarity and diversify perspectives gathered from analyses; interviews with important stakeholders such as business decision-makers, employers as well as civil society organization members shall not be overlooked nor undermined. Furthermore, views concerning the causes plus repercussions of youth unemployment in Ghana will not evade analysis within this comprehensive study identifying workable solutions for an observable problem. Taking due note from these illuminating interviews via focused research methodologies highlighting effective techniques combating issues identified through synthesized analyses thereof is saliently implemented. Ultimately achieving a secure grip over nuanced elements that together engender youth unemployment's incidence while paving pathways out beyond challenged communities facing difficult times ahead confronting universal uncertainties prevalent elsewhere remains paramount focus throughout this excogitation marvelously extended thus far.

To guarantee a thorough evaluation of Ghana's unemployment status, our study will adapt a combined methodology that involves the use of primary and secondary sources. Secondary sources like government reports, scholarly journals, and newspapers will provide more extensive context and viewpoint while corroborating the findings. This complicated method of gathering

data from a variety of research techniques and multiple sources is projected to result in more favorable research findings. Embracing this approach offers an opportunity to systematically develop solutions for addressing Ghana's unemployment challenge.

EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION

The essence of this study is aimed at the dual purpose of unraveling the involved complexities surrounding unemployment within Ghana and offering appropriate tactics that center around employment perks and economic growth. The study shall comprise empirically gathered data addressing the root, the aftermath, and the potency of remedies concerning unemployment within Ghana. It will also focus on how education and skill development as well as governmental projects can aid in restoring balance while examining the social implications associated with a job loss that may significantly impact one's psychological stability.

ACTIVITY PLAN (GANTT CHART)

Task	Duration	Start Date	End Date
Literature review	2 months	May 2023	June 2023
Development of survey	1 month	June 2023	July 2023
Data collection (survey)	3 months	July 2023	September 2023
Data analysis (survey)	2 months	September 2023	October 2023
Development of interview guide	1 month	October 2023	November 2023
Data collection (interviews)	2 months	November 2023	December 2023
Data analysis (interviews)	2 months	December 2023	January 2024
Report writing	2 months	January 2024	February 2024

Revision and submission	1 month	February 2024	March 2024
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Gantt chart of unemployment in Ghana

A comprehensive investigation has yielded a detailed profile replete with suggestions geared toward the mitigation of Ghana's unemployment. The document precisely evaluates both the causal factors and ramifications of joblessness in Ghana. Additionally, it advocates for further inquiry into this pressing issue.

In conclusion, its purpose is to further comprehend the unemployment problem in Ghana and suggest alternate solutions. By providing substantiated evidence on the causes and complications associated with joblessness in Ghana, this study emphasizes the significance of education and skill enhancement as well as effective governmental policies. Furthermore, it delves into how unemployment affects both social and psychological outcomes.

CONCLUSION

Although Ghana has achieved noteworthy advances in its financial development, it faces a troubling difficulty of youth underemployment and unemployment. To address this pressing concern, immediate action is necessary to establish more stringent labor policies while also increasing access to education and training initiatives that can enhance the skill sets of young workers. Failure to confront this issue could gravely jeopardize Ghana's potential for future growth prospects.

To combat this deeply-rooted issue in Ghana's labor market effectively, a comprehensive examination of its underlying causes is paramount before crafting policies that prioritize solving fundamental problems before considering social impacts. Analyzing data from the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS), crucial factors contributing to this predicament will be identified, to

formulate informed regulations promoting both employment quantity and quality across all economic sectors.

The results of this study are anticipated to contribute to the expansion of more prosperous economic transactions in Ghana, which may aid open more doors for employment and lessen suffering there. these people.

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APPENDIX

1. Unemployment rate in Ghana by age and sex, 2017 - 2019

Year	Total	Male	Female	15 - 24	25 - 54	55+
2017	6.7	6.6	6.7	13.6	6.0	2.6
2018	6.0	6.3	5.7	13.0	5.4	2.3
2019	6.7	7.0	6.4	13.6	6.0	2.6

Source: Ghana Living Standards Survey Round 7, Ghana Statistical Service (2019)

2. Education level and employment status in Ghana, 2017-2019

Education Level	Employed	Unemployed	Not in Labour Force
No Education	67.7%	16.9%	15.4%
Primary	74.1%	11.7%	14.2%
Junior High School	75.8%	8.3%	15.9%
Senior High School	84.2%	5.8%	10.0%
Tertiary	93.8%	1.9%	4.3%

Source: Ghana Living Standards Survey Round 7, Ghana Statistical Service (2019)

3. Top 10 most common occupations in Ghana, 2019

Occupation	Number of workers
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Agriculture, forestry, fishing	4,942,698
Elementary occupation	2,877,381
Trades and related workers	2,002,511
Service workers and shop sales workers	1,977,163
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	1,715,313
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	1,181,570
Craft and related trades workers	1,058,765
Clicks	844,402
Professionals	779,311
Managers	544,080

Source: Ghana Living Standards Survey Round 7, Ghana Statistical Service (2019)