

Somali Youth Unemployment and Its Effects on National Security: Case study: Some Selected Security Organizations in Mogadishu-Somalia

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Abstract: *Although the challenge of youth unemployment in Somalia has so clear to everyone, but now, the Main purpose of this article was to explore the youth unemployment and how it affects the national security in Mogadishu Somalia; specifically, the core objectives were, to find out the factors influence youth unemployment in Mogadishu Somali. And to identify the effects of youth unemployment on National security in Mogadishu Somalia. The most respondents who participated this article were male respondents 71.64%. and most of them have bachelors as you can see it was 43%. The sample size of this Article was eighty (67) respondents including Some Security officers, and some politicians who live in Mogadishu. In this Article the sample was reached through the Slovin’s formula. The study was conducted through descriptive research design and used questionnaires as the main instrument for collecting data. Data was analyzed using SPSS by assessing the frequency of respondents per question. The findings of this Article have shown that there were many factors that influence youth unemployment but it is obtained that 86% of the respondents said the most influential factor is the massive number of graduates and less job market opportunity while 87.8% of them said that Unemployment among the youth is the reason that has allowed anyone who wish to threaten the national security find youth to serve and exposed to any ideology that terrify national security. Lastly there was another question that determines Will increased employment reduced the threats of National security? And 76.4% of the respondents said yes that employment will reduce the threats of national security. The Article recommends that: The government should establish a lot of job opportunities to the youth and generate a policy to improve the level education and skills of Somali Youth. INGOs and Local NGOs in Somalia should strengthen and take part their role towards the direction of Somali Youth and creation of various job opportunities.*

Keywords: Youth unemployment and National Security

1. Introduction

Though challenges of unemployment are a general phenomenon for the whole world, but when it comes to Africa the situations seem somehow very painful because African youth don’t get numerous work opportunity even if they graduated different educational fields. Despite Somali youth unemployment conditions have special problematic that caused the weak government they live in.

According to the Report that made SSA (Somali Students Association) stated that each year more than 2000 youth graduate from the Universities and they don’t have where they work, in addition to that We know that 70% or more Somali population are youth.

Unemployment and national security are major issues in the world today. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO) data, the number of young unemployed between the ages of 15 and 24 has reached 74.2 million in 2008, accounting for 40 percent of total unemployment. Due to this fact, the number of unemployed youths was projected to reach 78-90 million as at the end of 2009.

The ILO (2007) report showed that the proportions of world unemployment are steadily increasing and that the number of those without jobs remained at an all-time high of more than 195 million, or 6.3 percent, in 2007. For instance, during that period (2007), the Middle East and North Africa were the regions with the highest unemployment rate in the world at 12.2 percent, followed by sub-Saharan Africa at nearly 10 percent.

Somalia Youth Unemployment Rate 1991-2021 – Historical Data

Year	% Of Total Labor Force Ages 15-24	Annual Change
2019	19.82%	-0.16%
2018	19.98%	-0.24%
2017	20.22%	-0.27%
2016	20.49%	-0.17%
2015	20.66%	-0.16%
2014	20.82%	-0.21%
2013	21.03%	-0.05%
2012	21.08%	-0.06%
2011	21.14%	-0.09%
2010	21.23%	0.02%
2009	21.21%	0.53%
2008	20.68%	-0.19%
2007	20.87%	-0.32%

Source: World Bank

It’s known that youth unemployment in any country has a huge effect on various things like security and stability, but when you see the annual change rate in Somalia doesn’t a big difference starting from 2007 to 2019.

Unemployment, youth male (% of male labor force ages 15-24) (modeled ILO estimate) in Somalia was reported at 17.13 % in 2020, according to the World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially recognized sources.

Somalia-Unemployment, youth male (% of male labor force ages 15-24)-actual values, historical data, forecasts and projections were sourced from the World Bank on October of 2021.

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In the East African nation of Somalia, youth unemployment is a major problem. According to recent figures, 41% of young people between the ages of 15 and 19 are looking for work.

The Youth unemployment has negative relation to the National security. Because youth unemployment is the most important factors can easily take part national insecurity.

The present security threat in Somalia is that the Al-Shabab 's attacks on the regime and the country at large. The future threat to its national security is the matter of youth unemployment which stresses attention from the government.

On the other hand, national security is the requirement to maintain the survival of the state through the use of economy, diplomacy, power projection, and political power. National security initially focused on military strength of a country.

The concept was developed mostly in the United States of America after the World War II. But presently, the concept has encompassed non-military security such as economic security, energy security, food security etc. Security threats can come in any form.

For example, when you read the issue of Nigeriathe present security threat in Nigeria is that the Boko Haram terrorist attacks on the government and the country at large. The upcoming threat to its national security is the issue of youth unemployment which demands attention from the government.

In other words, job/employment security is essential because in order to possess national security, a nation needs to possess not only economic security, energy security, food security but also employment security for its youth population.

Thus, employment opportunities are included in national security for without it, national security is incomplete and will have more effects on it.

Therefore, there is a need to look into the effect of youth unemployment on national security and the possible solution to it for the sustainability of national security.

National security then is the ability to conserve the nation's physical integrity and territory; to keep up its economic relations with the rest of the world on realistic terms; to defend its nature, institution, and governance from disruption from outside; and to control its borders. (Harold Brown, U. S. Secretary of Defense, 1977-1981).

National and international security] may be understood as a mutual freedom from fear and want, and the freedom to live in dignity. It implies social and environmental health rather than the absence of risk. . . [And is] a common right. (Ammerdown Group, 2016).

These different types of National security will have negative relation to youth Unemployment. Because youth

unemployment is the fundamental of national security since they are fresh and they are seeking different thinks this can easily bring to use their power in a wrong way.

The main aim why I choose this article, the most skilled and knowledgeable Somali Youth are struggling to get job opportunity, therefore I tried to know the reason and the way it can solve that challenge.

Objectives of the Article

Although the title seems a huge one, the following specific objectives will guide and focus the Article:-

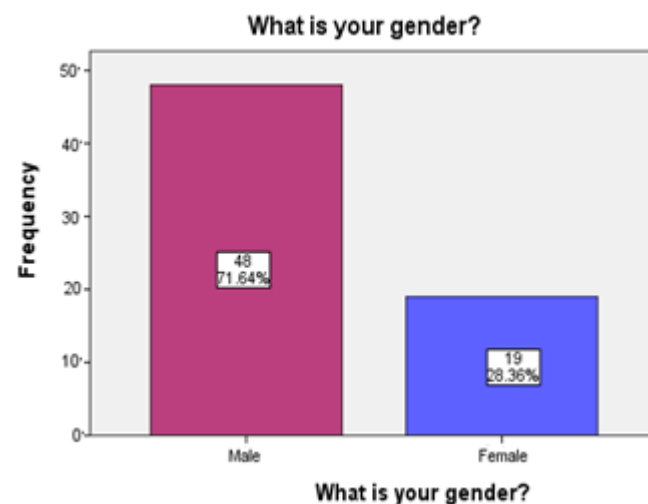
- 1) To identify factors influencing youth unemployment in Mogadishu Somalia.
- 2) To examine the effects of youth unemployment on National security in Mogadishu Somalia.

2. Methodology

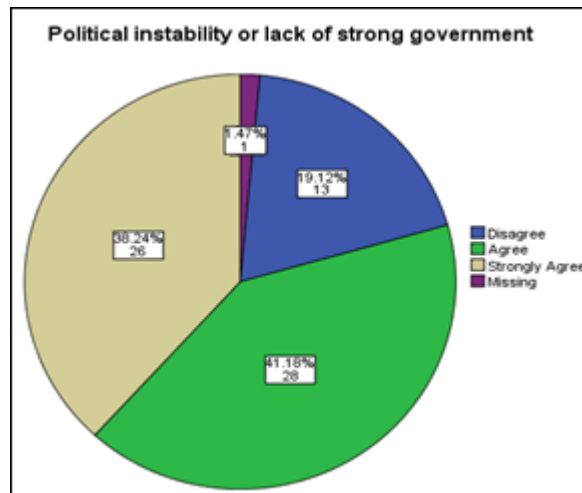
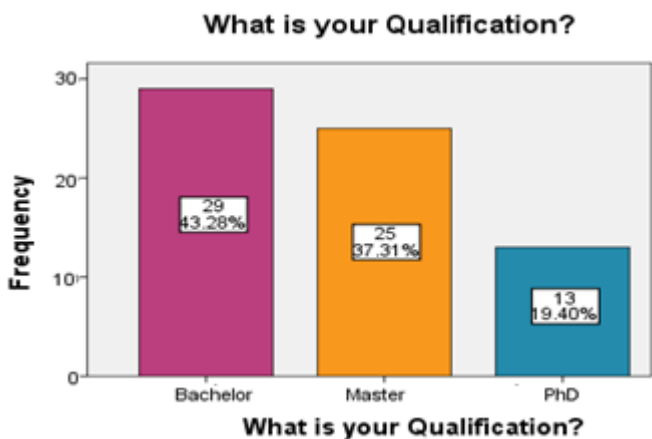
Method and Materials

During my investigation descriptive statistics was used to quantify frequencies and to describe the current conditions and also to investigate youth unemployment and its effects of national security gained from the respondents. I met some Somali experts to ask them few questions towards my article which is youth unemployment and how it becomes a threat to our national security, thus as an author for this articlespent enough time to know the link b/w these two factors.

Questionnaire Design was used as data collection method. the total target population for this article was 80 Respondents who are working for some security organizations in the government, the minimum sample size is 67 respondents and was computed using the Slovin's formula which is $n = \frac{N}{1+N(0.052)}$, where n = sample size, N = study population and 0.05 = level of significance margin of error (Amin, 2005).

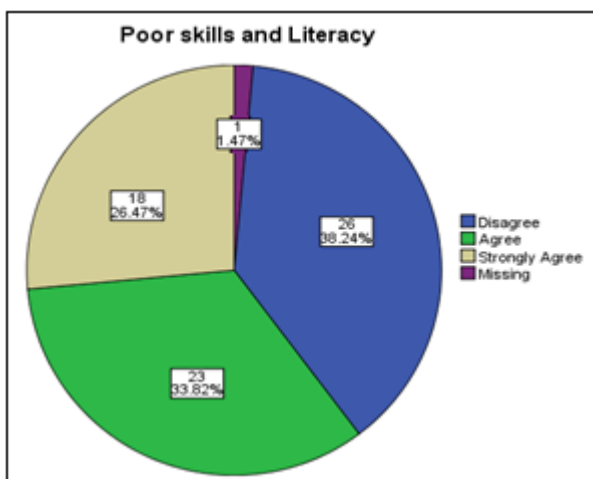


As a result, 71.64 percent of those who responded to this article were male, while 28.36 percent were female, indicating that male respondents outnumbered female respondents.

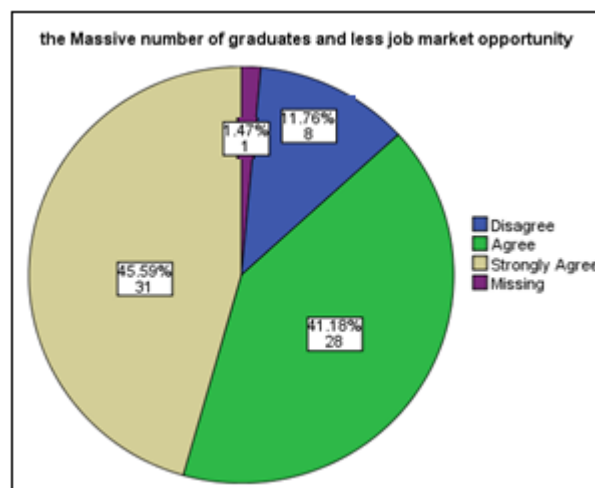


Consequently, when it comes about the Qualifications of the Respondents, 43% have had bachelors, 37% have had masters and 19% have had PhDs. Therefore:-the implication of this Result indicates that Majority of the Respondents have had Bachelors.

Following that, 38% of the respondents said strongly agree that political instability or lack of strong government is one of the factors that influence youth unemployment and 41% also agreed to the same idea. Conversely, 19% of the respondents disagreed that political instability or lack of strong government is a factor that effect youth unemployment. Henceforth 79% which is the majority of the respondents agreed that political instability or lack of strong government is one of the factors that influence youth unemployment.



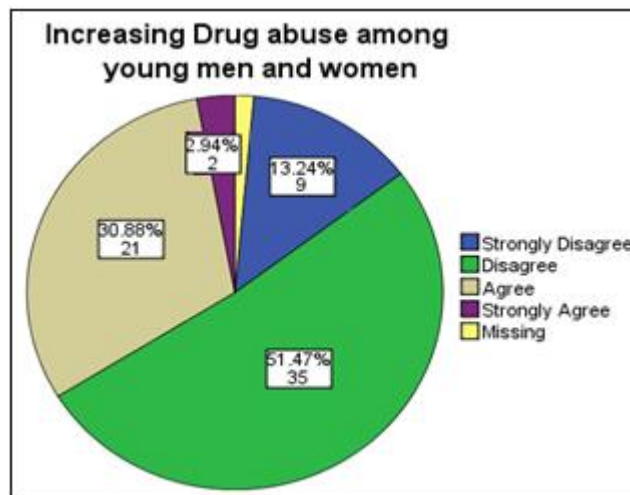
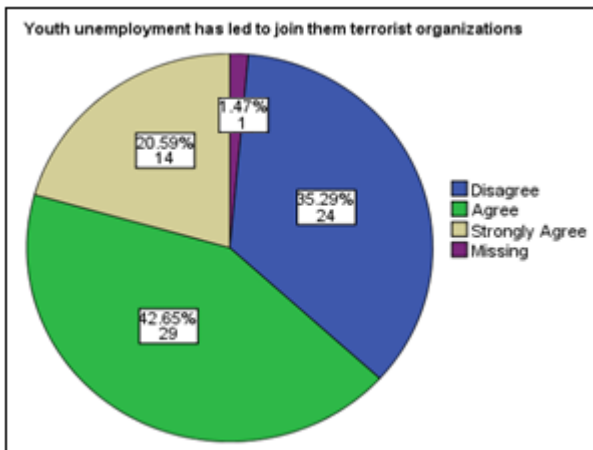
Subsequently, talking towards factors that influence the Youth unemployment, 33% of the respondents Agreed that poor skills and literate is the main factor of youth unemployment, 26% of the respondents also said strongly agree in the same factor.



On the other hand, 38% of the Respondents were said Disagree that poor skills and literate is the factor that influence youth unemployment. Thus, The Implication of this Analysis were 60% of them said that poor skills and literate are the major factor of youth Unemployment.

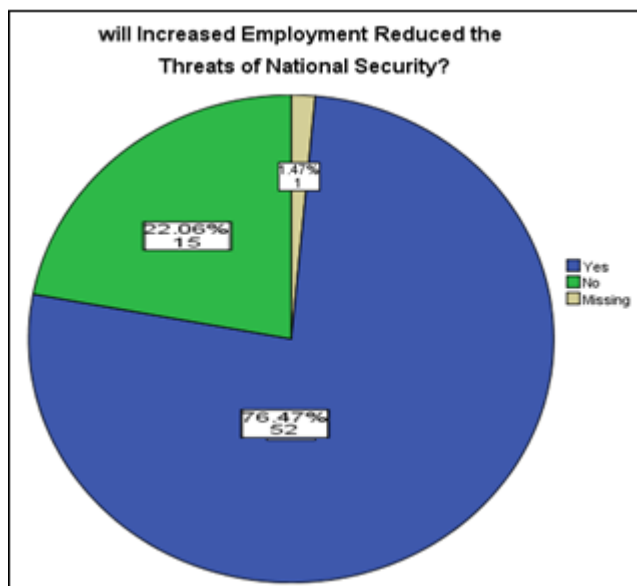
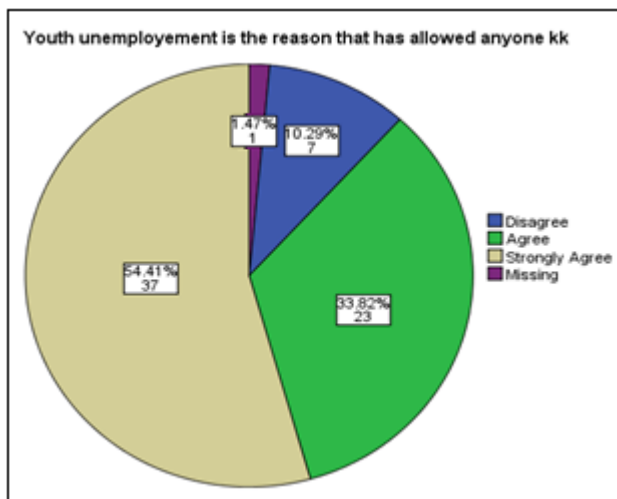
Coupled with, 45% of the respondents strongly agreed that the massive number of graduates and less job market opportunity is the main factor of youth unemployment, 41% of the respondents also agreed in the same factor.

On the contrary, 11% of the Respondents were said Disagree that the massive number of graduates and less job market opportunity is the factor that influence youth unemployment. Thus, The Implication of this Analysis were 86% of them said that the massive number of graduates and less job market opportunity are the major factors of youth Unemployment.



Later, to talk about the second objective for this article, 42%, 20.5% of the respondents said agree and strongly agree respectively that Youth unemployment has led them to join terrorist organizations such as al-Shabaab and ISIS for a source of income. Conversely, 35.2% of the respondents disagreed that idea. Henceforward 62.5% which is the majority of the respondents agreed that Youth unemployment has led them to join terrorist organizations such as al-Shabaab and ISIS for a source of income.

Subsequently, 51.4%, 13.2% of the respondents said disagree and strongly disagree respectively that Increasing drug abuse among young men and women who needs to ignore the unemployment situation can also harms the national security. Conversely, 33% of the respondents agreed that idea. Henceforth 64.2% which is the majority of the respondents disagreed that Increasing drug abuse among young men and women who needs to ignore the unemployment situation can also harms the national security.



Then, 54% of the respondents strongly agreed that Unemployment among the youth is the reason that has allowed anyone who wish to threaten the national security find youth to serve and exposed to any ideology that terrify national security. 33.8% of the respondents also said agree in the same argument.

The last Question to this article talks about will increased employment reduced the threats of national security? Then, 76.4% of the respondents said yes that employment will reduce the threats of national security while 22% of them said no for that idea. Therefore: the implication of this result seems positive because most respondents said yes indicating that youth employment will certainly reduce the threats of national security.

On the other hand, 10.2% of the Respondents were said Disagree that Unemployment among the youth is the reason that has allowed anyone who wish to threaten the national security find youth to serve and exposed to any ideology that terrify national security.

Thus, The Implication of this Analysis were 87.8% of them said that Unemployment among the youth is the reason that has allowed anyone who wish to threaten the national security find youth to serve and exposed to any ideology that terrify national security.

3. Literature Review

Unemployment

Unemployment is not entirely a recent phenomenon. It existed during the pre-classical era, but its implication took precedence only after the post-World War era. From his

book “Unemployment and the Economists” Bernard Corry stated that it was Keynes who first gave importance to this so called “mercantilist literature”, later elucidated by other economists. The unemployment problem was not a priority during the classical period. Rather, poverty was given more importance. However, by the late 19th century, the issue of poverty and unemployment both became priorities.

The unemployment issue became very dominant by mid-20th century, especially during and after World War II, owing to the situation during and after the war, which demonstrated that a fully employed economy would enhance the profits in the National Income. (Corry, 1996).

The International Labor Organization (ILO, 2013) defines the unemployed as numbers of the economically active population who are without work but available for and seeking work, including people who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work (Condratov, 2014). However, this definition does not account for the percentage of unemployed youth across the world (Ellonen&Nätti, 2015). While some developing countries and developed countries are experiencing a higher rate, some are at the moderate/lower level. The alarming rise in youth unemployment and the equally disturbing high levels of young people who work but still live in poverty shows how difficult it will be to reach the global goal to end poverty by 2030 unless we redouble our efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth and decent work (World Bank, 2014).

According to Brain Riechi (2019) stated that, the consequences of unemployment are not short lived; rather they create a sudden disorder in the society, prolonging with a “ripple effect” starting at a very negligible level, rising to an 7 extensive effect beginning from the society, then to the nation and eventually the globe in the long run. There are two schools of thought on the long-term effects of youth unemployment. Researchers refer to the first explanation as state dependence and second explanation as the heterogeneity.

Youth Unemployment

Youth unemployment is increasingly recognized as a driver of instability and violence in many African countries. Young people are potentially a tremendous force for change in conflict-affected countries, both positively and negatively.

Accordingly, it has been suggested that large rates of youth unemployment make countries unstable in general and thus more prone to armed conflict. In a 2013 study by the African Development Bank (AfDB) on the effects of youth unemployment on political instability, the authors find empirical evidence that youth unemployment is significantly associated with an increase in the risk of political instability, particularly in countries where youth unemployment, as well as social inequalities and corruption, are high (ECDPM, 2019).

In Somalia, Overall unemployment among people aged 15 to 64 is estimated at 54 per cent in 2012. The unemployment rate for youth aged 14 to 29 is 67 per cent, one of the highest

rates in the world. Females experience higher unemployment than males, 74 per cent and 61 per cent respectively. The majority of unpaid family workers are young women who carry out household work due to entrenched traditional gender roles. A high labor force participation rate for youth, estimated at 66 per cent, further reflects lost opportunities for many who might otherwise attend school and acquire skills that could raise their future productivity and employment opportunities (OCHA, 2014).

Somalia have gone through various governmental structures from 1991 till now in 2017, as there had been number of years where country lacked an active regime which can control the extreme rate of unemployment which is making an increase every year.

But, as (Human Development Index, 2012) Indicates there is an urgent necessity to develop, implement and monitor integrated national policy frameworks, including national employment strategies with dedicated action plans on youth employment, as well as coherent sectoral policies. Unemployment in Somalia have enforced a lot of people to leave the country and migrate in search of an improved life through dangerous journeys through deserts and seas. More than 60% of youth have intents to leave the country for better living opportunities.

Less previous unemployment studies have conducted in Somalia like for those of Hamza Sh. & Mahbub Sh. & Ibrahim (2014) studied the effects of unemployment in Mogadishu, Somalia also their study was quantitative approach in which descriptive and inferential methods were analyzed the data. But this study is totally different from their because it is a time series data with the period of 1991 to 2014 and the study intends to identify the causes of unemployment in Somalia under the study period.

According to ILO (2010) defines Unemployment as without a job, want a job, have actively sought work in the last 4 weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks or out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start it in the next two weeks. Gross Capital Formation is defined as that part of country’s current output and imports which is not consumed or exported during the accounting period, but is set aside as an addition to its stock of capital goods (Haryana, 2014).

According to (Imran &Sial, 2013) studied the impact of gross fixed capital formation, trade openness and wage proxy on employment in Pakistan. With the use of time series data from 1997 to 2010. To determine the long run relationship study applied cointegration test and to check the properties of time series data the researchers used Unit root test. Results of the study suggests that there are two cointegrating vectors under the study period.

National Security

Since the fall of Siad Barre, armed conflict in Somalia has been characterized by the popular rejection of a centralized-state and subsequent lack of consensus on what structure and form the state should develop. In the absence of a central security sector, clan and local-based militias have proliferated to provide security organized around personal,

family, and sub-clan relationships. As they evolved from occasional to permanent security functions, militias have also become self-financed, being the primary source of 'revenue' extraction, e. g. through holding of infrastructure points and extra-legally taxing markets. (GMF07, AFRICA 2017).

National insecurity is caused by the failure of national government to address the special needs of its people. Such needs include hunger, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, inequality, injustice among others.

However, the issues of poverty, hunger, illiteracy, unemployment are interwoven because one aspect may be responsible for the manifestation of another. Let us now see the correlation between unemployment, illiteracy and national security. . (Bahir Dar, 2015).

National insecurity is not all about absence of threat, violence, killings or better still human security, environmental security, economic security, social, cultural security and space security. These other securities are for the utilization of man. Man lives and depends on environment for his other activities to thrive. Without viable economic security the essence of man would be totally unparallel to life. Social security has to do with interactions of people through exchanges in wealth, recreation, etc while space security has to do with the wind, water, and other constituents of the cosmos has direct link with man.

So, poverty and illiteracy can destroy the bases of these securities. National occurrences such as flood, desertification, earthquake, are man's creation, just as modern slavery (human trafficking) and all these are aspects of national insecurity.

National insecurity is a condition in nation's development where life is threatened as a result of lapses in governance which have adverse effect on food security, youth employment, health conditions of the people and in the long run breed violence — kidnapping, armed robbery, assassinations, ethno-religious crisis, piracy, human trafficking, religious crises, and or civil wars. (Bahir Dar, 2015).

What National Security Is Not?

It is true in life, as in strategic planning, that if you try to do everything, you will likely end up doing few things right? America's definitions of national security should be guided not only by a sensible understanding of what is truly vital to the nation's security, but also by what the nation can practically expect the government to do and not to do. It is particularly important that the Department of Defense and armed forces understand this point. (Kim R. Holmes, 2015).

An "all of the above" definition of national security, which primarily suits political constituencies, will only lead to confusion, waste, distractions, and possibly even military failures as the U. S. government is asked to do things that are either beyond its capacity or, worse, tangential to the real mission of protecting the country from harm.

It is thus critical to identify what national security is not. The best way to do this is to establish clear criteria for what exactly constitutes a threat to national security. (Kim R. Holmes, 2015).

Unemployment and the national Security

Youth Employment as a Vehicle for Enhancing National Security. According to Dr (Mrs.) T. C. OgbuanyaOfonmbuk Michael (2015) Youth (a stage in life between adolescence and adulthood) constitutes a large proportion of Nigeria's population but despite their critical role in nations building, it is often observed that the country has not invested seriously in youth; thereby making them an army involved in unprofitable activities. Analysts believe that individual insecurity, which can be financial, job, material, economic and psychological will translate into insecurity in the society when it is not adequately addressed at the individual level.

The youth form the engine room of the labor force and represent the future of any nation. A vision of prosperous, peaceful and technologically-advanced society is therefore unrealizable in an environment where youths are not properly groomed and positioned. This is because the energy, skills and aspirations of the youths are invaluable assets that no country can afford to squander.

Also, the youths are the backbone of the development of the country. Indeed, if Nigeria is to be sustained as a viable entity there must be a very good plan to tap that energy and resourcefulness of the youth population to fast track economic development (Aiyede, 2010).

Really, sustainable development lies at the heart of the TVET system, and become the platform among the society it serves (Chepkemi, Watindi, Cheron, Ng' isirai&Rono, 2012). However, creating employment for the youths is vital on many levels. Politically, employment opportunities give the population a stake in the peace process by providing young men and women with alternatives to violence.

Economically, employment provides income to poor families, revives domestic demand for goods and services and stimulates overall growth. Socially, employment promotes social healing and improves social welfare. As a matter of fact, an idle youth could be seen as a devil's workshop in that various kinds of social vices are being identified with such youth.

Therefore, the employment of youth has positive implications for economic growth, political stability and national security. National security could be seen as a precondition for maintaining the survival, growth and development of any state.

4. Conclusions

In generally the article was established the two main specific objectives which are:-

- 1) To identify factors influencing youth unemployment in Mogadishu Somalia.
- 2) To examine the effects of youth unemployment on National security in Mogadishu Somalia.

After developed a lot of efforts to explore the effect of Somali Youth unemployment on national security. It's found that there are various factors that effects Somali youth unemployment but factors those needed to examine during this article were poor skills and literate, political instability or lack of strong government and the massive number of graduates and the less job market opportunity.

On the other hand, there were different ways that Youth unemployment influences the national security, the established ways that needs to assess within the article were Youth unemployment has led them to join terrorist organizations such as al-Shabaab and ISIS for a source of income, Unemployment among the youth is the reason that has allowed anyone who wish to threaten the national security find youth to serve and exposed to any ideology that terrify national security. And Increasing drug abuse among young men and women who needs to ignore the unemployment situation can also harms the national security.

Therefore:-It is concluded that there were many factors that influence youth unemployment but it is obtained that 86% of the respondents said the most influential factor is the massive number of graduates and less job market opportunity while 87.8% of them said that Unemployment among the youth is the reason that has allowed anyone who wish to threaten the national security find youth to serve and exposed to any ideology that terrify national security. Lastly there was another question that determines Will increased employment reduced the threats of National security? For that Question 76.4% of the respondents said yes that employment will reduce the threats of national security, so it encourages to create Numerous job opportunities to prevent the risk factor for the national Security.

5. Recommendations

The following recommendations are derived the findings and conclusions of the article:

- 1) The Somali Government should establish a policy to strengthen the quality of the high education
- 2) The Somali government should prepare a numerous of job opportunities to advocate Somali youth
- 3) The Somali government should create a place for skills to train Somali youth
- 4) INGOs should fully contribute a campaign of job creation to support Somali Youth
- 5) LNGOs also should work together with government to reinforce the skills and capacity building to the Somali Youth

6. Acknowledgement

The Author needs to express his gratitude to Somali National University, specially, Training office for their office equipment support and encouragements. Also, the author needs to convey his gratitude to Hon Somali Member of Parliament Abdikadir Osoble Ali for his participation and Moral support to finalize this article

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Appendix:-Article's Questionnaire

Article on:- **Youth unemployment and its effects on National Security**

Case study:-Some selected Security Organizations in Mogadishu-Somalia.

Mr. Hassan Mohamed Yusuf "UKUMEY"

Head of Training department at Somali National University

Thank you for participating in this process of finding the facts about the perception of Youth unemployment on National Security in some selected Security Organizations in Mogadishu-Somalia.

The Article is geared towards contributing to how Somali Youth perceive the basic background of unemployment and its effect on national security.

Objectives of the study

- 1) To identify factors influencing youth unemployment in Mogadishu, Somalia.
- 2) To examine the effects of youth unemployment on National security in Mogadishu Somalia.

Your answers will be treated with strictly confidentiality and will only be used for awareness development purposes.

Questionnaires**FACE SHEET: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS**

Tick the appropriate box

1. Gender: Male Female

2. What are your academic qualifications?

Bachelor Master PhD

3. To investigate and identify factors influencing youth unemployment in Mogadishu Somalia.

Direction: indicate your best choice by using the rating scale below:

Response Mode Rating Description

Strongly Agree (4) Agree with no doubt at all

Agree (3) Agree with some doubt

Disagree (2) Disagree with some doubt

Strongly disagree (1) Disagree with no doubt at all

Factors influencing youth unemployment in mogadishu, Somalia	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A. Poor skills and literacy				
B. Political instability or lack of strong government				
C. The massive number of graduates and less job market opportunity				

4. The effects of youth unemployment on national security in Mogadishu Somalia.

Direction: indicate your best choice by using the rating scale below:

Response Mode Rating Description

Strongly Agree (4) Agree with no doubt at all

Agree (3) Agree with some doubt

Disagree (2) Disagree with some doubt

Strongly disagree (1) Disagree with no doubt at all

The effects of youth unemployment on national security in Mogadishu Somalia.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A. Youth unemployment has led them to join terrorist organizations such as al-Shabaab and ISIS for a source of income.				
B. Unemployment among the youth is the reason that has allowed anyone who wish to threaten the national security find youth to serve and exposed to any ideology that terrify national security.				
C. Increasing drug abuse among young men and women who needs to ignore the unemployment situation can also harms the national security.				

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5. Will increased employment reduced the threats of National security?

Yes No

Questionnaire Source:-by the Author

Thanks for your participation