

## ASSESSMENT OF THE EXTENT OF YOUTH RESTIVENESS IN AKWA IBOM STATE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE INSECURITY AND BUSINESS INVESTMENT.

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### Abstract

*This paper assessed the extent of youth restiveness in Akwa Ibom State and its impact on the insecurity and business investment. The study was premised on the incessant activities of the youths with regards to protest which most times end becoming violent. Though there have been measure put by the government to assuage the youths, but it seems the end is yet near to settling the problems that the youths are facing in Akwa Ibom State and Nigeria in general. The specific objectives that were addressed in this paper were to examine the effect of youth restiveness on the level of insecurity in Akwa Ibom State and to assess the influence of youth restiveness on the business investment in Akwa Ibom State. The cross-sectional survey design was adopted for this study, hence, a structured questionnaire was utilized to ferret information from the research participants. The Frustration-Aggression Theory was considered a good fit for explaining why and how young people became violent or restless. The findings of this study revealed that youth restiveness has a significant impact on the level of insecurity in Akwa Ibom. It was also affirmed that the impact of youth restiveness on the investments of business owners in Akwa Ibom State is significant. Based on the above findings, it was recommended amongst others that the government of the day should first of all tackle the issues that cause protest and restive activities by the youths. Not addressing issues like police brutality, inequality during employment by oil multinationals especially in the oil producing areas of the state, lack of access to productive economic activities, among others, will always trigger the youths to fall back to such activities in future.*

**KEYWORDS:** Youth Restiveness, Insecurity, Business Investment, Akwa Ibom State

### Introduction

Young people have played significant roles in Nigeria's security challenges, both positively and negatively. On the positive side, youth-led initiatives, such as the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), have contributed to the fight against insecurity, especially in the northern part of the country. Furthermore, it was a youth-led movements, such as the #EndSARS protests

in October 2020, that also brought attention to police brutality and other human rights abuses in the country (Akinwotu, 2020). The movement was primarily driven by Nigerian youth, who utilized social media platforms, particularly Twitter, to amplify their voices and share experiences of harassment and abuse by Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Nigerian Police.

Akwa Ibom state has had its fair share of youth restiveness especially with the behaviour of non-state actors and cult groups whose activities has contributed to insecurity in some quarters of the state. For instance the residents of Essien Udim, Ukanafun and Etim Ekpo LGAs in Akwa Ibom state has witnessed in the past few years a high surge of youth restiveness and social disorder that has marred achieving a sustainable rural development. This resulted to a situation where almost all the government/public offices and private establishments, organizations and businesses were being abandoned and deserted by staff/workers; peoples' houses and properties, various shops and goods were set ablaze, no electricity due to vandalization of high tension cable wires and transformers, indigenes and non-indigenes running/moving away from these areas for their safety (life), small and medium scale enterprises and businesses got crippled due to incessant threat letters received from the cult members demanding that the targeted individual or household should pay a heavy ransom within a short given period of time otherwise they should leave/desert area or face the wrath of losing his life and burning of the residential house and shops.

Accordingly, youths in some oil producing areas of the state have often been involved in various acts of restiveness which sometimes leads to loss of lives and properties. In such situations, both local and foreign investors fear for their investments and this has always led to loss of investment opportunities which would have led to socio-economic development. Another impact of such activities by the youths is that in local government areas where their mainstay is agriculture, people hardly visit their farmlands for the purpose of cultivation of their food crops. This act leads to food insecurity as even the farmers will have to depend on farm produce from other nearby communities/states. The impact of youth restiveness can be daunting to the society in many ways.

A number of studies (Amnesty International, 2020; Deji-folutile, 2022), have shown that youth restiveness have always left the society with painful consequences. For instance, in 2020, it was reported that several lives were lost across the country as well as the destruction of assets worth billions of naira during Nigerian "End SARS" movement (Amnesty International Report, 2020). Also in 2022, during the prolonged Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) strike, some Nigerian youth especially those who constitute of the students population took to the street, unleashing untold hardship on road users which crippled most economic activities across the country (Deji-folutile, 2022).

Given the foregoing, the hunch of this study is: what is the impact of youth restiveness on the socio-economic development of Akwa Ibom State?

### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To examine the effect of youth restiveness on the level of insecurity in Akwa Ibom State.
2. To assess the influence of youth restiveness on the business investment in Akwa Ibom State.

### **Research Hypotheses**

1. Youth restiveness has no effect on the level of insecurity in Akwa Ibom State.

2. **Youth restiveness has no influence on the investments of business owners in Akwa Ibom State.**

## Review of Related Literature

### Youth

Youth is a phase of transition from childhood dependence to adulthood's freedom and awareness of the necessity to collaborate with other members of society to attain the society's goals and objectives (United Nations Youth, 2019). Youth in this context, according to Uriah, Egbezor, and Ololube (2014), may be defined as young men and women who are no longer children but not yet adults. Youths are a force to be reckoned with, and if their energy are correctly channeled, tremendous development and improvement may be achieved (Eze-Micheal, 2020). Youthfulness is highly essential in every community since it contributes positively to a country's growth and progress. For Adewuyi (2008) a youth can be defined as a people between ages 18-24 years. It could be observed from the above definitions that, any person from the age of 18 years is considered as a youth, only the span in age differs between 24-35 years. However, youth could be considered as a stage in the life of a person when the society in which he or she lives ceases to regard the person as a child, but he/she is not considered as an adult.

### Youth Restiveness

Chika and Onyene (2010) observed that to be restive, is to be unable to stay still, and unwilling to be controlled because of dissatisfaction of the situation or condition at hand. It constitutes unwholesome, socially unacceptable behaviour exhibited in the society. Youth restiveness which has been the context of this paper refers to the young people within the range of 18 and 35, who are not satisfied or are discontented with government, individuals, groups, community and resolve to show their anger by destroying lives and property, kidnapping, robbing citizens to amass wealth to replace job opportunity or marginalization.

Youth restiveness is a collection of acts, behaviours, and attitudes that create unwholesome, socially undesirable behaviour among teenagers. Adolescents' restiveness has long been a tool employed by youth to achieve what they want from the appropriate authorities. Restiveness among youth can be defined as a long-term protest aimed at getting a desired result from a legitimate authority (Eze-Micheal, 2020). Youth restiveness is a particularly severe kind of aberrant behaviour among teenagers that is socially undesirable in any community.

### Socio-Economic Development

The concept of socio-economic development seems to be in a state of flux since the end of the Second World War. In the early 1940s the ideological differences between the Socialist East and the Capitalist West appears to have influenced the meaning and the conceptualization of the term. Ake (2001:9) argues that the ideology of development itself became a problem for development because of the conflict between its manifest and latent functions. Development is now seen as a transformation of the society, a move from the old ways of thinking, and old form of social and economic organization to new ones (Stiglitz cited in Afeikhena, 2004:207).

According to Radhika (2018) socio-economic development is referred to improvement within the lifestyles of the individuals through improved education, incomes, skill development and employment. It is the process of economic and social transformation based on cultural and environmental factors. Therefore, it can be understood as the process of social and economic development within the society. It is measured with indicators such as, gross domestic product, life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment. Social development is a process, which results in the transformation of the social institutions in a manner, which improves the capability of the society to meet the objectives. Economic development is the development of economic wealth and resources of the nations or regions for the well-being of the individuals.

Socio-economic development involves improvement of lifestyles of individuals through improved education, health and life expectancy as well as skill development, employment and income (labour force participation). It is the process of economic and social transformation based on cultural and environmental factors. Therefore, it can be understood as the process of social and economic development within the society. It is measured with indicators such as reduction in income inequality, poverty reduction, life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment amongst others (Abili, 2020).

### Insecurity

For a proper understanding of what insecurity means, it will be pertinent to first know what security entails. One commonly cited definition comes from the Copenhagen School, which defines security as "the condition where the referent object enjoys freedom from threat to its valued interests" (Buzan, Wæver and de Wilde, 1998: 25). In the context of Nigeria, this includes threats from terrorism, inter-communal conflicts, and criminal activities such as kidnapping and robbery. Other scholars have emphasized the multidimensional nature of security in Nigeria, including economic, social, and political factors.

For example, Nwankwo (2021) argues that security in Nigeria is closely linked to the country's economic development, and that addressing economic inequalities and promoting inclusive growth is essential for achieving long-term security. Similarly, Oshitta *et al.* (2019) emphasizes the importance of addressing social and political factors, including corruption and poor governance, in order to address security challenges in Nigeria. Oshitta *et al.* (2019) argues that "unless corruption and poor governance are effectively tackled, the security challenges in the country will continue to linger".

On the other hand, insecurity has been referred to by Uchehgue and Ifedi (2023) as a range of different phenomena, but in general, it refers to a lack of security or stability in one's life or circumstances. Insecurity can take many forms, such as financial insecurity (i.e., concerns about not having enough money to meet basic needs), job insecurity (i.e., concerns about losing one's job or not being able to find stable employment), or social insecurity (i.e., concerns about not fitting in or being accepted by others). Insecurity can have significant negative impacts on people's mental and physical health, as well as their overall quality of life. Insecurity in Nigeria is of critical importance for the country's overall stability, prosperity, and development. Both issues are interrelated and have significant negative impacts on the economy, society, and individuals.

### Review of Empirical Studies

Eze-Michael (2020) investigated on youth restiveness and economic development in Nigeria with a focus on the Niger-Delta. Youth restiveness can fit the label as a sustained protestation embarked upon to enforce a desired outcome from a constituted authority. The youths constitute a force, that if their energies are properly controlled, there will be vast progress and improvement. Nevertheless, when such energies are degenerated on actions that are unfavourable, it results into crimes. Such crimes as hostage-taking of prominent citizens and expatriate oil workers, illegal oil bunkering and arms insurgency have all caused insecurity for business to thrive, thereby affecting economic development in Nigeria. It is in line with this, that the study examined youth restiveness and its impact on the economic development in Nigeria using Niger-Delta as a study. The study used the relative deprivation and the broken window theories as the theoretical framework. The research adopted qualitative method. The population was the youths in Nigeria, particularly in the Niger-Delta. This part of the country

was purposively selected because the youth in this area constituted the major restive behaviour witnessed in Nigeria between 2010 and 2018. Data were collected through documentary review (of publications on youth restiveness) as well as journals, and materials from the internet.

Findings from the above study showed that the nature of most youths that engage in youth restive activities in the Niger-Delta do not have access to formal education; these youths are majorly unemployed and poor. Also, the institutional effort of the government in eradicating youth restiveness has proven incapable of alleviating the critical situation and that the governments' lack of leadership and discipline has hindered the eradication of youth restiveness. Furthermore, the effect of youth restiveness on the economic development in Nigeria has cost the nation its stability, general improvement, cultural integrity, likelihood of survival and its preservation of national value. The study concluded that youth restiveness is a serious issue that has affected Nigerian state in the negative. It caused a drastic reduction of per capita increase of the nation's production which forms the basis for economic development. It was recommended that, government should pay more attention to the needs and demands of the less privileged youths in the country by giving them scholarships, entrepreneurship loans and skill acquisition programs. This will engage them in legitimate works and prevent any form of idleness. There should be an enlightenment campaign against youth restiveness, as this will make citizens become more educated on the damage youth restiveness can bring to the society.

Yajir and Ikyo (2021) conducted a study on curbing youth restiveness for sustainable economic development in Nigeria. Youth restiveness is a worrisome issue in most countries of the world, Nigeria inclusive. The paper defined youth as people within the age bracket of 18-35 years, who are yet to be considered as adults in the society. The paper highlights the causes of youth restiveness which include unemployment, bad governance, poverty, inadequate communication and information flow. The paper considers the effects of youth restiveness as being multi-dimensional, which include destruction of life and infrastructure, and ravaging the requisite human capital for producing the nation's economic fortunes. The paper suggests ways of curbing youth restiveness and maintains that counseling is a service that could be applied by the counselor to modify behaviour in youth, which is detrimental to the society. The paper recommended ways of curbing restiveness in youths such as government and family providing security and good care for the youth, and engaging them in governance at all levels of government.

## Methodology

The cross-sectional survey design was adopted for this study. The term 'survey' is commonly applied to a research methodology designed to collect data from a specific population, or a sample from that population, and typically utilizes a questionnaire, as well as, other survey instruments. For this study, a closed-ended questionnaire will be utilised to get needed information from the respondents. The 2018 projected population used by the Ministry of Economic Development for planning purposes, estimated at 5,451,277 people as follows; Female; 2,680,687 and Male; 2,770,590 was adopted as the population of this study. The sample size of this study was determined with the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula for arriving at sample size as follows:

$$n = \frac{X^2NP(1-P)}{e^2(N-1)+X^2P(1-P)}$$

where:

- n = Sample size to be determined
- N = Finite population
- 1 = Constant
- e = Level of significance taken to be 0.05.

Given that:

- n = Sample size to be determined
- N = 5,451,277
- $\chi^2$  = 3.841
- 1 = Constant
- P = 0.5
- e = Level of significance taken to be 0.05.

$$n = 384$$

Given the foregoing, the sample size to be used for this study as determined with the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula for arriving at sample size is 384.

The multi-stage sampling technique which involved the stratified and simple random sampling techniques, were adopted for this study. This sampling technique allowed for the equal chance of representation of all the elements in the population of the study. For this study, three local government areas (Uyo, Eket and Ukanafun LGAs) were selected for the administration of questionnaire. At the local government level, the simple random sampling method was applied to select 128 respondents from each of the three local government areas to serve as sample for this study.

The data collection for this study involved both primary and secondary techniques. While the secondary sources was all the readymade information and data from published text, credible journal sources, government documents, magazines, etc., the primary sources comprised of first-hand information obtained through the structured questionnaire as well as other formal and informal discussions with respondents and key informants.

In this study, a total of 384 copies of the structured questionnaire were administered to the respondents to assess their views on youth restiveness and its impacts on socio-economic development in Akwa Ibom state. All completed copies of the questionnaire were successfully retrieved and used for the purpose of evaluating the three hypotheses that were stated in this study.

To effectively accomplish the objectives of the study, the researcher develop a structured (closed-ended) questionnaire to elicit information from the respondents. The questionnaire was developed on a four-point Likert rating scale of: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, and Strongly Disagree options. The questionnaire contained sections A and B. Section (A) contained questions

on demographic information of the respondents, while section B contained statements on youth restiveness and its impacts on socio-economic development in Akwa Ibom state.

For this study, frequency counts, percentages, tabular presentations and the simple linear regression analysis were adopted for the analysis of all data. The strength of this method lies in its suitability of establishing the impact between two variables i.e. youth restiveness and socio-economic development. The frequency counts and percentages were used to analyze all the data obtained from the field, while the simple linear regression analysis was used to test all the hypotheses. This analysis was utilised with the Statistical Package for Social Science (Version 22.0).

### Data Presentation and Analysis

A total of three hundred and eighty-four (384) copies of questionnaire were administered of which three hundred and sixty-nine (369) copies of the questionnaire representing 96.0% were returned. The data from the questionnaire are here presented and analyzed using frequencies and percentages, while the hypotheses were tested using the simple linear regression analysis.

### Analysis of Responses on Youth Restiveness and Insecurity

Table 1: Responses on Youth Restiveness and Insecurity

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Total
1.	Youth restiveness poses a significant threat to community safety and stability.	118	114	75	60	369
2.	Youth restiveness and insecurity are primarily driven by economic inequalities within society.	121	97	83	68	369
3.	The activities of restless youth directly correlate with heightened levels of insecurity in affected areas.	132	98	76	62	369
4.	Youth involvement in activities leading to unrest exacerbates feelings of fear and vulnerability among community members.	129	103	74	63	369
5.	The perception of insecurity resulting from youth restiveness can hinder economic development and social cohesion.	131	112	64	62	369
6.	Youth-led disturbances have a tangible impact on the overall quality of life and well-being of community members.	134	103	73	59	369

Key: SA: Strongly Agree; A: Agree; D: Disagree; SD: Strongly Disagree.

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Interpretation of responses on youth restiveness and insecurity: In Table 4.2 above, 32.2% of the respondents strongly agreed youth restiveness poses a significant threat to community safety and stability. It was also observed that 30.9% of the respondents agreed, while 20.3% and 16.5% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. The responses for item 2 revealed that 32.8% strongly agreed that youth restiveness and insecurity are primarily driven by economic inequalities within society. Accordingly, 26.3% of the respondents agreed while 22.5% and 18.4% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. For item 3, 35.7% of the respondents strongly agreed that the activities of restless youth directly correlate with heightened levels of insecurity in affected areas. The data also showed that 26.6% of the respondents agreed; 20.6% disagreed while 16.8% of the respondents strongly disagreed to this item. It was also revealed that, 34.9%

of the respondents strongly agreed that youth involvement in activities leading to unrest exacerbates feelings of fear and vulnerability among community members. Accordingly, 27.9% of the respondents agreed, while 20.1% and 16.1% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. The responses for item 5 revealed that 35.5% strongly agreed that the perception of insecurity resulting from youth restiveness can hinder economic development and social cohesion. Accordingly, 30.4% agreed; 17.3% disagreed; while 16.8% strongly disagreed. For question 6, 36.6% of the respondents strongly agreed that youth-led disturbances have a tangible impact on the overall quality of life and well-being of community members. Accordingly, 27.9% of the respondents also agreed while 19.8% and 15.0% of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

**Table 2: Responses on youth restiveness and the loss of investment**

S/N	Statement	SA	A	D	SD	Total
7.	Youth restiveness significantly deters business investment in affected areas.	101	115	72	81	369
8.	The activities of restless youth directly contribute to loss of investment and financial instability for business owners.	107	121	69	72	369
9.	The lack of government intervention to address youth restiveness directly affects business owners' confidence in investing in affected areas.	113	119	71	66	369
10.	Youth-led disturbances create a climate of uncertainty that discourages business owners from making long-term investments in affected areas.	132	98	76	62	369
11.	Businesses in areas with high levels of youth restiveness experience greater financial losses and operational challenges compared to those in more stable areas.	104	99	83	83	369
12.	The impact of youth restiveness on loss of investment underscores the need for comprehensive strategies that address both social unrest and economic stability.	96	94	86	93	368

Source: Field Survey (2024)

Interpretation of responses on youth restiveness and the loss of investment: The responses on Table 4.4 showed that 27.4% of the respondents strongly agreed that youth restiveness significantly deters business investment in affected areas. It was further revealed that 31.2% agreed; 19.5% disagreed; while 21.9% strongly disagreed. The responses further showed that 29.0% of the respondents strongly agreed that the activities of restless youth directly contribute to loss of investment and financial instability for business owners. It was further revealed that 32.8% agreed; 18.7% disagreed; while 19.5% strongly disagreed. The responses further showed that 27.4% of the respondents strongly agreed that the lack of government intervention to address youth restiveness directly affects business owners' confidence in investing in affected areas. It was further revealed that 31.2% agreed; 20.3% disagreed; while 21.1% strongly disagreed. Again, 35.8% of the respondents strongly agreed that youth-led disturbances create a climate of uncertainty that discourages business owners from making long-term investments in affected areas. Furthermore, 26.7% agreed; 20.7% disagreed; while 16.8% strongly disagreed. The responses on Table 4.5 showed that 28.2% of the respondents strongly agreed that businesses in areas with high levels of youth restiveness experience greater financial losses and operational challenges compared to those in more stable areas. It was further revealed that 26.8% agreed;

22.5% disagreed; while 22.5% strongly disagreed. The responses on whether the impact of youth restiveness on loss of investment underscores the need for comprehensive strategies that address both social unrest and economic stability indicated that 26.0% strongly agreed; 25.5% agreed; 23.3% disagreed; while 25.2% strongly disagreed.

**Test of Hypotheses**

The hypotheses that were formulated for this study are hereby restated in their null and statistical form for the purpose of testing:

1. The impact of youth restiveness on the level of insecurity in Akwa Ibom State is not likely to be significant.
2. The impact of youth restiveness on the investments of business owners in Akwa Ibom State is not significant.

**Test of Hypothesis 1:**

**H<sub>0</sub>:** The impact of youth restiveness on the level of insecurity in Akwa Ibom State is not likely to be significant.

**H<sub>A</sub>:** The impact of youth restiveness on the level of insecurity in Akwa Ibom State is likely to be significant.

**Table 3: Regression analysis for the impact of youth restiveness on the level of insecurity in Akwa Ibom State**

Groups	N	$\beta$	R Square	df	t calculated	t critical	P value	Decision
Youth restiveness				1				
	369	0.368	.135	367	16.730	1.96	.000	H <sub>0</sub> : rejected
Insecurity				368				

$\beta$  = regression coefficient  
 Source: Field Survey (2024)

**Decision Rule:** Reject null hypothesis if t calculated is greater than (>) t critical. Accordingly, if the p value is greater than (>) 0.05, then there is no significant contribution, but when the p value is less than (<) 0.05, there is a significant contribution of the independent variable on the dependent variable.

**Interpretation:** The regression output table for the first hypothesis presents the result of the impact of youth restiveness on the level of insecurity in Akwa Ibom State. Based on the coefficient of determination (r-square), only 13.5% of the total variation in level of insecurity in Akwa Ibom State was explained by youth restiveness. The results of the regression also revealed

a significant impact of youth restiveness on the level of insecurity in Akwa Ibom State ( $\beta = 0.368$ ,  $t$  calculated =16.730,  $t$  tabulated =1.96,  $p < 0.05$ ). To this end, the null hypothesis that was stated that the impact of youth restiveness on the level of insecurity in Akwa Ibom State is not likely to be significant is rejected.

**Test of Hypothesis 2:**

**H<sub>0</sub>:** The impact of youth restiveness on the investments of business owners in Akwa Ibom State is not significant.

**H<sub>A</sub>:** The impact of youth restiveness on the investments of business owners in Akwa Ibom State is significant.

**Table 4: Regression analysis of youth restiveness on the investments of business owners in Akwa Ibom State**

Group	N	$\beta$	R Square	df	t calculated	t critical	P value	Decision
Youth restiveness				1				
	369	0.424	.180	367	7.578	1.96	.000	H <sub>0</sub> : rejected
Investments				368				

$\beta$  = regression coefficient  
 Source: Field Survey (2024)

The regression output table for hypothesis two presents the result of the impact of youth restiveness on the investments of business owners in Akwa Ibom State. Based on the coefficient of determination (r-square), only 18.0% of the total variation in the investments of business owners in Akwa Ibom state was explained by youth restiveness. The results of the regression also revealed a significant impact of youth restiveness on the investments of business owners in Akwa Ibom state ( $\beta = 0.424$ ,  $t$  calculated =7.578,  $t$  tabulated =1.96,  $p < 0.05$ ). This implies that the null hypothesis that was stated that the impact of youth restiveness on the investments of business owners in Akwa Ibom State is not significant is rejected.

**Discussion of Findings**

The result from the testing of the first hypothesis showed that youth restiveness has a significant impact on the level of insecurity in Akwa Ibom. This finding gains support from the work of Ibiteye and Awomoyi (2023) on youth restiveness and socio-economic development in the Niger-Delta, which found, among other things, that youth vandalism and kidnapping were targeted mostly at Public and Private (Corporate) facilities; that their restiveness is mostly attributed to lack of employment; and that the declaration of amnesty by the government has gone a long way in addressing youth restiveness. Supporting the above finding, the work of Adegoke *et al.* (2023) also found out that the increasing rate of youth restiveness is alarming and it is posing serious challenges to developing countries of the world especially Nigeria with large population of youths. This is because, youth restiveness and its attendant consequences have greatly contributed to insecurities and uncertainties in Nigeria.

The result of the testing of the second hypothesis revealed that the impact of youth restiveness on the investments of business owners in Akwa Ibom State is significant. This finding is consistent with the study of Ezebuilo (2023) on youth restiveness and sustainable rural development in Ukanafun L.G.A of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria from 2015 to 2020 revealed that bad governance/leadership, unemployment, poverty/hunger, peer group pressure/influence, marginalization etc. are the major causes of youth restiveness thus, leading to the serious escalation of various social vices such as kidnapping, cultism, armed robbery, killing/assassination, dehumanization, issuing of life threatening letters; sexual harassment/rape; destruction/burning of private/public properties etc. in Ukanafun L.G.A., Akwa Ibom state. Going by the above, it is instructive to note that investment by business owners can be discouraged.

## Conclusion

The objectives that were set out to be achieved in this study were to examine the impact of youth restiveness on the level of insecurity in Akwa Ibom State as well as to assess the influence of youth restiveness and the loss of investment by business owners in Akwa Ibom State. After analyzing all the research questions and testing the hypotheses, it was held that youth restiveness has impacted significantly on the level of security of the state by worsening the situation. This is due the activities of the energetic youths who sometimes take advantage of protest situations to perpetrate all sorts of heinous crimes and activities. It will be recalled that this is why state authorities have always frowned on the idea of protest by youths thereby denying them of their rights.

It was further obtained that the influence of youth restiveness has affected the level of investment by business owners in the state. This is because the activities of the youths during restive period include destruction of public and private holdings and this spell doom for most business owners thereby leading to loss of investment by most entrepreneurs. This case was witness during the EndSARS protest in October 20, 2020 when the protest was high jacked by hoodlums and people with no scruples thereby leading to violent crime like looting and wanton destruction of both public and private properties.

## Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

- i. The government of the day should first of all tackle the issues that cause protest and restive activities by the youths. Not addressing issues like police brutality, inequality during employment by oil multinationals especially in the oil producing areas of the state, lack of access to productive economic activities, among others, will always trigger the youths to fall back to such activities in future.
- ii. The government should introduce more youth based programmes to get the youths engaged with productive activities that are capable of generating money for them. This will help in keeping them busy while channeling their interest to only productive enterprise.
- iii. The security of human lives and properties by the government should be improved especially in the rural areas where agriculture is the mainstay of the people. This will encourage the people to go back to their farm settlements and continue with their cultivation of farm produce.

- iv. Youths should be educated on how to go on protest given that it part of their constitutionally recognized right to have a say in matters that concerns their affair and not to just jump on every bandwagon without knowledge of what is happening. Protest should be conducted with all sense of decorum so as to achieve the goal it was meant to achieve. Adhering to this will lead to the avoidance of loss of investment by business owners.

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