

**HOME MANAGEMENT AND VOCATIONAL SKILLS ACQUISITION: REMEDY TO YOUTH RESTIVENESS AND INSECURITY IN NIGERIA**

**Dr. Gavou T. Pam**  
**Department of Science and Technology Education**  
**University of Jos, Nigeria**  
[gavoupam760@gmail.com](mailto:gavoupam760@gmail.com)  
08100021936

**Abstract**

The paper surveys home management and vocational skills acquisition as panacea to insecurity and youth restiveness in Nigeria. Youth restiveness, occasioned by unemployment, income inequality, and political exclusion has led to the rise of youth protest groups whose activities sometimes turn violent. The violent protests constitute security breaches, manifested through insurgency, kidnapping, crude oil bunkering communal clashes, murder, armed robbery and farmer-herder clashes. Most of these crimes are perpetuated by the youth. The paper argues that effective and sustained home management, as a key aspect of Home Economics Education, and vocational skills acquisition, have the tendency to deal with youth restiveness and insecurity. This is because when the home is properly positioned where families make informed decisions, monitor their children's activities, as well as instill in the children discipline and moral values, they are not likely to constitute any security challenge in their later years. Equally, skills acquired by the youth will enable them to utilize those skills by setting up food canteens, cosmetics, barbing and hairdressing salons, as well as electrical and electronic repair shops. They will also be able to find employment, as fashion designers, digital marketers and tailors. Unwillingness of the youth to acquire skills, their get-rich-quick syndrome, as well as poorly equipped training environment and parents' continuous absence from the home are challenges to acquiring vocational skills as a means to curbing youth unemployment and restiveness. The paper recommends, among others, that the youth in Nigeria need to renounce violence, deradicalize and pursue functional skills training, either formally or informally, and in spite of growing need to work, parents need to pay attention to managing the home. This requires effective planning, supervision and effective decision making.

***Key words: Acquisition, Home Management, Restiveness, Skills and Youth***

**INTRODUCTION**

The youth, across the globe, are a vulnerable segment of the population. This is because they can be exposed to many forms of social vices. Possessing the stamina and zeal to undertake functions, they are open to doing anything, including crime. Today, the youth are involved in cybercrime, kidnapping, hooliganism and highway robbery, among other crimes. Quite a number of them are Area Boys and hoodlums who intimidate and attack communities. Consequently, the youth have posed a significant security challenge to communities and the government at the local, state and national levels. Government effort at tackling the menace of insecurity has remained a fundamental challenge over the years. However, a fundamental way to deal with this challenge is effective home management and acquisition of vocational skills. The paper therefore, examines youth restiveness, home management, and vocational skills acquisition, as well as challenges to vocational skills acquisition.

**Youth Restiveness**

The United Nations (1981) defined "youth", for statistical considerations, as persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, the definition given without prejudice to other definitions by Member States. The African Union in 2006 defined the youth as persons between the ages of 15 and 35. Generally however, the United Nations sees "youth" as a period of transition from the dependence

of childhood to adulthood's independence. In relation to education and employment, the UN sees "youth" as persons between the ages of leaving compulsory education, and finding their first job.

The youth period is generally a period of activity. During this period, the youth, being ambitious, take up societal roles such as developing projects, promoting knowledge, maintenance of law and order, participation in traditional marriage events as well as participating in sports (Akpokigbe & Ejoyi, 2020). In spite of taking up these noble roles however, the youth population in Nigeria, over the years, has been somewhat frustrated, mainly due to the way and manner governance is conducted. Unemployment, greed, impatience, radicalism and indoctrination have given rise to criminal gangs like the Boko Haram sect and the Niger Delta militant group. In Many cases, these groups operate in a violent manner. Statistics show that the security challenges Nigeria faces are mainly perpetrated by the youth (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020; Nigeria Security Tracker, 2021).

In the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria, there is at least one protest, and in some cases, militant group. Sometimes the protests by these groups turn violent, leading to the loss of lives and property, including vital national infrastructure like energy. There is the Tiv Youth Organization (TYO) from the North-central geopolitical zone, Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) from the South-south, the Oodua People Congress (OPC) from the South-west, Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) from the South-east and the Boko Haram sect from the North-east (Ibanga, 2025), as well as the Lakurawa of the North-west. Members of these protest groups are mostly young men and women.

The violent protests by the youths demonstrate that the youths are disenfranchised, feeling alienated from the business of governance. As Ibanga (2025) puts it, there is system failure and structural inequality. Consequently, central to the youth's grievances are issues dealing with the economy and unemployment. Oluruonbi (2021) reports that on the global list of countries with unemployed people, Nigeria ranks second. The country's jobless rate rose to 33.3% just in three months, up from 27.1%, in the second quarter of 2020 (NBS, 2021). Reports indicate that 64 million Nigerian youths are unemployed, while 16 million of them are grossly underemployed, indicating that 80 million Nigerian youths of employable age are unemployed (Akinyetun, 2023; Adamu & Ayuba, 2024).

The youth unemployment in Nigeria has been aggravated by ineffective economic policies and poor governance (Ogundele & Adebayo, 2022). Added to these are issues of health care, political exclusion, poor power supply and lack of educational opportunities. On living standards, there is a significant gap in the quality of life between the rich and poor. In other words, income inequalities have made the poor to feel dejected, dehumanized and segregated, making the youth to take to social vices (Akpokigbe & Ejoyi, 2020).

For decades, Nigeria has experienced security challenges arising from youth restiveness. This has given rise to many effects. The effects are cultism, ethnic militia, armed robbery and kidnapping (Agbokighe & Ejoyi, 2020). The authors also identify bomb attack, murder, thuggery and crude oil bunkering as the effects of youth restiveness. We also have cases like farmer-herder clashes, communal fights, and banditry. Most of these criminal activities are linked to youth unemployment (Onyesom & Osegbue, 2019; Adebayo & Ogunrinola, 2021). A longitudinal study by Nwankwo and Adekunle (2020), on the socioeconomic effects of youth joblessness in northern Nigeria found that economic hardship, propelled by unemployment, majorly accounted for criminal activities like kidnapping and armed robbery. In southern Nigeria, Adeoje's (2020) study found that kidnapping activities perpetrated by the youth were mainly driven by financial struggles and unemployment. Another study by Otodo, Husseini, Otigbuo and Ali (2025) investigated the socioeconomic dimensions of youth's unemployment. The study found that in Umuahia urban area of Abia State, unemployment, driven by limited job opportunities, lack of functional skills and inadequate government support, significantly contributed to youth involvement in kidnapping. The study also found that such criminal activities led to increased insecurity, economic instability and strained relations between communities and law enforcement agents.

## **Home Management**

Home management deals with the process of maintaining the home properly which includes the property in the home. It means overseeing every household activity. Broadly, home management covers family finance, relationships, child care and the home environment. To effectively manage the home however, skills are needed. These skills include planning, organizing, budgeting and directing.

As an important aspect of Home Economics Education, home management ensures that a family plans on what areas to spend money, how much to spend and the implications of all that. It includes the vital decision a family makes to ensure its wellbeing is appropriately secured. Decision making and communication are vital for family cohesion. A study by Haqyar and Momand (2025) found that families who made sound financial decisions had reduced conflicts and improved economic conditions through collective harmony. The authors' study also found that better communication among family members was "effective in managing and resolving financial challenges". In this paper, home management is taken to broadly include moral child upbringing which has the tendency to prevent children from engaging in social vices in their later years. The social vices can lead to security breaches which Nigeria is today contending with.

Proper application of management techniques affects the home environment. The home environment is very essential in children's upbringing. As succinctly put by Kiilu and Mugamba (2019), the home environment is crucial to a child's wellbeing and development, especially in later years. It is in the home that a child's upbringing starts and is shaped. This points to the fact that parents need to pay close attention to their children's upbringing so they do not go wayward in their years of growing up. In respect of learning, Kaizirege and Biswalo (2023) argue that the home environment is "the most powerful informal situation in which...parents act as educators." The authors add that the family represents "the most influential learning context where very young children typically acquire language, skills and behaviour." Therefore, the home environment does not only shape behaviour but contributes to children's academic achievement as well. For instance, the study by Wankesi (2022) assessed environmental factors that affected the academic performance of secondary school students. The study found that parental income significantly impacted the academic performance of the students. Similarly, a study by Kaizirege and Biswalo (2023) found that poor family income, low family education level, conflicts and divorce, and poor supervision at home, negatively affected students' academic achievement. This simply shows that education can take children off the streets, and with their satisfactory academic achievement, their minds will be drawn away from concentrating on any social vices.

The application of the home management techniques contributes to the wellbeing of the family. Shekhawat and Mishra (2024) argue that sustainable home management techniques "have the potential to make a positive contribution to the entire health and wellbeing of homeowners." In essence, when parents discipline their children, monitor and supervise the activities they engage in, as well as the company they keep, cases of delinquency and restiveness which constitute serious social malaise, will significantly reduce. Similarly, alarming cases of school dropout, street begging and negative peer influence will also drop significantly. Again, using the home management practices will keep the youth busy and hence reduce security risks. Practices such as waste collection and disposal as well as recycling will keep the home environment clean, safe and healthy. In effect, house cleaning, house repairs and meal preparation for families are essential jobs that can provide employment for the youth.

## **Vocational Skill Acquisition and Youth Restiveness**

One fundamental thing that can deal with youth restiveness is skill acquisition. When the youths acquire vital vocational skills and are functionally engaged, they are likely not to constitute any security challenge. A popular adage states that an empty mind is the devil's workshop. To be preoccupied with a useful activity is essential in dealing with life's challenges. Therefore, acquisition of skills by the youth has become necessary in a country like Nigeria.

The word "skill" has many synonyms. Because of that, sometimes it becomes somewhat difficult to precisely define it. Words in literature which usually describe skill are attitude, competence, talent, and competence. For this paper, skill is referred to as that aspect of practical competence demonstrated by an individual in performing a particular task. It is the ability to effectively carry out a task. In essence, skills are technical in nature. Consequently, technical skills deal with such things as listening, writing, coaching and technical knowledge (Omene, 2021). Therefore, in view of its relevance to the study of Home Economics, and home management in particular, skill acquisition and its use are necessary in dealing with unemployment which often leads to youth restiveness. The concept "skill acquisition" refers to the training given to individuals on particular tasks or functions. It is the ability to acquire a skill. The skill acquired is intended to make the individuals trained to be functional and useful members of the society. In a number of cases, the training is undertaken mutually under a legal framework, specifying the terms of the training. The terms will include the duration and conditions of the training (Yakubu, Bello & Inuwa, 2024).

In view of growing unemployment across the globe, but particularly in Nigeria which, in many cases, leads to youth restiveness, many useful vocational skills for meaningful livelihood are required. Omene (2021) identified food services, computer services, hair styling and beauty services, digital marketing skills, tailoring and fashion designing skills, and auto, construction and carpentry skills as vital vocational skills for meaningful livelihood. Tailoring and fashion skills, for instance, have remained a thriving business, taking many youths off the streets. As Lami (2017) puts it, this is an industry that styles celebrities, royalties and top government officials. Hairstyling and beauty services is also an industry that has significantly impacted the lives of young men and women. In many cities in Nigeria, this industry thrives by the day.

Vocational skills can be acquired in formal and informal settings. The apprenticeship system of skill training still persists today. Individuals acquire vocational skills as auto-mechanics, caterers, electricians, and masons, among others. In Nigeria, a fundamental skill programme of the Federal Government is the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) scheme. The NDE scheme, put up by the Babangida regime, was aimed at tackling the menace of the growing number of unemployed youths by equipping them with skills that could make them self-reliant. Many graduates then lacked jobs, due mainly to the spill-over effect of corruption of the political class of the Second Republic, and the subsequent intervention by the military in December 1983.

The NDE scheme came into being in 1986. Since that time, the effectiveness of its skills acquisition programme in addressing youth unemployment has remained a subject of debate, although the study by Adamu and Ayuba (2024) found that generally vocational programmes are universally not effective. However, the study by Yakubu, Bello and Inuwa (2024) found that in Taraba State, there was a significant effect of skills acquisition programme of the NDE in curbing unemployment. There are challenges though. The study by Adamu and Ayuba (2024) found that while vocational training programmes of the National Directorate of Employment improved employability and income generation, challenges such as market, access to capital, and modern technology significantly hindered the long term success of business ventures. On the whole, with respect to restiveness of the youth, vocational skills acquired can positively engage the youth, finding employment as handset repairers and computer operators. They can open business centres, cybercafés and printing press. The youth can as well open fast food canteens, cosmetics, barbing and hairdressing saloons as well as electrical and electronic repair shops.

### **Challenges to Vocational Skills Acquisition**

There are challenges to acquiring skills as a means to curbing youth restiveness and unemployment. It does not pay for any government or agency to pretend that insecurity, posed by youth's restiveness, can be handled easily without any concerted effort. However, the first challenge deals with the youths themselves. The youth must be willing to renounce violence, deradicalize and pursue vocational skills training. This willingness must be accompanied by a strong determination,

desire and motivation. In addition, the youth must be willing to renounce the get-rich-quick syndrome, be patient and resilient in pursuit of any meaningful vocational skills that can make them gainfully employed.

The training environment for skills acquisition is a fundamental challenge to dealing with youth restiveness. Government and the private sector must be ready to provide the enabling environment for the youth to acquire functional skills. However, in many technical and vocational institutions, the laboratories and workshops necessary for skills training are either not there or are poorly equipped. Consumables, equipment and tools in a number of cases, are not there or are in short supply. Skills training is therefore, affected. In a study by Adeyemi and Ojo (2020), it was discovered that the Nigerian education system does not provide enough skill-based training to graduates. This leaves a skill gap between the skills provided to graduates and the demands of the labour market. Consequently, many graduates of technical and vocational institutions remain unemployed.

Home management faces an increased challenge due to the increase in the number of working people, especially in the private sector. This is in spite of the increase in the number of unemployed people, especially the youth. Increased cost of living crisis has forced many families, not only in Nigeria but globally as well, to look for alternative means of survival. In doing so, they take on certain small and medium scale enterprises. As families spend long hours at work, children's care, moral training, and mutual relationships are at jeopardy. In other words, parents' continuous absence from the home exposes their children to neighbourhood peer influence which has the tendency to make the children to engage in antisocial behaviours.

## **CONCLUSION**

Youth restiveness and insecurity have been a social malaise which successive governments in Nigeria have tried to deal with. Existing conditions such as economic inequality, suppression and political exclusion have led to the youth feeling dejected and disenfranchised. Being unemployed, they vent their frustration through protests and demonstrations, sometimes resulting in the loss of lives and property. However, effective and sustained home management and vocational skills training have the potential to engage the youth in small and medium scale vocations. The paper has identified youth unwillingness to renounce violence and the get-rich-quick syndrome, poor vocational skills training environment and continuous absence of parents from the home, as challenges to vocational skills acquisition for curbing unemployment and youth restiveness. Based on this, the paper makes the following recommendations:

1. The youths in Nigeria need to renounce violence, deradicalize and pursue functional vocational skills training, either formally or informally
2. Government and the private sector need to provide the necessary environment that will enable the youth to pursue useful vocational skills training. This will include providing workshops, laboratories and consumable materials.
3. In order to deal with youth restiveness which in many cases, is a function of unemployment, government at all levels and the private sector need to increase effort at providing employment.
4. In spite of growing need to work, parents need to pay attention to managing the home. This requires effective planning, supervision and effective decision.

## **REFERENCES**

- Adamu Z, Ayuba V. (2024). Exploring the effectiveness of vocational skill acquisition interventions in Nigeria. A Perspective from North- Eastern Nigeria. *Austin Journal of Business Administration and Management*, 4, 8(3): 1-6.
- Adebayo, A., & Ogunrinola, O. I. (2021). Youth unemployment and security challenges in

- Nigeria: a focus on Boko Haram. *Journal of African Security*, 14(2), 123-138.
- Adeoye, A. O. (2020). Crime and unemployment in Nigeria: a case study of kidnapping. *International Journal of Criminology*, 10(1), 45-61.
- Adeyemi, B., & Ojo, M. (2019). The growing concern of unemployment in Nigeria. *Journal of Economic Issues*, 11(3), 78-89.
- Akinyetun T.S. (2023). Demography and insecurity: Youth bulge and the Lake Chad Basin security quandary. *African Security Review*, 1, 1-16.
- Akpokighe, R. & Ejoyi, A. (2020). Youth restiveness in Nigeria: Implications on sustainable national development. *UJAH*, 21 (.3), 66-89. Retrieved 2/4/2036, from <http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ujah.v21i3.4>.
- Haqyar, H.K. & Momand, M. (2025). The role of home management in home economic development. *International Journal of Social Sciences*, 1(1), 373-386.
- Ibanga, M.E. (2025). Youth restiveness in the Niger Delta: An empirical analysis of unemployment, education, and economic empowerment as predictive factors. *Iconic Research and Engineering Journals*, 9(5), 1278-1289.
- Kaizirege, A. & Biswalo, U.P. (2023). Home environmental factors and their effects on students' academic achievement in secondary schools in Tanzania. *Journal of Research Innovation and Implications in Education*, 7(4), 695 – 703. Retrieved 3/4/2026, from <https://doi.org/10.59765/hnia4pr9>.
- Kiilu, R. M., & Mugambi, L. (2019). Status of school feeding programme policy initiatives in primary schools in Machakos County, Kenya. *African Education Research Journal*, 7, 33–39.
- Lami O. (2017). Top 10 skills in high demand in Nigeria. *Information Guide in Nigeria*; April, 5. Retrieved from <https://infoguidenigeria.com/skills-high-demand>.
- Nwankwo, C., & Adekunle, T. (2020). The socioeconomic effects of youth unemployment on crime in Nigeria. *International Journal of Social Policy*, 27(2), 94-110.
- Ogundele, O., & Adebayo, J. (2022). Economic policies, governance, and unemployment in Nigeria: an analytical review. *Nigerian Journal of Economic Policy*, 29(4), 56-72.
- Onyesom, M., & Osegbue, C. (2019). Economic hardship, unemployment, and youth involvement in crime in Nigeria. *Journal of Social Issues*, 29(4), 211-225.
- Otodo, C. Hussaini, A.H., Otigbo, P. & Ali, A. (2025). The socio-economic dimensions of youth unemployment: implications for kidnapping activities and security in Umuahia Urban, Abia State. *EAS Journal of Humanities and Cultural Studies*, 7(1), 8-19. Retrieved 2/4/2026, from <https://www.easpublisher.com>.
- Omene, G.R. (2021), Skills acquisition and graduate unemployment reduction in South-South Nigeria. *International Journal of Innovative Development and Policy Studies* 9(4):158-172.
- National Bureau of Statistics. (2020). *Labor force statistics: Unemployment and*

*underemployment report.* Abuja: NBS.

Nigeria Security Tracker. (2021). *Annual security report.* Abuja: Council on Foreign Relations.

Shekhawat, A. & Mishra, P. (2024). Sustainable home management: practices for the modern household. *International Journal of Advances in Engineering and Management*, 6(4), 77-86.

Yakubu, H.H., Bello, I. & Inuwa, B.A. (2024). Assessing the impact of skills acquisition programmes of National Directorate of Employment in curbing Unemployment in Taraba State. *Jalingo Journal of Social and Management Sciences*, 5(3), 88-104.