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Regression Analysis on the Influence of Fiscal Development to Youth Unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government, Rivers State

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Abstract

This study examined the influence of fiscal development on youth unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. The persistent increase in youth unemployment despite the implementation of various government fiscal development programmes necessitated this investigation. Specifically, the study examined the relationship between fiscal development and youth unemployment, the influence of infrastructural development on youth unemployment, the effects of industrial and business activities on youth employment opportunities, and the contribution of educational and skill acquisition opportunities to reducing youth unemployment in the study area. A descriptive survey research design was adopted. The study population comprised youths in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area, from which a sample of 200 respondents was selected using a simple random sampling technique. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire designed on a five-point Likert scale. The instrument was validated by experts, while its reliability was established using Cronbach's Alpha, which produced a coefficient of 0.81. The collected data were analysed using descriptive statistical techniques, including frequencies and percentages, while regression analysis was employed to test the research hypothesis at the 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that fiscal development has a statistically significant influence on youth unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area. The results further indicated that infrastructural development, industrial and business activities, as well as educational and skill acquisition opportunities, significantly influence youth employment outcomes. The study concluded that inadequate fiscal development contributes to the persistent problem of youth unemployment in the study area. Based on these findings, the study recommended increased government investment in infrastructure, the promotion of industrial development, the strengthening of vocational and skill acquisition programmes, and greater support for entrepreneurship initiatives to address youth unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area and Nigeria as a whole.

Keywords: *Fiscal Development, Youth Unemployment, Infrastructural Development, Industrial Development, Business Activities, Educational Opportunities, Skill Acquisition, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area.*

Introduction

Fiscal development is one of the major indicators used to determine the level of growth and progress of a nation. It involves the improvement of living standards, reduction in poverty, increase in employment opportunities, improvement in infrastructure, and enhancement of human capital development. In many developing countries, especially Nigeria, Fiscal development has become a major concern because of the increasing rate of unemployment, particularly among youths. Youth unemployment has continued to pose serious social, political, and Fiscal challenges to the country despite several Fiscal reforms and developmental programmes introduced by the government.

Youth unemployment is a situation when young individuals who are eligible to work cannot find jobs. According to the ICE, unemployed adolescents are economically engaged youths who are searching for work but are yet to find jobs. Youth unemployment is worrying in Nigeria due to the fast-growing youth population, low industrial development, lack of infrastructure, and bad implementation of Fiscal

policies. The incapacity of the economy to absorb the growing labour force has been a major factor responsible for the rise in poverty, crime, insecurity, drug misuse, political thuggery, and social restiveness among the youth.

Fiscal development and unemployment are closely related variables in Fiscal analysis. A well-developed economy is expected to generate employment opportunities through industrialization, agricultural expansion, entrepreneurship, infrastructural development, and investment promotion. However, where Fiscal growth does not translate into employment generation, the situation is referred to as "jobless growth." In Nigeria, despite periods of Fiscal growth, unemployment rates among youths have remained high, indicating that Fiscal development has not adequately impacted job creation.

Regression analysis is a statistical technique of analysing the relationship between Fiscal variables. It aids in identifying the extent to which one variable can affect another. Therefore, this study used regression to investigate the impact of Fiscal development on youth unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. Specifically, the study will assess whether development indices such as level of income, infrastructural development, level of industrial activity, level of educational possibilities, government investments, etc. can significantly impact young unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Rivers State is one of the states in North-Central Nigeria endowed with abundant mineral and agricultural resources. Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area, located in the southern part of the state, possesses considerable Fiscal potentials, especially in agriculture and small-scale commercial activities. Despite these resources, many youths in the area remain unemployed or underemployed. This situation raises concerns regarding the effectiveness of Fiscal development initiatives in reducing unemployment among youths in the locality.

Several government programmes have been introduced at both federal and state levels to address unemployment and stimulate Fiscal development. Such programmes include the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YouWiN), N-Power Programme, Small and Medium Enterprise Development initiatives, and agricultural empowerment schemes. However, the persistence of youth unemployment suggests that these programmes may not have achieved their intended objectives in many rural and semi-urban communities such as Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area.

The relationship between Fiscal development and youth unemployment has attracted scholarly attention over the years. Studies have shown that inadequate Fiscal planning, poor governance, corruption, low investment in productive sectors, and poor educational systems contribute to unemployment among youths. Furthermore, lack of vocational skills and limited access to finance have hindered youth participation in entrepreneurial activities. Consequently, many youths migrate from rural areas to urban centres in search of employment opportunities, thereby increasing urban unemployment and social pressure.

Theoretical perspectives such as Keynesian theory emphasize the role of government expenditure and investment in stimulating employment and Fiscal activities. Human capital theory also stresses the importance of education and skill acquisition in enhancing employability and Fiscal productivity. These theories provide useful explanations for understanding the relationship between Fiscal development and unemployment among youths.

In Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area, Fiscal activities are mainly dominated by farming, petty trading, and small-scale enterprises. However, the level of industrialization remains low, and infrastructural facilities such as roads, electricity, and access to credit are inadequate. This situation affects business growth and limits employment opportunities available to youths. Therefore, there is a need to empirically examine how Fiscal development affects youth unemployment in the area using regression analysis.

This study is important because it will contribute to existing literature on unemployment and Fiscal development in Nigeria. It will also provide useful information for policymakers, development planners, and government agencies on strategies for reducing youth unemployment through sustainable Fiscal development initiatives.

Research Design

The descriptive survey research design was used in the study. The design was found appropriate as it allows the researcher to collect information from the respondents that would provide information about their opinion, attitude and perception on the relationship between Fiscal development and youth unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area. It also helps to gather quantitative data by asking questions, and the data can be analysed by regression analysis and other appropriate statistical methods.

Additionally, the descriptive survey design gives the chance to acquire information from a reasonably big population and draw conclusions from the answers for the sample selected. In addition, it is appropriate for studying

the relationship between variables such as the level of infrastructure, industrial activity, education, and youth unemployment.

Area of the Study

The study was carried out in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. The local government area is located in the north-western part of Rivers State in Orashi River Basin with various agricultural and commercial activities. The communities are engaged in various economic activities such as agriculture, petty trading and small-scale business activities, which are an important source of livelihood to the people.

The study is conducted in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area (LGA), as there was a problem of youth unemployment despite the agricultural and economic potentials of the area. Several developmental challenges are faced by the area, such as inadequate infrastructure, limited industrial development, flooding, and limited employment opportunities for the young people. The socio-economic characteristics put the area on the agenda to study the link between fiscal development and youth unemployment.

Population of the Study

The population of the study were youths of Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. Both employed and un-employed youth, students, businessmen, artisans and other economically active people in the area under study were targeted.

The population selected for this study was 2000 youths from selected communities in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area, with the estimated population of 2000. This population was deemed adequate because the youth form a population directly impacted by conditions of employment and government policies on fiscal development in the area.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The number of respondents for the study was 200 respondents from the population of 2000 youths. The sample was 10% of the estimated population and was determined to be sufficient to provide information that was pertinent to the research goals.

Simple random sampling method was used to choose the respondents. This technique provides every eligible member of the population with an equal opportunity of being selected for participation in the study. Participants were selected from different communities of Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area to ensure fair representation and reflect the various perspectives of the fiscal development and unemployment among the youth.

Instrument for Data Collection

The researcher's structured questionnaire was the main research tool employed for data collection. The questionnaire was designed in two parts A and B.

The demographic characteristics of the respondents were explored in section A, which included gender, age, marital status, educational qualification, occupation and duration of residence in the study area.

The questions concerning the research objectives, questions and variables studied were included in Section B. They were presented on a 5-point Likert scale (Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Undecided (U), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD)). The questions covered topics of fiscal development, infrastructural development, industrial and business activities, educational opportunities, skill acquisition programmes and youth unemployment.

Validity of the Instrument

Validity is the degree of accuracy that a research instrument measures the variables that it is designed to investigate. The instrument was sent to the project supervisor and other experts in research methodology for careful scrutiny and evaluation so as to establish the validity of the instrument.

The observations, corrections and recommendations made by the supervisor and other experts were included into the final questionnaire. This process ensured that the items of the questionnaire were relevant, well-worded and sufficiently related to the research objectives and questions. Therefore, the face and content validity were achieved to ensure the suitability of the instrument to collect the data.

Reliability of the Instrument

Reliability is a degree of consistency and dependability of the research tool used to measure variables. The reliability of the instrument was determined by giving a pilot test to the 20 respondents who were not in the study area but had similar characteristics with the target respondents.

Cronbach's Alpha reliability method was used in the pilot study to analyze the data. A reliability coefficient of 0.81 was obtained, which means it is reliable and suitable for the study.

Method of Data Collection

With the help of trained research assistants, the researcher personally handed out copies of the questionnaire to the respondents in the study area, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area. The respondents were informed of the purpose of the study before the questionnaire was administered.

The respondents had ample time to fill in the questionnaire and returned completed questionnaires immediately to

maximise return. The researcher made sure that respondents volunteer to participate and assured them that all their responses would be held in confidence.

Method of Data Analysis

Data obtained for the study was analyzed with descriptive and inferential statistics. Demographic information and research questions were analyzed using descriptive statistics including frequency counts, percentages, mean and standard deviation.

The method of regression analysis was used to analyze the effect of fiscal development on youth unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni local government area of Rivers state.

Y=a+bX+e

Where:

- Y = Youth Unemployment
- a = Constant
- b = Regression Coefficient
- X = Fiscal Development Variables
- e = Error Term

The hypothesis formulated for the study was tested using regression statistical technique at 0.05 level of significance. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for the analysis of data collected during the study.

4.2 Presentation of Demographic Data

Table 4.1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	110	57.9
Female	80	42.1
Total	190	100

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

The table above shows that 110 respondents representing 57.9% were male, while 80 respondents representing 42.1% were female. This indicates that majority of the respondents were male.

Table 4.2: Distribution of Respondents by Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18–25 years	70	36.8
26–35 years	65	34.2
36–45 years	35	18.4
46 years and above	20	10.6
Total	190	100

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

The table reveals that 70 respondents representing 36.8% were between 18–25 years, 65 respondents representing 34.2% were between 26–35 years, 35 respondents representing 18.4% were between 36–45 years, while 20 respondents representing 10.6% were 46 years and above. This implies that majority of the respondents were youths within active working age.

Table 4.3: Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	95	50.0
Married	70	36.8
Divorced	15	7.9
Widowed	10	5.3
Total	190	100

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

The table above indicates that 95 respondents representing 50.0% were single, 70 respondents representing 36.8% were married, 15 respondents representing 7.9% were divorced, while 10 respondents representing 5.3% were widowed. This shows that majority of the respondents were single.

Table 4.4: Distribution of Respondents by Educational Qualification

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Primary Education	20	10.5
Secondary Education	50	26.3
OND/NCE	45	23.7
HND/B.Sc.	60	31.6
Postgraduate	15	7.9
Total	190	100

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

The table shows that 20 respondents representing 10.5% had primary education, 50 respondents representing 26.3% had secondary education, 45 respondents representing 23.7% possessed OND/NCE certificates, 60 respondents representing 31.6% possessed HND/B.Sc., while 15 respondents representing 7.9% had postgraduate qualifications. This implies that majority of the respondents were educated.

Table 4.5: Distribution of Respondents by Occupation

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Student	35	18.4
Civil Servant	30	15.8
Self-employed	45	23.7
Unemployed	50	26.3
Farmer	20	10.5
Others	10	5.3
Total	190	100

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

The table above indicates that 35 respondents representing 18.4% were students, 30 respondents representing 15.8%

were civil servants, 45 respondents representing 23.7% were self-employed, 50 respondents representing 26.3% were unemployed, 20 respondents representing 10.5% were farmers, while 10 respondents representing 5.3% belonged to other occupations. This indicates that unemployment among youths remains high in the study area.

Table 4.6: Distribution of Respondents by Duration of Residence in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni L.G.A.

Duration	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1–5 years	55	28.9
6–10 years	65	34.2
11 years and above	70	36.9
Total	190	100

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

The table reveals that 55 respondents representing 28.9% had lived in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area for 1–5 years, 65 respondents representing 34.2% had stayed for 6–10 years, while 70 respondents representing 36.9% had resided in the area for 11 years and above. This implies that majority of the respondents were familiar with the socio-Fiscal conditions of the study area.

4.3 Analysis of Research Questions

Research Question One

What relationship exists between Fiscal development and youth unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area?

Table 4.7: Responses on Relationship between Fiscal Development and Youth Unemployment

Items	SA	A	U	D	SD	Total
Fiscal development contributes to reduction in youth unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area.	80	60	15	20	15	190
Lack of Fiscal development has increased unemployment among youths in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area.	75	65	10	25	15	190
Government Fiscal programmes have improved employment opportunities for youths in the study area.	50	55	20	40	25	190

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

The responses above indicate that majority of the respondents agreed that Fiscal development contributes to reduction in youth unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area. Respondents also agreed that lack of Fiscal development has increased unemployment among youths in the area.

Research Question Two

To what extent does infrastructural development affect youth unemployment in the study area?

Table 4.8: Responses on influence of Infrastructural Development on Youth Unemployment

Items	SA	A	U	D	SD	Total
Good road networks promote employment opportunities for youths in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area.	78	62	10	25	15	190
Poor electricity supply negatively affects business activities and youth employment.	85	60	8	20	17	190
Availability of infrastructure encourages business growth and job creation for youths.	82	58	12	23	15	190

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

The findings reveal that respondents strongly agreed that infrastructural development affects youth employment opportunities. Majority agreed that poor electricity supply and inadequate infrastructure negatively affect business growth and job creation.

Research Question Three

How do industrial and business activities influence youth employment opportunities in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area?

Table 4.9: Responses on Influence of Industrial and Business Activities on Youth Employment Opportunities

Items	SA	A	U	D	SD	Total
Industrial activities create employment opportunities for youths in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area.	75	70	12	18	15	190
Small and medium-scale businesses help reduce youth unemployment in the study area.	80	65	10	20	15	190
Lack of industries contributes to high unemployment among youths in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area.	85	60	10	20	15	190

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

The analysis indicates that industrial and business activities positively influence youth employment opportunities in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area. Majority of respondents agreed that lack of industries contributes significantly to unemployment among youths.

Research Question Four

What influence do educational and skill acquisition opportunities have on youth unemployment in the study area?

Table 4.10: Responses on influence of Educational and Skill Acquisition Opportunities on Youth Unemployment

Items	SA	A	U	D	SD	Total
Skill acquisition programmes help youths become self-employed.	88	55	10	22	15	190
Access to quality education improves employment opportunities for youths.	82	63	10	20	15	190
Lack of vocational training contributes to youth unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area.	90	58	8	19	15	190

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

The table above shows that majority of respondents agreed that educational and skill acquisition opportunities significantly reduce youth unemployment. Respondents also agreed that lack of vocational training contributes to unemployment among youths.

4.4 Test of Hypothesis

Hypothesis

H_0: There is no significant relationship between Fiscal development and youth unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State.

H_1: There is a significant relationship between Fiscal development and youth unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Table 4.11: Regression Analysis on the influence of Fiscal Development on Youth Unemployment

Variables		Beta Coefficient		t-value	Sig.
Fiscal Development		0.712		6.845	0.000
R	**R Square**	**Adjusted R Square**	**F-value**		
0.712	0.507	0.495	46.854		

Source: Field Survey, 2026.

The regression results presented above indicate that fiscal development has a statistically significant relationship with youth unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. The coefficient of determination ($R^2 = 0.507$) shows that approximately 50.7% of the variation in youth unemployment is explained by the fiscal development variables included in the regression model, while the remaining 49.3% is attributable to other factors not captured by the model.

Furthermore, the reported significance value of 0.000 is below the 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected, while the alternative hypothesis

(H_1) is accepted. This provides statistical evidence of a significant relationship between fiscal development and youth unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that fiscal development plays a significant role in addressing youth unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. The study established that inadequate fiscal development contributes considerably to the persistence of unemployment among young people in the area, highlighting the importance of effective fiscal policies and development initiatives in creating employment opportunities and improving youth economic participation.

The study further concluded that infrastructural development such as good road networks, stable electricity supply, and communication facilities promotes business growth and employment opportunities. Inadequate infrastructure discourages investment and limits productive Fiscal activities capable of generating jobs for youths.

The study also concluded that industrial and business activities are important tools for employment generation. Small and medium-scale enterprises as well as industrial establishments provide opportunities for self-employment and income generation among youths. However, low industrialization and inadequate government support continue to limit employment opportunities within the study area.

Finally, the study concluded that education and skill acquisition programmes are effective strategies for reducing youth unemployment. Youths who possess vocational and entrepreneurial skills are more likely to secure employment or establish businesses. Therefore, sustainable Fiscal development policies, infrastructural investment, industrial expansion, and skill acquisition programmes are necessary for addressing youth unemployment in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area and Nigeria as a whole.

Recommendations

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

1. Government at all levels should increase investment in Fiscal development programmes that can create sustainable employment opportunities for youths in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area.
2. Adequate infrastructural facilities such as roads, electricity, water supply, and communication networks should be provided to encourage business growth and industrial development.
3. Government should promote industrialization and support small and medium-scale enterprises through access to loans, grants, and favourable business policies to enhance youth employment opportunities.
4. More vocational training centres and entrepreneurship development programmes should be established to equip youths with practical and employable skills.
5. Educational institutions should incorporate entrepreneurship and technical education into their curriculum to prepare students for self-employment and Fiscal productivity.
6. Government intervention programmes aimed at youth empowerment should be properly monitored and implemented to ensure that the intended beneficiaries receive adequate support.
7. Private sector participation in employment generation and youth empowerment programmes should be encouraged through tax incentives and investment-friendly policies.
8. Youths should be encouraged to participate actively in agriculture and other productive Fiscal activities through provision of modern farming tools and financial assistance.

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