

YOUTH CRISIS AND THE TRENDING 'YAHOO-YAHOO' BUSINESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY AFRICA: IMPLICATIONS ON IGBO CULTURAL VALUES AND HISTORY

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Abstract

There is no gainsaying the fact that the Nigerian youths are presently engrossed in deep crises. There is extreme hardship and increased unemployment rate in the country and the government has little or no plans for the youths. As a result, crimes have exacerbated and the youths are engrossed in immensurable crimes and morally degrading practices across the nation and beyond. Focus is primarily on the Igbo youths in southeast Nigeria. Singling out one trending crime involved in by some of these youths is the 'yahoo-yahoo' business. The objective of the paper is wrapped up in the following questions - what does the future hold for the youths; what is the implication of 'yahoo-yahoo' business on Igbo cultural values and norms; and what is the future implication on Igbo history and Nigeria in general? These factual questions form the objectives of the paper. The paper uses secondary sources to discuss the work. Recommendations are made towards reconciling the urgent danger that is engulfing the Igbo youths.

Keywords: Youth Crisis, 'Yahoo-Yahoo' Business, 21st C. Africa, Igbo Culture, History

Introduction

The twenty-first century Africa has some peculiar challenges which the previous centuries does not have owing to the introduction of more sophisticated and complicated form of technology. Nigeria, one of the states in Africa, has a number of accumulated challenges that is presently telling on the state of the nation. Economic and political collapse is at the top of its challenges as a nation. According to Chikwe et al. (2015), Nigeria is far more endowed in mineral resources and human population than Japan, Sweden or Singapore; yet it comes nowhere near these countries in technological advancement and in economic and social development. Okonjo-Iweala (2018: xv) also observed that Nigeria is projected to be the fifth-largest country in the world by 2030 (estimated population 264 million) and the third-largest by 2050 (estimated population 410 million). Despite the large population and manpower, its production is limited.

Investment in human capital is the secret of any successful and thriving nation across the world. This is where the leadership of Nigeria over the past years have failed to score

high grades. Bad governance, corrupt leaders, manipulated electoral system and 'god fatherism' has strongly destabilised the national leadership system and democracy has been degraded. Within the past thirty years, politicians and public servants have amassed national wealth for selfish reasons to the detriment of the other citizens. Hence, the nation is plunged into severe poverty. Corruption continues to be the cankerworm that is eating up the system. Ihonvbere (1994:10) observed that the country lacked any capacity for a relatively independent participation in international economic relations while Solimano (2005:1) pointed out that a governance environment characterized by stability, the rule of law, and social cooperation will foster wealth creation, and provide good economic opportunities.

The brunt of the crisis is heavily felt by the Nigerian youths as past and present governments have done very little towards safeguarding the future of the youths. There are no jobs for fresh graduates and each year many more graduates are pushed into the labour market. The unemployment situation in the country has become very devastating for the teeming youths. It has therefore, become common for the youths to engage in discussions and activities that will fetch them immediate life of luxury and wealth without suffering. Such negligence by the government on the need of youths, according to Rose and Pfeiffer (2019:10), can lead to violence, crimes, disaster and bad reputation. Kavwam (2018:2) affirm that this leadership has over time failed to take strong and decisive actions that would reform and transform the economy. Nigerian youths are tired of hearing the 'scam' that they are the future leaders of tomorrow when there are no plans on ground for their future progress. Akpokighe and Ejovi (2020:74) said that the inability of the youths to have or create jobs makes them to be vulnerable to unreasonable politicians, religious fanatics and greedy individuals.

The EndSars protest that started on 8th October, 2020 may be on police brutality but the protest encompassed and showcased the frustration the youths are facing in the country. Presently, the rate of lawlessness and insecurity in the nation is overwhelming. Crime rate has increased beyond measures amongst the youths. Sadly, news reports on illegal activities involved in by some Nigerian youths tend to overshadow the efforts and hard work of the rest of the youths in the country. Many youths have engaged themselves in various derogatory criminal activities such as internet fraud also known as 'yahoo-yahoo', human trafficking, kidnapping, banditry, money rituals, illegal drug trade and so on. In fact, some foreign nations have devised laws and stringent policies that have limited innocent Nigerians citizens from travelling freely into their nations to the detriment of the hardworking Nigerians and genuine citizens.

This paper looks at the crux of the matter in the country presently which is the involvement of Nigerian youths, Igbo youths precisely, in the trending devastating 'yahoo-yahoo' criminal business activity and its extension which is the 'yahoo-yahoo plus'. Presently, this is a crime that is fast eating up the entire society and no one is safe. Not only does this crime destroy the strength and ability of the youths, it has also caused

untold hardship on the people that are duped through the internet fraud while the extended part of it called 'yahoo-yahoo plus' have claimed innocent lives of relatives and people in the society. Igbo cultural values, norms, philosophy that upholds good character are now relegated completely to the background and the image and history of the nation and Igbo people in particular are at risk as a result of the involvement of the youths in 'yahoo-yahoo' criminal business activities.

21st Century Africa and advancement in technology

Africa is the second largest continent in the world with about fifty-five countries and multiple ethnic groups. The 21st century Africa is far more advanced in science and technology than was witnessed in the past centuries. The Information and Communication Technology that is now present is very flexible and has drawn the world closely together. Technological advancement has positive and negative uses as well regardless. The availability of computers and mobile phones amongst other electronic gadgets can be very dangerous when in the hands of people with criminal motives. Abugre et al. (2021:10,7) observed that digitalization in Africa has been on an upsurge because of the increasing availability and affordability of electronic gadgets such as mobile phones and computers; the digital era has been characterized by new and emerging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) platforms that shape individual and institutional behaviour. In another perspective, Okyere-Manu (2021: 1,4) stated that the world has currently entered a new age of industrialization where humans are augmenting their intelligence with innovative technological developments; and despite their numerous benefits, there is no doubt that these innovative machines have the potential to affect us negatively.

The 21st century Africa have witnessed a teeming population of Nigerian youths in general and Igbo youths in particular who are jobless and looking for where to channel their strength and skill into. Within the last twenty years, there has been an increase in cybercrimes and many youths have defrauded innocent citizens both within and outside Nigeria using the computer and mobile phones. Africa is rich in mineral and human resources but unfortunately bad leadership, conflict and lack of investment in human capital development have allowed their mineral resources to waste and the youths are left with unemployment in some nations such as Nigeria. The century has therefore, seen an increase in the use of modern technological gadgets to perpetuate numerous criminal frauds such as duping, scamming, impersonation, and the use of social media such as Facebook to connect and defraud innocent citizens. The century has also witnessed the stealing of the hitherto natural calmness, love, good moral conduct, fear of God, discipline in African society as everyone both parents and children now spends endless time on computers and mobile phones. Andres and Winterfeld (2011: xx), the internet connection in your home that you use to talk to friends with Skype, play games, and send email may also be used to conduct crimes.

The youths: who are they?

Every adult from the age of 35 to 100 have passed the youth age bracket. Youths are the group of people between the ages of 18 to 35. According to the Nigeria Youth Policy 2019 edition, the African Youth Charter of 2006 defines youths as persons between the ages of 15 and 35 years; on a similar basis, Nigeria's 2009 National Youth Policy chronologically defined youth as Persons of age 18 to 35 years (FGN 2019: 24). This age bracket of young people has renewed energy, freshness, strength, and power. If they are properly guided and harnessed, youths can turn out to be wonderful citizens in any given society. Likewise, when a society overlooks them and disregards their needs, they can channel their energy and strength to the wrong purpose. Youth period is the age when young men and women are trying to discover themselves and lay their hands on something such as stable job or trade in preparation for their adulthood. Kavwam 2018:2) emphasized that youths represent the heartbeat of every society throughout history and that the youthful stage of an individual's life marks the most critical and yet delicate period where the constellation of internalized habits both negative and positive are defined. This group of people can be easily influenced by peer groups, hence, the need to properly guide and provide their needs of employment.

There is nothing wrong in being a youth. The Nigerian government have not been very compassionate to the youths. Overtime, they have been promised that the future belongs to them which the youths have finally realized in recent times is 'a scam' after hearing this for many years. According to Jones (2009:2), youthfulness' conveys qualities, such as strength, beauty, idealism and energy, which are seen as desirable and converted by older age groups, but on the other hand is also associated with 'inferior' characteristic of inexperience, lack of wisdom, hot-headedness, experimentation, naivety, greenness, and lack of maturity and sense.

Youths needs to be understood and cared for and their needs met. When they make common mistakes, they stand to be corrected and guided properly with love in order to bring out the best in them. Condemning the teeming Nigeria youths as 'trouble makers', 'lazy', 'irresponsible' and 'timid' rather than addressing their needs can be dangerous to the nation. Neglecting their cry for viable stability in the nation can lead to uncontrolled violent reaction as seen in the EndSars protest. Many Nigerian youths, Igbo youths in particular, have potential and skills that can elevate the nation if properly harnessed. It is very easy for the youths to quickly divert their energy to unimaginable crimes to the detriment of the society and the nation hence the need to discover their talent early and harness them.

A large number of Igbo youths are particularly enterprising as students, apprentices in many trades, as office workers, masons, labourers, professional engineers, doctors, drivers etc. Okonjo-Iweala (2018: xvi) affirm that Nigeria is one of the most interesting countries in the world; it is energetic and sometimes chaotic and its people are wonderfully entrepreneurial. It is just unfortunate that bad government and corruption have ruined the economy of the nation and the cries of the citizens have fallen on deaf

ears. Each year fresh graduates are pushed into the society where there are no job opportunities for them. There are youth agitations from every quarter of the nation. While Igbo youths in the southeast Nigeria lament marginalisation, those in the Niger Delta complain of being neglected in infrastructural development despite the crude oil wealth in their area. Ekong et al. (2013:5) affirm that:

Notwithstanding the significant contributions of the region to the wealth of the nation, and the attendant negative impact on its environment as a result of the robust mining and extraction activities in the oil and gas sector in the region, very little or no development impact had been experienced in the region.

Some mouthpiece youth organisations that projects youth betterment in the nation include Arewa Youth Federation (AYF) from the north, Alliance of *Yoruba Youth Council*, (AYYC,), *OhanaezeNdigbo Youth Council*, *Niger Delta Youth Association*, and the *South South Youth Assembly* among others. The National Youth Serve Corps that is provided by the Nigerian government to enable fresh youths graduates to serve their fatherland for one year is a good venture that gainfully occupies the youths for only one year while they serve their fatherland.

'Yahoo yahoo' business and the Igbo youths: The crux of the matter

Behind every bad condition in a society, there is a primary cause; yet, no form of crime is justified no matter the condition or cause. According to Adah and Abasilim (2015:2), despite all the development plans by the Nigerian government, a lot of setbacks has been encountered in the developmental process. Nigeria is having many problems but the one that is more impacting on the people is the economic crisis backed up by inflation. Youths are entrapped in the midst of this crisis and they are finding a quick way out of the situation. The introduction and advancement in communication technology is almost being regretted as some youths have used it to inflict pain and defraud innocent people of their hard earned resources. Interactions through the social media and computer devices have been abused in most occasions. Hence, the relevance and benefits of the internet technology is fast being overshadowed and besmeared by the activities of fraudsters.

Sometime ago, the nitty-gritty on youth matter and crime that was taking headlines include the youth illegal migration through the desert and the Mediterranean Sea, organ harvesting and human trafficking. These crimes are the products of hunger, poverty, idleness, and degraded respect for cultural and moral values. Today, amongst the major crimes involved in by Nigerian youths, Igbo youths precisely, are the 'Yahoo-Yahoo' and the newest branch of it called the 'yahoo-yahoo plus', banditry, kidnapping and demanding for ransom. The trending quest to get rich quick without working hard and having patience has ruined the society. In as much as the youths are generally scolded and blamed for these crimes, the society, parents, relatives and friends should be blamed as well.

'Yahoo-yahoo' business is the trending illegal business using computer technology. Cyber fraud is what is called 'yahoo yahoo'. The number of Igbo youths engaged in this crime has increased in recent times. The crime has a process and its target is often on rich victims who can be within or outside the country. The crime has many faces to it. At times, those involved in the crime seek and entice rich lonely ladies seen on social media such as Facebook and get them involved in romantic talks and sometimes promises marriage to them. In some other cases, they bring business deals and proposals that sound genuine and in the process, scam their partners whom they have never met before and took their money then close the interacting social media communication medium to avoid being traced. More so, identity theft, whereby they switch pictures of innocent people and manipulate their voices to entice women or men as the case may be, is yet another part of the crime. Hence, impersonation, fraud, email phishing, are all part of cybercrime.

In order to get their victims easily and hypnotize them without many difficulties, some elements of diabolism are involved. They consult the services of spiritualists to acquire the power to hypnotize their victims. The usual claim to justify their crime has been that at one point in the past, European masters came into Africa and siphoned their wealth and therefore the illegal act of duping foreigners is justified. In recent times, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has caught some of these men and they are in prisons across the nation. Many Nigerian youths are already languishing in jails in foreign nations because of this crime.

Cyber fraud has a lot of disadvantages to the nation, the youths and humanity in general. It threatens global security and destroys national image and heritage. 'Yahoo yahoo' internet fraud makes use of computers and phones as its major tools for operating. Hacking of people's account using these mentioned gadgets have become part of this illegal business. 'Yahoo yahoo' has another upgraded and more devastating branch that has cropped up in recent times called 'Yahoo plus'. 'Yahoo plus' is an extension of 'yahoo yahoo' and it involves extreme diabolic means of acquiring sudden wealth. It involves and requires hurting, maiming and killing of innocent and unsuspecting individuals for ritual purposes. This is a far more dangerous crime as it claims the lives of innocent citizens and brings so much fear and insecurity to the people. Neighbours, relatives, children, parents, and house helps are all in danger as no one knows what tomorrow may bring due to this form of insecurity. Many Igbo youths who are into this crime have degraded so low to sleep with mad women, corpses, their blood relatives, bath in public places, eat fences, drink blood and other similar high level of crimes as demanded by their diabolical spiritualists who demands these rituals as the conditions for them to get rich quick.

Cultural norms and values have totally collapsed because of this 'get rich quick syndrome'. Spilling of innocent blood has become common and the perpetrators are

without conscience. This is an abomination in Igbo land and an act that irritates the earth goddess. According to Ezenwa (2020:19), much of the societal ills and violence against humanity in the Igbo society today seem to stem from this lack of the sense of value, responsibility and character; and this existential crisis in Igbo society today poses an inevitable challenge with apparent anthropological dimensions as evidences in the depersonalized and utilitarian view of the human person. Urgent action by the government to revitalize security of life coupled with long term life assurance projects for the Igbo youths that are involved in illegal crimes will definitely engaged them better.

Implications of 'yahoo yahoo' business on Igbo cultural values

Okwu (2020:1) observed that the Igbo is the largest language group in southern Nigeria east of the River Niger. The culture and tradition of Igbo people have secured their society for ages. Igbo cultural norms and values has been held in high esteem amongst the people for ages, hence, peace, unity and love reigned in the land for a very long time. Parents took raising children as an important task because good name is more important than wealth and must be preserved. Children raising becomes a societal affair because *nwabunwaora* (a child belongs to the society) meaning that means that everyone in the community has the right to correct an erring child. That is why parents and relatives joined hands in training their children with the fear of the supreme God. As a result, crimes were minimized. Human lives were held sacrosanct and the notion that innocent blood must never be spilled to desecrate the land persevered. No man is defrauded of his property or money illegally because Igbo common philosophy says *live and let live*. According to Ogbonnaya:

As rational beings, Ndigbo traditionally articulate their view of the world in their basic beliefs and conceptions of the universe around them. And with these interpret and fashion a way of living that guides their soci-economic, political and religious life. Like all people, Ndigbo possess a basic philosophy of life which is reflected in their cultural knowledge, cultural symbols, cultural artefacts, cultural arts, as well as religious symbols...Ndigbo also socialize their young into this worldview so that they can adapt to their social and natural environment (Ogbonnaya: (2011:1).

Nwauwa&Anyanwu (2020:7) noticed that the Igbo have a strong traditional religious background and also valuable cultural practices; today, the ethics of hard work, industry, and self-gift for the common good is replaced with wealth for personal aggrandizement. It, therefore, becomes very worrisome that many Igbo youths today have lost their sense of value and conscience in the quest for wealth. They have degraded so low by getting involved in cybercrime nicknamed 'yahoo yahoo' business which defrauds innocent and unsuspecting people within and outside Nigeria. The youths have forgotten that duping innocent people is against the Igbo philosophy of live and let live. Greed and impatience are against the Igbo core virtues which extols hard work and emphasis on 'clean money'. More devastating is the branch of 'yahoo yahoo' called 'yahoo plus' which has further desecrated Igbo cultural values and the earth goddess. In Igbo belief, it is a sacrilege and

abomination for the earth goddess to shed innocent blood.

All these crimes being perpetuated by igbo youths in this 21st century is bound to boomerang on igbo society now and later if not corrected immediately. Thus, the elders, the Igwe(s) in each igbo community and parents has to sit up and address their youths. Otherwise, it is more likely that violence, lack of empathy, and more killings may continue in the southeast Nigeria. 'yahoo yahoo' and 'yahoo plus' are dirty crimes that has long term implication on the entire igbo race. It is crime that can make the international community and other tribes in Nigeria to hate the entire Igbo people. Sadly so, these fraudulent activities will bring dishonor and hatred on innocent hardworking Igbo men and women across the nation and beyond they will all be labelled as fraudulent. So far, the act is dishonouring Igbo land and bringing shame to families of those youths involved in these crimes. It is depriving families of their young vibrant youths as many of them have been caught and are in prisons and jails already.

Any group of people that does not have respect for their cultural values and background is heading to a disaster. The 'yahoo plus' aspect of the crime shows that the youths have become insensitive, lacks human sympathy and moral value. Hence, they carelessly and nonchalantly engage in rampant human sacrifice, and other dirty rituals as directed by their spiritualists in order to make money. It is too degrading and against the traditional Igbo cultural prestige that today some Igbo youths engage themselves in sleeping with mad women, their blood relatives, bath in public places, eat faeces, drink blood and engage in other similar devilish crimes to get rich quick. The ancestors, wherever they are, will be groaning in pain.

There are some channels and programmes that are prevalent in the 21st century which has contributed in misleading the youths. For instance, is the social media platform. Social media is one of the communication mediums that connects the youths with unknown friends and exposes them to videos that are has no cultural values. Lately, most Nollywood movies have joined in destroying Igbo cultural values and Igbo youths through the ritual movies they portray too often. By showcasing quick wealth through blood rituals, many youths have been misled. More so, families, parents, friends and the society in general are to be partly blamed for this crime engaged in by the youths. Igbo people have the culture of eulogizing the rich both young and old without questioning the source of the wealth.

Igbo cultural values are unique because it promotes headwork, patience, extol good name, modesty, truth and decency Youths today have shun these standards of life and have even preferred short life of wealth to long life of humble living. The implication which is early and untimely death is already telling on most Igbo families as many family members now die young. Culture is the heart beat of any sane society and if allowed to be desecrated, it will wipe out the entire people and human life will mean nothing to the youths.

Historical implications of the crime

The 'yahoo yahoo' criminal activities engaged in by Igbo youths have implications on the people's history. Each day, month, year and decades that passes have a collected event which ends up to make up a story about a given people. More so, there are a lot of technological gadgets such as the internet and computers which keeps records of events. Involvement of Igbo youths in 'yahoo yahoo' and 'yahoo plus' criminal activities will eventually taunt the image and affect the history of the Igbo people southeast Nigeria. It also has far reaching consequences on Nigeria and its history. Till today, the past political records of the Nigerian government still affect them. How people live and conduct themselves today matters for the future. According to Ihonvbere (1994: 7), a critical study of the crisis and contradictions of Nigeria's political economy since achieving political independence in October 1960 will reveal that the social formation is yet to recover from its historical experiences and from the constraints of the neo-colonial inheritance.

Igbo history has recorded the bravery and enterprise of resilient Igbo men and women in the past. The Igbo have always worked hard to have a better life and to be comfortable. They are revered round the nation and beyond for their resilience and doggedness. The involvement of the youths in various crimes may affect the notion of the world and bring shame and disrespect to the entire Igbo race and most especially to those Igbo illustrious men and women who have toiled over the years to make their genuine wealth.

The role of the government in stopping this crime

Mathews (2020:5) identified that Nigeria, the most populous nation in Africa with an estimated 107 million people, has been in political turmoil and economic crisis intermittently since independence in October 1960. The inclement economic condition in Nigeria coupled with little or no plans for the youths has driven the youths to criminal activities. The politicians use the youths for their political benefits instead of assisting them to get genuine employment. They also forget their mandate to the people during election campaigns. Holmberg and Rothstein (2012:7) observed that elections matter for good governance.

Every good government has to understand the precarious and sensitive place of youths to avoid watching them go astray. There is an urgent need for the government to think of the youths and get them gainfully employed. Also, supporting them with loans and the necessary facilities is bound to help them. Providing job opportunities in the country will occupy the youths, reduce crime and brain drain. Making lasting plans that will ensure human capital development will enhance the nation's capacity and increase its economic production. The government also have to create awareness and sensitization campaigns that will boost moral conduct and draw the youths back from cybercrimes and other forms of criminal activities. It is imperative that the Ministry of Education reforms school curriculum to include moral, cultural and history subjects to mold good behaviour from tender age. Half of the youths involved in cybercrimes are not educated. Emphasis on quality education will help the nation and the youths. Hence, it is imperative that the government reduces or removes school fees to enable every Nigerian child and youth

have quality education.

It is important that the government regulates and censors Nollywood movies. All movies that portray quick wealth through rituals and duping should be banned by the government. Also, it is imperative that the government takes history as important and mandate that all schools teach the subject. It will enhance understanding of where one is coming from and consequently reduce youth involvement in crimes. Igbo history and culture is against illegal accumulation of wealth. Hence, there should be an awareness campaigns on radios and televisions sponsored by the government which will concentrate on telling citizens to embrace their culture. The use of idiomatic expressions, proverbs, storytelling and child training is important to restore moral values in Igbo youths once again.

The government must be serious with the rule of law and severe punishment must be meted out to any youth irrespective of their background that involves in cybercrimes and other similar crimes in other to sanitize Igbo land and Nigeria in general. In the Vanguard newspapers November 4, 2021, the Vice-President of the nation, Yemi Osibanjo, advised Nigerian youths not to be distracted by the 'yahoo yahoo' boys as they will go to jail when caught. Indulgence of youths in 'yahoo yahoo' criminal activities must be taken as national emergency by the government as it brings insecurity of life and property. The act is already running and undermining the hardworking Nigerians. The government must also devise grassroots programmes and forums that that will aim at discussing and changing this wrong ideology of acquiring rich through the wrong means among the youths.

Consequences of the crime on the youths

Many talented Igbo youths have been caught and they are already languishing in jails within and outside Nigeria. Crime never pays. Some of the youths have met with jungle justice in the course of their crimes and have died or maimed. Igbo youths involved in 'yahoo yahoo' illegal business ventures have hurt their victims in many ways and sometimes the pain they inflicted on their victims always boomerangs to pursue them throughout their lives. Most of these youths have engaged themselves in blood covenants and oath taking that later haunts them in life. Also, some of these youths die very young because they have soiled their hands with impunity. 'Yahoo yahoo' business often involves the services of the spiritualists who leads them into devilish covenants that destroys their human conscience and leads them to continuous quest for evil power in other to hypnotize their victims. Igbo culture and tradition repulses illegal wealth but extols hard work, truth and honesty. Shunning these qualities is attracting death. Crimes that allows *live and let die* often displeases the earth goddess in Igbo worldview and leads to untimely death. 'Yahoo yahoo' and 'yahoo plus' crimes are two evil criminal activities in the 21st century which many youths are engaged in and which has the capacity of wiping out an entire family. Engaging in bad company have its long term consequences on youths too. Most of them have been lured into deadly crimes and journeys that they

could not come out from.

Recommendations

Crime destroys the society and destabilises the moral uphold of any nation. The trending cybercrimes and the yahoo plus is highly shameful, risky and destructive to national value. However, stringent preventive measures by the government and local communities' vigilante groups will stop this crime. Cultural values that extol good behaviour such as proverbs should be revitalized in Igbo communities. Too busy parents raise bad youths no doubt. Hence, it is imperative that parents take raising their children well to avoid their engagement in illegal activities in the future.

It is imperative also that Igbo families uses Igbo language in raising and addressing their children. Reviving idiomatic expressions in Igbo society is important. Proverbs and idiomatic expressions in Igbo language permeates the souls of the youths and builds up good moral values. Family storytelling whereby they talk about Igbo core virtues which include hardwork, patience, love and respect for human life must be revitalized to sanitize the youths.

This paper also recommends that the Federal government, state and local governments should declare a state of emergence on 'yahoo yahoo' business and arrest all youths involved in the act irrespective of background and position. Also, they should use technology to detect their hiding places and sue them to court to rid the nation of crime. More importantly, it is recommended that the government finds a lasting solution to youth needs which is employment to reduce the crime rate in the nation.

The economic situation in the nation is getting worse and there is acute hardship, poverty and hunger in the country. Devising lasting plans that will revise this story in Nigeria will help the nation and the youths to think positively. It is high time Nigeria maximises its human and mineral resources to alleviate the suffering of the citizens. Ekong et al. (2013:5) observed that Nigeria is the largest producer of sweet oil in OPEC.

It is recommended that there should be programmes and conferences that will sanitize Igbo youths and remove their minds from 'get rich fast' ideology. Good education has the potential to tame people's behaviour. Many youths are half baked educationally despite their degrees. Nigeria can afford free primary, secondary and tertiary education or reduce the fees so that both the poor and the rich can afford to go to school. Crime is a disease and it tarnishes national image and history. Therefore, it is up to the government to restructure the system to bring out good citizens. It is also important that politicians should stop using the youths as political thugs and instead they should use their wealth to raise factories in their local governments to mop up the unemployed teeming youths.

Conclusion

The twenty-first century is a period of technological advancement. Technology can be

beneficial in many ways as it makes life and communication easy. Likewise, it is easy to manipulate and use technological devices and gadgets to participate in crime activities as is being done by the youths presently. Nigeria has good number of youths that are unemployed. Many of them have channelled their energy into crimes such as the 'yahoo yahoo'. The paper has recommended an urgent solution to this crisis which is providing enough employment opportunities to the youths. Cybercrimes have short and long term consequences on the youths and everyone should be concerned. The paper looked at the implications of these crimes which is imprisonment and insecurity of everyone related and unrelated to the youths in these crimes. Hence, urgent sensitization of the Igbo society is important to stop the 'get rich quick mentality'. Reviving the devastated Nigerian economy and shunning corrupt practices are the answers to stopping all the evil crimes going on in the nation. Nigeria is noted for its rich mineral resources and using it effectively will change the nation's story of poverty to abundance. The government has a role to play in establishing and channelling the youths on the right path. Similarly, all Igbo politicians, parents, and custodians of traditional culture needs to address the youths in their communities that are involved in this crime to quit. They should in place find them some work to do to get their minds occupied. Igbo history and culture is paramount and youths' involvement in the crimes is fast destabilizing the Igbo society.

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