

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

**YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY IN GHANA:
A STUDY OF THE EFFUTU MUNICIPALITY**

CLEMENT ISAAC AMOAH

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A STUDY OF THE EFFUTU MUNICIPALITY**

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**A thesis in the Department of Political Science Education,
Faculty of Social Sciences Education, submitted to the School of
Graduate Studies in partial fulfilment**

**of the requirements for the award of the degree of
Master of Philosophy
(Political Science).**

NOVEMBER, 2022

DECLARATION

Student's Declaration

I, Clement Isaac Amoah, declare that with the exception of quotations and references contained in published works which have all been duly acknowledged, this thesis is entirely my own original work, and it has not been submitted, either in part or whole, for another degree elsewhere.

SIGNATURE.....

DATE.....

Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this work was supervised in accordance with the guidelines for supervision of thesis project as laid down by the University of Education, Winneba.

NAME OF SUPERVISOR: **Ebenezer Teye Amanor-Lartey (Ph.D.)**

SIGNATURE.....

DATE.....

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my mother and father for their motivation, encouragement, physical and spiritual support since I started this programme.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

UNIDIR:	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
SNAP:	Security Needs Assessment Protocol
ARRA:	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
ILO:	International Labour Organisation
BLS:	U.S Bureau of Labour Statistics
GSS:	Ghana Statistical Service
PHC:	Population and Housing Census
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
CHS:	Commission on Human Security
ISSER:	Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research
WB:	World Bank
NYEP:	National Youth Employment Programme
GYEEDA:	Ghana Youth Employment and Entrepreneurial Agency
NYEA:	National Youth Employment Agency
NABCO:	Nation Builders Corp
PFJs:	Planting for Food and Jobs
UNECA:	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
GNYP:	National Youth Policy of Ghana
UN:	United Nations
AYC:	African Youth Charter
NEET:	Not in Employment, Education or Training
AEO:	African Economic Outlook
OECD:	Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development

TVET:	Technical and Vocational Training
NATO:	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
HDR:	Human Development Report
ICDSI:	Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues
FAO:	Food and Agricultural Organisation
STDs:	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
NGOs:	Non-Governmental Organisations
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
EMA:	Effutu Municipal Assembly
MCE:	Municipal Chief Executive
MP:	Member of Parliament
UEW:	University of Education, Winneba
HPV:	Human Papilloma Virus
UPSA:	University for Professional Studies, Accra
NPP:	New Patriotic Party
NDC:	National Democratic Congress
IUU:	Illegal, Unprotected and Unregulated Fishing
GNCFC:	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council
CHRAJ:	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
MoFAD:	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
NAFPTA:	National Fish Processors and Traders Association

ABSTRACT

Unemployment has been a problem of interest since the industrial revolution in the 1800's, yet reducing unemployment to the barest minimum is a challenge to economies worldwide especially Africa including Ghana. Sadly, the major sufferers of this canker are the youth. This threatens the human security of the unemployed youth, their families and Ghanaians at large. The purpose of this study was to uncover the connection between youth unemployment and human security in the Effutu Municipality. The specific objectives were to find out how youth unemployment has manifested in the municipality; examine the consequences of youth unemployment on human security in the area and explore how the measures adopted to mitigate youth unemployment have improved human security in the municipality. The case study design within the phenomenological interpretative paradigm was adopted and underpinned by the Keynesian unemployment theory to realise the goal of the study. Data was collected with the aid of semi-structured interview guide, and analysed using thematic narratives. The study found that youth unemployment in the municipality is high and this adversely affects human security in the municipality. Evidence to the above included negative effects on the psychological and physical wellbeing of the unemployed youth, financial constraints and strenuous livelihood to the family. The study recommends that government policies should target the youth and strict measures to curb illegal fishing should be observed in order to reduce youth unemployment and ensure improvement of human security in the municipality.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The destiny of every society rest on the shoulders of its youth, they are the spirit of today and the hope for tomorrow, yet youth across the globe are entangled with myriad of problems of which unemployment is key. Unemployment is a challenge in many countries worldwide (Poku-Boansi & Afrane, 2011). Even though unemployment affects all nations of the world including advanced economies, its impact on third world countries, especially those in Sub-Saharan Africa is more severe (Tornyezuku, 2017). It is significant to note that globally youth unemployment rose after the global economic recession (see Arpaia & Curci 2010; ILO, 2010a) which started in 2007-2008 as a financial crisis, and led to the biggest recession (2008-2009) since the Great Depression of the 1930s, with widespread consequences on economic performance, labour productivity and employment in all countries around the world (ILO, 2010a). A lot of scholars believe that the 2008 economic downturn hit youth across the globe the hardest (Carcillo et al., 2015).

Although the issue of unemployment across the globe had been a phenomenon in existence over the years, it is an undisputed fact that the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic has contributed immensely to its rise (ILO, 2021). According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), around 220 million people remained unemployed globally in 2021, while global unemployment rate reached 6.3 percent and it's projected to fall to only 5.7 percent in 2022, which still would be above the pre-pandemic level of 5.4 percent registered in 2019 (ILO, 2021). According to the U.S Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS, 2020), this is a result of the economic fallout from

the pandemic which caused continued labour dislocations as a result of lingering high levels of unemployment not experienced since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Despite the measures put in place to curb the problem, it still exists in both developed and developing economies, contributing to youth unemployment globally. According to a 2020 report from the International Labour Organisation, the global youth unemployment rates stood at 13.6%. However, youth unemployment is more pronounced in Africa than in any other continent of the world (ILO, 2021). Scholars including Chigunta (2002), Echebiri (2005), and Okafor (2011), among others had considered the global trend of unemployment and its impact on the African continent in their various works and opined that unemployment occurs mostly in the developing countries (especially, Africa) of the world and have social, economic, political and psychological consequences. There is therefore a great probability that youth unemployment will be the next pandemic to submerge the African continent in the future and pose a serious threat to the stability of states, governments and the security of the citizens, if measures are not adopted to curb the menace today.

The unemployment rate in Africa stood at 11.7% and 10.6% in 2020 and 2021 respectively (ILO, 2021). The progress of any nation hinges largely on the empowerment of its youth. Fortunately, Africa in general and Ghana in particular has a large number of youths with gigantic potentials which when given the requisite support could bring tremendous national development. According to the 2021 Population and Housing Census, the Ghana Statistical Service cites Ghana's cumulative population as 30.8 million people (15.2 million males, representing 49.3% and 15.6 million females constituting 50.7%). This is a clear indication of an increase in Ghana's population from 24,658,823 (PHC, 2010) to 30,832,019 over the past 10 years (GSS, 2021). It is estimated that young people constitute 59.73 percent of the national population.

Significantly, Ghana's population structure is transitioning from one dominated by children (0-14) to one dominated by youth (15-35 years) (GSS, 2021). This indicates that the youth constitute a greater part of the country's human resources potential, yet opportunities for employment open to them are limited. This national situation traces down to the districts and the case is not different in the Effutu municipality. Ghana is faced with a 12% youth unemployment rate with more than 50% underemployment rate, both higher than overall unemployment rates in sub-Saharan African countries at 6.6% and 6.5% worldwide (ILO, 2021). According to the 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC) General Report, the labour force which is the economically active population is 11,541,355 (employed 9,990,237 and unemployed, 1,551,118) representing 58.1 percent of persons 15 years and older. The labour force employed nationwide represents 50.3 of the proportion of population 15 years and older. Among the population 15-35 years, unemployment rate is 19.7 percent and is even much higher for young adults 15-24 years (32.8%) (GSS, 2021).

Adding to the above assertion, the Ghana Statistical Service has reported that Ghana has recorded unemployment rate of 13.9% in the second 2nd quarter of 2022 among the population of 15 years and above. No country can dream of development with at least 70 percent of its youth population not acquiring employment; thus, denying the government tax revenue for development to ensure the well-being of the citizenry (Abrefah, 2003). Kudadjie and Aboagye-Mensah (2004, p117) got the picture right when they stated that "In developing countries, unemployment becomes particularly painful because the greater percentage is made up of the young people." The youth play a central role in the overall development of every country. As a result, discarding the political, economic and social needs of the youth in Ghana endangers the progress of Ghana as a nation. Youth unemployment in the long run compels the youth to go

contrary to the constitutional demands of the land (Ghana) by using dubious and unscrupulous means possible such as armed robbery, prostitution among others to cater for their needs which ends up posing a threat to human security.

Security has had myriad definitions with the major one focusing on the state as the main entity for protection against internal and more crucially external threats. However, over the years the narrow concept of security has been contested with the evolution of what security truly entails, being the core value of human life (Hashimwimana, 2017). The term “human security” gained prominence only in the early 1990s through the publication of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report of 1994. The report identified seven elements that comprise human security: personal security, economic security, environmental security, political security, food security, community security and health security. It is significant to note that, this study focuses on the economic dimension of human security.

According to Wolfers (1952), the concept of human security emanated traditionally from the notion of security viewed as the non-existence of threats to the vital cores or values of life. Dedring (2004) asserted that in spite of the difference of opinions about the idea of human security, there is little antagonism about the outset of this new norm. In the acknowledgment of Gasper (2010), the concept of human security has been widely used increasingly in the mid-1990s through to our modern times. Gräns and Burgess (2011) also posited that though the term was not used, human security was at the centre of the purpose of the United Nations. Following the atrocities of World War II, the architects of the 1945 United Nations Charter were driven by the need for nations to act together to protect the dignity and freedom of individuals and acknowledge the tension between the state and the individual. Currently, the concept pinpoints the privacy of the individual. This grew out of the increasing dissatisfaction with the state-

centered approach to security that focuses on military strength as opposed to human vulnerabilities (Kaldor, 2007). As Haq (1995), posits, modernity has dramatically changed the core idea of security from security of state territory and nations to security of people. Mahbub ul Haq, the first team leader and principal author for the UNDP reports of the seminal 1994 Human Development Report was the intellectual father behind the conception of the term “human security” (Dedring, 2004). Dedring (2004), again noted that despite the fact that Haq’s definition was not the definitive standard, it is satisfactory to set up the general frontiers of this new idea. In the new understanding of security, Haq equated security with the security of individuals. By extension, he suggested that a new concept of security needed to be created that was concretised in the lives of the people, not in the weapons of the country.

According to the Commission on Human Security (2003), human security means protecting the vital core of all human existence by forms of expediting human freedoms and fulfilment. But how can this vision be realised if there are no jobs for the youth? The United Nations in almost all its documents and debates characterised human security as incorporating the two pillars of its charter considered as the foundations of human rights instrument: “freedom from fear” and “freedom from want”. “Freedom from fear” focuses on conditions such as conflicts, violence and crime that induce fear and deprives people of stability in life, while “freedom from want” talks about deprivations such as the lack of employment, education, medical care, housing, sanitation, among others, which undermine dignified life (Akokpari, 2012; Annan, 2000; Frechette, 1999; Ogata, 1998). Corollary to the above, the Commission on Human Security (2003), conceptualises human security in the context of Amartya Sen’s (1990) capability approach. According to this approach, human freedom encapsulates the individuals’ abilities to embark on professions they value and according to their life

choices (Fakuda-Parr & Missineo, 2012). From the above, it can be deduced that human security has been defined severally by authors but in the context of this study, human security can be defined as the protection of individuals from all forms of vulnerabilities, emphatically harmful volatilities in people's economic circumstances that endanger their lives.

1.2 Problem Statement

Unemployment is one of the most serious problems facing the African continent (Frimpong, 2012) and Ghana is no exception. The challenge has therefore become an issue of great concern to governments, private employers and trade unions across the globe. There is pressure on governments and key stakeholders over the increasing numbers of young people who are unable to find jobs roaming the streets in frustration (Twumasi, 2013).

According to the Ghana Statistical Service (2021), it takes an average of five years to get a job after leaving school. According to the data from the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER, 2017), in Ghana, only 10 percent of graduates find jobs after their first year of completing school. The remaining 90 percent of the job seekers are left to find employment in the informal economy where levels of compliance with labour standards are very low, and as a result, many remain unemployed for some time. The rest are expected to be absorbed by the private and agricultural sectors, while the private sector is not growing fast enough to absorb the teeming youthful labour force. Most of these frustrated youth are therefore forced to enter the agricultural sector (Afrane, 1995). This is detrimental to human security since they should have the freedom to choose their preferred professions, as per the capability approach by Amartya Sen.

As a result, most unemployed youth have largely become tools exploited for contract or ritual killings, political violence, sports betting, lotto sticking and other forms of gambling, prostitution, drugs lording (serving as deliverers in the value chain), other substance abusers (tramadol and marijuana are most common), armed robbery, human trafficking, kidnapping and the threat of terrorism among others (Adzomadi, 2015; Gacinya, 2019; Iyanda & Osundina 2014; Urdal, 2012). Regrettably, policies have not been too effective to reverse the trend (Torneyezuku, 2017).

According to a World Bank report (2020), Pierre Frank Laporte made it clear that Ghana's youth employment challenge is alarming and requires an all-round, deliberate, and consistent response. The problem of youth unemployment has become a threat to the economic, social and political stability of most developing countries. Economically, youth unemployment has led to labour market instability, increased welfare costs, erosion of tax base and unused investments in education and training (ILO, 2011). Socially, youth unemployment is not only of concern to the unemployed youth but also to family members and society at large. Unemployment adversely affects the psychological and physical well-being of the unemployed youth (Mousteri et al., 2018). Politically, since the 1992 general elections, youth unemployment as a challenge tends to dominate the political discourse, leading to the establishment of various youth employment interventions such as the National Youth Employment Programme (NYEP), Ghana Youth Employment and Entrepreneurial Agency (GYEEDA), National Youth Employment Agency (NYEA), Nation Builders Corp (NABCO), Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJs) among others, yet lasting solutions have proven elusive.

It is significant to note that youth unemployment can lead to political upheavals and armed conflicts in developing countries as happened in Liberia, Sierra Leone (Sierra Leonean civil war), and recently, the xenophobic attacks in South Africa. In many

cases, riots as a result of the high rate of youth unemployment do not aim to terminate a political regime but can lead to anti-government demonstrations. Arguably, the above assertion confirms the idea of Urdal (2012) that youth unemployment is a threat to the social, economic and political stability of nations. Significantly, the catastrophic effects of youth unemployment adversely affect nations, families and the unemployed youth. Youth unemployment therefore ends up becoming a threat to human security.

Honorati and Johansson de Silva (2016) estimated that about 300,000 jobs would have to be created annually in Ghana from 2016 until 2020 to absorb the increasing number of youths in Ghana. However, the employment structure of the Ghanaian economy has not seen much progress over the last few decades. As a result, prolonged joblessness of the youth is creating serious frustrations, hopelessness and desperation among these frail and inexperienced young folks (Poku-Boansi & Afrane, 2011). One thing the youth cannot bear is idleness and boredom which is now the order of the day. The psychological effects of boredom and the feeling of worthlessness are driving many of them to commit various forms of crimes that are threats to human security (Poku-Boansi & Afrane, 2011).

Unemployment, therefore, is not only becoming a national issue but a human security threat (Jafali, 2021). Unemployed youth sometimes engage in unacceptable conduct such as drug addiction, armed robbery and other related social vices which are detrimental to human security. Thus, human security means freedom to live in peace, freedom and safety (UN, 1994). Another disturbing challenge of youth unemployment is the dwindling interest of the youth in formal education because the youth are likely to be unemployed after graduating from school. According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA, 2010), generally, unemployment is highest among educated youth as against the uneducated. This is buttressed by the data

from the ISSER (2017) that about 10 percent of graduates in Ghana luckily find jobs in their first year after graduating from school. Meanwhile, human security encompasses the right to access the necessities of life for which education is pivotal. Also, it becomes a threat to human security by compelling the individual to venture into professions against what they prefer which goes contrary to Amartya Sen's Capability Approach to development. For instance, many unemployed youths in the Effutu municipality are forced to enter into fishing since there are no or limited job opportunities.

Undoubtedly, the issues of youth unemployment and human security have separately received some intellectual attention (Akpopari, 2012; Amissah & Nyarko, 2017; Attuquayefio 2012; Baah-Boateng, 2015; Fukuda-Parr & Messineo 2012; Tornyezuku, 2017). However, almost all these scholars did not lay emphasis on the nexus between youth unemployment and human security. To be sure, Akpopari, (2012), investigated whether electoral politics is a new source of human insecurity in Africa. To add up, Opoku-Boansi and Afrane (2011), looked into the magnitude and impact of youth unemployment in Ghana. Moreover, Amissah and Nyarko (2017), focused on the psychological effects of youth unemployment in Ghana.

From the above, there is a knowledge gap with respect to the connection between youth unemployment and human security which this study sought to fill. Given the fact that youth unemployment as a social and economic condition deprives the affected youngsters of the "freedom from fear" and "freedom from want", this study would delve into the intricacies of youth unemployment in the Effutu Municipality of Ghana. This study therefore sought to establish the connection between youth unemployment and human security in the Effutu Municipality of Ghana.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The study intended to establish the connection between youth unemployment and human security in the Effutu Municipality.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study was to examine the connection between youth unemployment and human security in the Effutu municipality. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Find out the causes of youth unemployment in the Effutu Municipality.
2. Examine the consequences of youth unemployment on human security in the Effutu Municipality.
3. Find out the measures adopted to mitigate youth unemployment to improve human security in the Effutu Municipality.

1.5 Research Questions

This study sought to answer the following questions:

1. What are the causes of youth unemployment in the Effutu Municipality?
2. How does youth unemployment affect the human security of the youth in the Effutu municipality?
3. What measures have been adopted to mitigate youth unemployment to ensure the improvement of human security in the Effutu Municipality?

1.6 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study includes the following:

Youth unemployment has been regarded as one of the problems facing humanity. However, the extensive literature on youth unemployment and human security has paid little attention to the implications of youth unemployment on human security. As such, this study on how youth unemployment manifests and its impact on human security is necessary because it will add to the scanty literature on youth unemployment and human security in Ghana and elsewhere. In other words, the study will add to knowledge in the field of youth unemployment and human security.

Furthermore, the study will create awareness among the people about the threats of youth unemployment concerning their human security and how to seek redress when their security is in danger. This study has extended our knowledge of human security and how a high rate of youth unemployment threatens individuals' human security and the possible means to protect people from circumstances of economic volatility.

In addition, the study will be of great benefit to policymakers to formulate and implement policies that are directed toward reducing youth unemployment to improve upon human security in Ghana.

1.7 Delimitations/Scope of the Study

The study is placed within the confines of youth unemployment and human security. It is further delimited to unemployed youth in the Effutu municipality in the Central Region of Ghana. Even though the results from the Effutu municipality may suggest a trend in the connection between youth unemployment and human security in other districts or municipalities and Ghana as a whole, the results cannot be generalised across the country without further studies. However, it is expected that the sample will be representative enough to offer results that would contribute to the literature in the area.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

In conducting this study, the researcher encountered the following difficulties;

- i. The study was constrained by the difficult accessibility of informants, especially the unemployed and policymakers. Since the research problem appears to be a sensitive issue and concerns the privacy of the informants.
- ii. Another is financial-related limitations, since the study was not financed, the researcher experienced few challenges in executing the research, particularly, the fieldwork.
- iii. The researcher also experienced difficulty in getting some relevant materials for the study especially books from the school library.

1.9 Rationale and Justification of the Study

The rationale of the study was to establish the relationship between youth unemployment and human security in the Effutu municipality to enable readers to appreciate the implications of youth unemployment on human security in the Effutu municipality and to call on policymakers to formulate and implement policies that will create more job opportunities in the Effutu municipality in particular and Ghana at large in order to eradicate the menace of human security as a result of youth unemployment.

The justification for picking the study area of Effutu municipality is straightforward – the Effutu municipality is one of the flash points in terms of youth unemployment. This is because the only occupation open to the youth in the municipality is fishing and majority of the youth do not have the zeal in embarking on fishing activities hence leaving a larger population of the youth unemployed. Youth unemployment in the municipality is high. According to the Effutu Municipal Assembly in the 2010 Population and Housing Census, it was recorded that the youth unemployment level in

the municipality was 2.8 percent (EMA, 2010) and it is projected to be 3.0 percent in the 2021 Population and Housing Census (Field Report, 2022) and this signifies that youth unemployment is on the rise in the area. This is evidenced in the core mantra of the “Effutu Dream” which is the brain child of the Member of Parliament in the municipality (Alexander Afenyo-Markins) which focuses on preserving the heritage of the Effutu culture and empowering the youth through the eradication of youth unemployment. Arguably there are other municipalities in the Ghana which may also have high rate of youth unemployment but as an interpretivist the criteria of familiarity and convenience informed the choice of the municipality as the researcher is familiar with the environment as opined by Gerring (2017) that convenience and familiarity can be a criteria for the selection of a case hence the choice of the Effutu Municipality as the study area.

1.10 Organisation of the Study

This research is organized into five chapters. Chapter one includes the background of the study, statement of the research problem, purpose of the study, research questions, objectives, significance, rationale and justification, the scope or delimitations of the study, limitations of the study, and organisation of chapters. Chapter Two presented the theoretical framework and empirical literature review. Chapter Three dealt with the research methodology including the research design, the setting of the study, population of the study, sample size and sampling techniques, data collection instruments, data collection procedure, validity and reliability of data, ethical considerations, and data analysis and presentation. Chapter Four focused on data analysis and discussions of findings, while Chapter Five incorporated the summary, recommendations and conclusion of the findings.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presented both the theoretical and relevant literature reviewed about the study. According to Creswell (1994), literature review provides a framework for establishing the importance of one's study; it acts as a benchmark for comparing the results of one's study to other findings, and it presents results of other studies that are closely related to one's study. It started with a review of literature on the theory of unemployment that underpins the study which is Keynesian unemployment theory. In this study, the empirical literature review is categorised under the following thematic areas; the concept of youth unemployment, causes of youth unemployment, an overview of the concept of human security, phases of human security, economic insecurity, and the effects of youth unemployment on human security.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

Some theories of unemployment include Keynesian unemployment theory, implicit contract theory, efficiency wage theory, classical unemployment theory and Marxian theory of unemployment. However, the theory that best describes the position of the study is the Keynesian unemployment theory. This theory is the most appropriate for the study because it helped in explaining the fundamental reasons for general youth unemployment in Ghana.

2.1.1 Keynesian Unemployment Theory

John Maynard Keynes was born in 1883. He was an early 20th Century British economist, known as the father of Keynesian economics. He is known for his seminal

work in 1936, entitled “*The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money*”. Keynes became an outspoken proponent of full employment and government intervention. The central belief of Keynesian economics is that government intervention can stabilise the economy. Keynesian economics argues that demand drives supply and that healthy economies spend or invest more than they save (Keynes, 1936). Among other beliefs Keynes held was that governments should increase spending and lower taxes when faced with recession to create jobs and boost consumer buying power. Another basic principle of Keynesian economics is that government spending is necessary to maintain full employment, even if a government has to go into debt. Keynes argues that the expansion of national income and employment opportunities can be realised by reducing taxes. Buttressing the above, Mankiw (2002), asserts that the tax was intended to stimulate expenditure on consumption and investment and thus lead to higher income and employment. From the above it can be deduced that unemployment is caused by deficits in aggregate demand over certain periods in the business cycle where jobs created are not enough for everyone who wants to work (Keynes, 1936).

Keynes (1936), believes that unemployment emerges when government fails to create job opportunities for each qualified, capable and willing person who needs a job. In other words, this means that firms do not benefit from the expected amount of demand for their products to enable them expand employment. Summarily, Keynesian economics relies on three assumptions-savings and investment determinants, effective demand and rigid prices.

Keynesian theory can be said to have been propounded in 1936 but it is still relevant and has been used in contemporary times. For instance, in response to the Great Recession and financial crises of 2007-2008, the Congress and Executive branch

undertook several measures that drew from the Keynesian economic theory. The federal government of the U S bailed out debt-ridden companies in several industries including insurers, banks and automakers. According to the Congressional Budget Office report (2012) in 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), an \$831-billion government stimulus package designed to save existing jobs and create new ones. Again, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic government of the US offered a variety of reliefs, loan forgiveness, and loan extension programmes. The government also supplied weekly unemployment benefits and sent American taxpayers direct aid in the form of tax-free stimulus checks. Going forward, these stimulus measures and federal interventions drawn from the Keynesian economic theory helped America's economy recover and prevented another full-blown depression.

Keynesian economics is attacked by critics for promoting deficit spending, stifling private investment and causing inflation. Examples of scholars who have shared their views against the Keynesian unemployment theory with a focus on his book include Harrod (1937), who argued that Keynes' analysis did not revolutionise economics. He downgraded Keynesian theory as a re-adjustment of classical theory with a shift in emphasis. However, the argument is that Keynes might have not revolutionised economics, as Harrod (1937) believed, but he should be accredited for his new insight into unemployment. Again, Friedman (1977), argues that the Keynesian theory misrepresented the relationship between savings, investment and economic growth.

Despite the criticisms levelled against the theory, it is still relevant in contemporary times and has underpinned many studies. Some of the studies underpinned by the Keynesian unemployment theory in contemporary times include "fresh insight through Keynesian theory approaches to investigate the economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan", by Abbass et al. (2022), "Keynes's economics and the question

of public debt” by Dwyer (2011), “the Keynesian revolution: A research school analysis” by Cord (2009) among others.

This theory best describes the position of the researcher. This is because, it explains the fundamental reasons behind the youth unemployment in Ghana and particularly in the Effutu Municipality. Linking this to the economic status quo of Ghana where inflation rate is 40.4% as reported by the Ghana Statistical Service (2022), it can be stated that instead of the government to lower taxes for the average citizen in order to boost consumer purchasing power and also invest in creating jobs for the youth, it is rather increasing taxes as evidenced in the 2023 budget report presented by the government of Ghana. Again, the government has reported an increment in Value Added Tax (VAT) by 2.5% as well as embarking on employee hiring freeze which has added up to the country’s current youth unemployment canker nationwide. This study therefore argued that the Ghanaian economy has not been growing sufficiently to absorb the teeming unemployed youth because of weak manufacturing sectors of the economy. As a result, employment output elasticity has been declining since the 1990s (Aryeetey & Baah-Boateng, 2015). The impotence of the economic sectors is as a result of weak macroeconomic fundamentals including low aggregate demand as a result of inflation in the country. The theory is appropriate for the study because it is able to explain the fundamental reasons for general unemployment in the Effutu municipality and Ghana as a whole.

Arguably there are other theories of unemployment which are equally important and can be used as theories to underpin other studies but the assumptions of the theories accompanied with their shortcomings make none of them suitable for this study.

For instance, the implicit contract theory of unemployment was introduced by Greek macroeconomist Costas Azariadis and American economist Joseph Stiglitz in 1983. They developed this theory to explain why there are quantity adjustment or layoffs instead of price adjustments or wage adjustments in labour market, especially during economic downturns. In other words, this theory tries to explain the primary causes of unemployment during the recession (Azariadis & Stiglitz, 1983). The implicit contract theory specifically claims that labour contracts and labour laws make it difficult for employers to cut the wages of their existing labourers. Hence, during a recession in which businesses need to save costs and optimise their operations, they usually choose to lay off their labourers or downsize their workforce instead of implementing wage reductions (Azariadis & Stiglitz, 1983). The assumptions of the implicit contract theory indicate that the theory is feasible in explaining employer-employee relations, which is not the purpose of the study. Again, the theory does not benefit the study because it best explains footprint of labourers lay-off or downsize of workforce among business organisations.

Classical unemployment theory of unemployment affirms that, unemployment depends on the level of real wages. It occurs when real wages are fixed over the equilibrium level because of rigidities provoked by minimum wage policies, union bargaining or effective salaries. Several schools of thought in economics such as classical economics and the Austrian School of economics argue that unemployment increases with government regulation or intervention. Their arguments collectively form classical unemployment theory. The classics believed that unemployment was only frictional. This theory was not selected for the study because it gives much attention to the level of real wages and government regulation or intervention neglecting other factors leading to unemployment.

Again, renowned economist Alfred Marshall introduced the term ‘efficiency- wages’ in his 1890 book “*Principles of Economics*” to indicate the equivalent wage per efficiency unit of labour. Proponents of the efficiency wage theory argued that employers should pay their workers differently based on their efficiency. In other words, a more efficient worker should have a higher wage than a less efficient worker. This theory was not considered by the researcher on the basis that it only explains labour cost and unrealistic expectations in the labour market.

Somehow similar to the Keynesian theory, the Marxian theory of Unemployment also believes that there is a relationship between economic demand and employment rate. In his manuscript “*Theories of Surplus Value*” Karl Max (1867) argues that unemployment is not only inherent in a capitalist system but also unnecessary. He specifically argued that the purpose of the proletariat or the class of wage earners in a capitalist system is to provide ‘reserve army of labour’ necessary to create downward pressure on wages. The capitalist system allows capitalist or the owners of the means of production to manipulate the labour market by perpetuating unemployment and thus, limit the capacity of labourers to demand higher and fairer wages. This theory was not suitable for the study because the economic system proposed by Karl Marx is unworkable and it rests on unrealistic assumptions.

2.2 The Concept of Youth

Youth all over the world have been acknowledged as an important human resource with the potential to contribute significantly to national development (GNYP, 2010). The problem of the youth starts with the definition of who a youth is (Ampadu-Ameyaw et al., 2020). Youth as a concept could be seen as difficult to define, as it covers such a diverse area, (Pierre, 1978, as cited in Jones, 2010) and it has been suggested that ‘youth

is just a word' that has been an evolving concept which has developed over the centuries into a social construction. This implies that contemporary youth are products of modernity. Finding a commonly accepted definition of youth is therefore quite a challenging task. There is no unique definition of youth; every country has its definition which varies over time and most of these definitions depend on cultural, institutional and socio-political issues. Some perceive youth as a sociological category rather than a biological one (Frith, 2005, as cited in Kehily, 2007). The term youth is defined by sociologists as a transition between childhood and adulthood (Roche et al., 2004). Global governance institutions such as the United Nations (UN) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventionally consider individuals in the age group of 15-35 years as youth. Some Western societies also define youth as the life stages between childhood and adulthood and becoming independent from dependence (Kehily, 2007). Thus, young people are in transition from a world of rather secure development to a world of choice and risk (Eurostat, 2009).

In the context of this study, the concept of youth refers to all people within the age bracket of 15-35 years. This aligns with the definition of youth by the African Youth Charter 2010 which states "for the purpose of this charter, youth or young people shall refer to every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years" (African Youth Charter, 2010, p.3). Ghana's definition of youth has been informed by that of the African Youth Charter 2010. The argument is that there is no universally accepted definition of youth. This is because the experience of being young can vary substantially across the world between countries and regions. Youth is considered a flexible category. In the case of Ghana, the 2010 National Youth Policy of Ghana defines youth as "persons who are within the age bracket of fifteen (15) and thirty-five (35)" (National Youth Policy of Ghana, 2010, p.5). In Africa, the tendency to extend the category of youth to 30 years

and beyond seems to be a reflection of the emerging phenomenon of a prolonged period of youth dependency (Chigunta, 2012). Matsheni and Leibbrandt (2011) argue that the development of youth depends very much on employment. It is a key factor in the transition from youth to adulthood and from dependence to independence. This argument holds in developing countries. Drawing on the above, Forstater (2005) views an unemployed youth as someone who is not being able to get a job that earns an income. This originates from the inadequate job opportunities for the teeming youth. Kudadjie and Aboagye-Mensah (2004), argue that in developing countries such as Ghana, unemployment is devastating because the larger proportion is made up of the youth. Sadly, these teeming youth are left with no hope and their fate is in limbo. The youth can be beneficial and at the same time a liability for development and security. On the positive side, young people constitute a potential resource for growth and development if they are gracefully and productively employed. On the other hand, they could also be a source of instability if these untapped resources are poorly managed. Essentially, disaffected youth without education, jobs, or the prospect of a meaningful future may exert their energy to fuel instability, migration, radicalisation and violent conflict (Baah-Boateng et al., 2019).

Young people are more vulnerable in times of economic challenges (such as the emergence of the coronavirus pandemic) than their older counterparts, because they are inexperienced and have inadequate information to get an existing employment opportunity (Baah-Boateng, 2013; Sackey & Osei, 2006). The youth also lack job search experience and are limited in terms of labour market information to facilitate their job search. In times of economic downturn, the youth bear the heaviest brunt of layoff by firms on account of their limited labour market experience (Baah-Boateng, 2013). It is believed that the 2008 economic downturn hit youth across the globe the

hardest (Carcillo et al., 2015). Ebaidalla (2016), contends that the youth population is the worst affected by unemployment. Politically, since 1992, during presidential and parliamentary election season, youth unemployment challenge has tended to dominate the political discourse, yet, durable solutions have proven elusive. In an economy with a very high incidence of unemployment, the youthful population is the worst affected usually dangerous (Garcia & Jean, 2008). Because they are vibrant and exuberant, they are found directing their frustrations into unproductive ventures including political vigilantism, prostitution and robberies that usually come at the cost of the country (Baah-Boateng, 2013). This ends up hunting the peaceful existence of human security in the country.

2.3 The Concept of Unemployment

Unemployment, like other concepts in the social sciences has been defined severally by different authors. According to Card (2011), despite the divergence in finding a common definition of unemployment, research conducted by the Works Progress Administration and the Census Bureau in the United States of America unveiled the modern definition of unemployment in the late 1930s after the Great Depression. The definition of unemployment was on the following criteria: People who had no job during the survey reference week were considered unemployed. People who were available for work during the survey reference week except for temporary illness were considered unemployed. Under this definition, individuals who have no job but have the strength to search for a job are considered unemployed. According to the Lumen Learning Course (2005), unemployment simply means joblessness, a scenario that happens when individuals are without work and are effectively looking for a business. They further illustrate that amid periods of subsidence, an economy ordinarily encounters increasing unemployment rates. In this respect the definition by the Lumen

Learning Course (2005) justifies that unemployment happens to be on the rise whenever there is an economic recession or downturn just as it happened to the global economy during the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

Chappelow (2021), argues that unemployment occurs when a person who is actively searching for employment is unable to find work. Adding that unemployment is often used as a measure of the health of the economy. Chappelow (2021) contends that one major indicator for determining the progress of an economy is employment, as a result, the opposite of this portrays that the economy of a given state is regressing. Supporting the thought, Matsheni and Leibbrandt (2011) point out the extraordinary prevalence of unemployment is perhaps the single most important contributor to the persistence of social exclusion on a large and momentous scale.

In the view of Amofo (2011), an individual is said to be unemployed if he or she is deprived of the opportunity to be part of the production process. In this context, the person is ready and available for employment yet there are no job opportunities rendering the youth debilitated to contribute to the development of the country economically. Buttressing the assertion, Ndzwayiba (2020), sees an unemployed person as someone of working age, that is, 16 years and above, with no work, strong, ready to work and actively searching for a job. This definition focuses on age in an attempt to explain the meaning of unemployment which is the opposite compared to the definitions by scholars in the paragraphs above. Simply put, unemployment describes the condition of people who are without jobs. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) 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 (World Bank, 1986). According to these definitions, the term does not refer to individuals who are not searching for work

in light of age, sickness or a psychological or physical challenge, nor does it allude to students or housewives. Such persons cannot be considered as unemployed.

In order to get a universal framework for the definition of unemployment, the International Labour Organisation (ILO, 2005) has provided a guideline for the definition and understanding of unemployment according to the following criteria: without work, currently available for work, and seeking work. These elements are cogent since they constitute what makes a complete definition of unemployment. By extension, Baah-Boateng (2013), argues that a jobless person who is available for work but fails to make an effort to seek work is described as a ‘discouraged worker’ rather than unemployed. Additionally, a person who is working but engages in job-seeking to obtain an additional income or diversify his/her job portfolio among other reasons as a moonlighter (Baah-Boateng, Adjei & Oduro, 2013) cannot be described as unemployed. Unemployment implies that “lazy people, the underage, the retired and the physically challenged who because of their conditions are not seeking jobs cannot be classified as unemployed” (Lipsy, 1989). In the context of this study, unemployment is defined as a situation whereby an individual who is not working yet, ready and available to work is deprived of the opportunities to be part of the production process. Unemployed youth can therefore be defined as an individual between the ages of 15 and 35 years who is ready and available to work but deprived of the opportunity to be part of the production process.

2.3.1 Types of Unemployment

There are two broad categories of unemployment, these are voluntary and involuntary unemployment (Sawyer & Spencer, 2006; Shapiro & Stiglitz, 1985). Unemployment is said to be voluntary when an individual willingly leaves his or her job in search of a

new one. This may be as a result of conflict, migration or relocation, or desire to look for a higher salary among others. On the contrary, unemployment is involuntary when an individual has been laid off and has no other choice but to look for another job or when he or she is ready to work at the prevailing wage but remains unemployed (Sawyer & Spencer, 2006; Shapiro & Stiglitz, 1985). Simply put, it is when someone is unwillingly out of the job.

By extension, the two broad categories can be grouped into four types namely, structural, frictional, cyclical, and seasonal unemployment. Frictional unemployment is voluntary unemployment and structural, cyclical, and seasonal unemployment are under involuntary unemployment (Adebayo, 1999; Damachi, 2001; Hollister & Goldstein, 1994). Frictional unemployment occurs when an individual is in between jobs. It corresponds to the time when an individual has to find another job after leaving his or her previous employment or when the person is transitioning from one job to another. This is categorically a voluntary type of unemployment since the unemployed voluntarily leaves his or her job in search of another job with higher wages than the previous job. Structural unemployment arises from the inability of the labour market to provide jobs for every member of the workforce because of the mismatch between the skills of the unemployed individuals and the skill requirements of jobs or because of technological advances in which people are replaced by machines or their skills become outdated because of their inability to keep up with latest trends. Another equally important type of unemployment is cyclical unemployment. This represents the offshoots of the business cycle and the boom-and-bust cycle of the economy. Keynesian economics explains that the frequent shifts in the business cycle and severe economic downturns, such as in the case of the Great Depression and the coronavirus pandemic led to a shortage in aggregate demand that is not enough to employ everyone who wants

to work. Lastly, seasonal unemployment occurs when people are jobless at particular times of the year when demand for labour is lower than usual. It refers to a temporary window of time where the number of available employment opportunities decreases.

2.4 Global Perspective of Youth Unemployment

Historically, the idea of taking records on youth unemployment was in the earlier stages done by the Census Bureau of the United States in 1800. This research aimed at gathering data on all inhabitants who were 10 years and above who were reported as without a job, occupation or trade, how many weeks they had been unemployed during the Census year (1 June 1879 to 31 May 1880) (Hauser, 1949; Ransom & Sutch, 1986). This indicates that youth unemployment as a problem is not a recent global challenge. The effects of this problem are severe to the point that world leaders have labelled youth unemployment as a ‘cancer in society’ (Webber, 2012). This has therefore become a problem that requires undivided attention since it can be deadly to the world. For instance, the Arab Spring is an example of the explosive impacts of youth unemployment on societies that have not given the issue the needed attention. The Tunisian young man, Mohammed Bouazizi, who instigated the Arab spring by burning himself, was protesting due to lack of meaningful work. Serving as a domino effect, the uprisings that occurred in the Middle East and North Africa were usually organised and led by discontented youth (Dalacoura, 2012). Youth protests regarding unemployment have been erupting even in advanced economies, such as US and Great Britain (Webber, 2012).

Analytically, it can be recorded that, periodically there are global catastrophes that emerge to intensify the problem of youth unemployment. For instance, in the 1930s the great depression brought unemployment crisis, in the 2000s (2007-2008) the financial

crisis leading to economic recession catapulted the global youth unemployment levels to their peak thus from about 72 million in 2007/8 to about 76.6 million in 2009 (ILO, 2010) and recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the problem of youth unemployment.

In furtherance, the problem of unemployment in general and youth unemployment in particular, reared their ugly heads in the 1930s accompanied by catastrophic effects across the globe with economic growth levels dwindling to negative. It is significant to note that global youth unemployment dramatically rose after the global economic crisis (see ILO, 2010a; Arpaia & Curci, 2010). The crisis which started in 2007-2008 as a financial crisis, led to the biggest recession (2008-2009) since the Great Depression of the 1930s, with widespread consequences on economic performance, labour productivity and unemployment in all countries around the world (ILO, 2010). According to Carcillo et al., (2015) the 2008 economic downturn hit youth across the globe the hardest. Efforts to mitigate the devastating effects of the recession were not enough, as a result, the negative effects of unemployment still exist to date.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO, 2014), in 2013, it was estimated that about 202 million people were unemployed, there was an increment of about 5 million as compared to the 2012 estimate. The ILO (2014, p.10) estimated that “the number of unemployed people would increase by more than 215 million in 2018 if the global economy did not create enough jobs to meet the growing labour force”. This specifies that the future of the youth globally is not promising. In 2013, youth were estimated to be about 40 percent of the world’s population (World Bank, 2013). International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 2015, disclosed that about 73.3 million youth (between the ages of 15-24) globally were unemployed, 169 million youth were working under poor conditions of service, with about 75 percent of them employed in

the informal sector. In 2015, the World Bank reported that globally, 73 million youth were unemployed, 620 million were not in employment, education or training (NEET), while 600 million youth were predicted to enter the job market in the next decade.

With only 200 million jobs awaiting them – the youth unemployment problem is not expected to improve anytime soon. Crowley et al., (2013) opine that cross-country analysis of unemployment rates reveals some differences due to diverse factors playing crucial roles in the unemployment situation in each country. These factors include national economic conditions and the education system among others. The global youth unemployment rate is approximately three times higher than the unemployment rate of adults. Ortiz and Cummins (2012), assert that unemployment as a problem is intensified by the problem of the “youth bulge” in which over 120 million young people yearly enter the job market for the first time struggling to secure jobs.

According to the ILO (2019), it is possible that the global unemployment rate will remain unchanged for the next few years considering the global economic growth projection which is deemed to be stable. Undoubtedly, in the case of Ghana, the ILO (2019) prediction has been confirmed as it is evidenced by the government’s intention to freeze employee hiring which will be taking effect in 2023 as evidenced in the 2023 budget report presented by the finance minister, Ken Ofori Attah on the 24th November, 2022. By extension, this will automatically add to the already existence incidence of youth unemployment in the Effutu municipality. Per the IMF’s economic growth projections, the ILO (2019) estimated that there will be an additional 2 million unemployed people by the year 2020 as compared with the more optimistic projections made in April 2018. In 2018, it was estimated that about 172 million people globally were unemployed, and a projection of 173 million and 174 million people in 2019 and 2020 respectively worldwide (ILO, 2019).

The latest ILO global estimates confirm that young workers were particularly hard hit by the crisis in 2020 across all regions and countries. The employment loss between 2019 and 2020 is estimated at 8.7 percent for young people, compared with 3.7 percent for adults. Turning to a sample of 58 countries with data for 2020 Q2 reveals that youth, have truly borne the brunt of the COVID-19 crisis. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), around 220 million people remained unemployed globally in 2021, while the global unemployment rate reached 6.3 percent, falling to only 5.7 percent in 2022, which still would be above the pre-pandemic level of 5.4 percent registered in 2019 (ILO, 2020). In the case of Ghana during the pre-pandemic era unemployment rate stood at 4.7 percent and has catapulted to 13.4 percent in 2022 (GSS, 2022). Touching on to the Effutu Municipality, according to the Effutu Municipal Assembly in the 2010 Population and Housing Census, it was recorded that the youth unemployment level in the municipality was 2.8 percent (EMA, 2010) and it is projected to be 3.0 percent in the 2021 Population and Housing Census. This depicts that with the outbreak of the corona virus pandemic which has led to an economic hardship out of which the economy of Ghana is yet to revive from, coupled with the increase in the youthful population in the municipality, the youth unemployment is projected to rise from 2.8 percent to be 3.0 percent.

2.5 African Perspective of Youth Unemployment

In Africa, it is estimated that there will be a youth bulge by 2035, which can serve as a blessing or curse to African countries depending on how the situation will be handled. In 2014, half of Africa's population was under 25 years of age, and it was estimated that between 2015 and 2035 each year will see an increase of a half-million more 15-year-olds than the year before (Filmer & Fox 2014). One of the main causes of

unemployment in Africa is the inability to increase the productivity of the informal sector, which employs nearly four-fifths of the continent's workforce (Filmer & Fox 2014). The African continent which is highly known for its socio-economic development challenges is also entangled with the chronic problem of unemployment. Economic growth which is a necessity for creating job opportunities presents a discouraging picture as one of the lowest compared to other parts of the world (IMF, 2014). Zamfir (2016) establishes that Sub-Saharan Africa's gross domestic product was surpassed by that of Germany and Brazil due to the rapid population growth rate. The African Economic Outlook (AEO, 2012) posits that youth unemployment remains one of the major problems facing Sub-Saharan African countries. In 2003, the rate of youth unemployment in Africa was comparatively above that of other regions in the world (Garcia & Faares, 2008). In 2013, youth unemployment in the region was pegged at 22.8 percent of global estimates (AEO, 2012). The creation of gainful employment opportunities has been a major challenge for many policymakers in Africa (ILO, 2014). In 2013, the region recorded the highest rate of vulnerable employment at 77.4 percent in comparison with other regions in the world (ILO, 2014). Filmer et al., (2014) however assert that the increase in the numbers of the youth population in Africa presents a favourable circumstance for the region in terms of becoming a major supplier of labour in the world via the production of goods and services or using exportation of labour to continents with a limited supply of workers.

Page (2012) however argues that because African countries are not creating enough jobs to meet the 10 to 12 million new entrants in the labour market, efforts to fight brain drain would be futile over the years. In Ghana, like other parts of Africa, international migration is largely undocumented and informal, this therefore makes it difficult to get accurate data on the phenomenon (World Bank, 2016). However, World Bank (2016)

estimates suggested that the Ghanaian diaspora in OECD countries in 2010 was equivalent to 2.3 percent of the population in Ghana, this estimation was around 270,000 Ghanaians most of them in the United Kingdom and the United States. Garcia and Fares (2010) contend that, if the size of youth in Africa grows by 1 percent, there is a likelihood that youth unemployment will increase by 0.5 percent. According to a 2020 report from the International Labour Organisation, the global youth unemployment rate stood at 13 percent. Going forward, according to a 2022 report from the International Labour Organisation, the global youth unemployment rate stands at 14.9 percent and 12.7 percent in Africa. In the case of Ghana, the Ghana Statistical Service (2022) has reported that unemployment rate stands at 13.4 percent. Scholars such as Chigunta (2002), Echebiri (2005), and Okafor (2011), among others considered the global trend of unemployment and its impact on the African continent in their various works and opined that unemployment occurs mostly in developing countries (especially, Africa) of the world and have social, economic, political and psychological consequences. There is therefore a great probability that youth unemployment will be the next pandemic to submerge the African continent in the future if measures are not adopted to curb the menace today.

Recently, unemployment in Africa stood at 11.7% and 10.6% in 2020 and 2021 respectively (ILO, 2021). The progress of any nation hinges largely on the empowerment of its youth. Fortunately, Africa has a large number of youths with gigantic potential which when given the requisite support could bring tremendous continental development yet unemployment has become an obstacle to seeing this in the light.

2.6 Youth Unemployment in Ghana

The labour market in Ghana is made up of both the formal and the informal sectors. Osei-Boateng and Ampratwum (2011) found that over 80% of all the employed are found in the informal sector with the majority being women and the youth. As of 2021, about 90 percent of the labour force (15 years and older) in Ghana are employed by the informal sector (GSS, 2021). Meanwhile, the private sector is not growing fast enough to accommodate the teeming youth labour force. The youth constitute an engine for growth in Ghana and their capabilities to contribute to the development of Ghana cannot be downplayed. Their potential to contribute to the development of the country is limited by the lack of job opportunities available to them to ensure their contributions to national development. According to the 2021 Population and Housing Census, Ghana Statistical Service cites Ghana's cumulative population as 30.8 million people (15.2 million males, recording 49.3% and 15.6 million females constituting 50.7%). This is a clear indication of an increase in Ghana's population by 6,141,177 over the past 10 years (GSS, 2021). And there is an indication that the youth constitute a greater part of the country's human resources potential, yet opportunities for employment open to them are limited. Ghana is faced with a 12% youth unemployment and more than 50% underemployment rate, both higher than overall unemployment rates in sub-Saharan African countries at 6.6% and 6.5% worldwide (ILO, 2021).

One of the major factors that has contributed to the intensity of youth unemployment in Ghana was the Coronavirus pandemic. According to the World Bank (2020), the economic shock of the COVID-19 in Ghana resulted in reductions in income for over 770,000 workers, reductions in working hours for over 700,000 workers and layoffs for over 42,000 workers. This contributed to the rise in youth unemployment rate to 12%. In the case of the Effutu Municipality, it is estimated that 48% of the entire working

population are employed leaving about 52% unemployed (Field Report, 2022). Abrefah (2003) believes that the dream for development for any country which have at least 70 percent of its youth population not acquiring employment is undoubtedly in limbo. Kudadjie and Aboagye-Mensah (2004), assert that in third world countries, unemployment is severe and the greater percentage is made up of the youth.

Asare (2017), at the 2017 MasterCard Foundation Annual Learning Summit in Accra, said this has contributed to the ascendancy in graduate unemployment in the country. In line with the above, Amuzu-Pharin (2021) claims that, in Ghana, it takes an average of five years to get a job after leaving school (GSS, 2021). Buttressing this was the statement made by the Finance Minister, Mr. Ken Ofori- Atta during the graduation ceremony of the students of the University for Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA) in 2021, that Payroll is full because we are spending 60% of our revenue on remunerating some 650,000 people. That is not sustainable (Ghana News Agency, 2021). Therefore, urging fresh graduates from the various tertiary institutions to find innovative ways of becoming entrepreneurs. But the argument is that one cannot become an entrepreneur without capital and where will these fresh graduates get the capital since they have never worked for salary?

Honorati and Johansson de Silva (2016) estimated that 300,000 jobs would have to be created annually from 2016 until 2020 to absorb the increasing number of youth workers in Ghana. However, they added that the limited diversification and growing inequities in Ghana's labour markets make it harder to create more, better, and more inclusive jobs. This is because the employment structure of the Ghanaian economy has not seen much over the last few decades. Politically, since the 1992 general elections, youth unemployment as a challenge tends to dominate political discourse, leading to the establishment of various youth employment interventions such as National Youth

Employment Programme (NYEP), Ghana Youth Employment and Entrepreneurial Agency (GYEEDA), National Youth Employment Agency (YEA), Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJs), Nation Builders Corp (NABCO), among others yet, lasting solutions have proven elusive.

2.7 Causes of Youth Unemployment in Ghana

Ghana has experienced some economic growth over the years with a great focus on curbing the problem of unemployment. The challenge however is that the youth bear the brunt of high unemployment and joblessness and endure poor quality of employment (Baah-Boateng, 2021). This has brought a lot of youth employment intervention policies by the government yet the problem of youth unemployment persists. There are myriad causes (internal and external) of youth unemployment in the country.

Poor education system is an identified indicator of the cause of the high rate of joblessness among youth in most African nations. In this regard, about half of the working-age population has acquired just basic education which only enables them to read and write with no employable skills to secure employment in the formal segment of the labour market (Baah-Boateng, 2013). The free education system in Ghana needs to be applauded since it aims at reducing the level of illiteracy but it does not fully conform to contemporary economic concerns. It focuses more on theory lessons rather than imparting relevant practical and professional skills needed in the job market. Frimpong (2012) suggests that the educational systems in Africa do not correspond directly to the economic realities prevailing outside the school system. He found that it simply imparts general and literary education devoid of any practical content. Meanwhile, this generation is characterised by fast advancing world in the

technological sector and hence highly demands high technical and technological competence. This curriculum is basically not flexible enough for an inter-generation gap.

In furtherance, Lack of interest in entrepreneurship by the youth is a contributory factor of youth unemployment in Ghana. The government payroll has been declared full, and unable to absorb young persons who graduate from our tertiary institutions, because government is spending more than half of its total revenue on remunerating public sector workers. Economic analysts refer to this as demand-deficient unemployment since the number of graduates is bigger than the available supply of jobs. There is the lack of vocational support and training facilities needed to make our youth more creators rather than seekers of jobs (Padi & Musah, 2022).

Recession is another contributory factor of youth unemployment. The world is inextricably intertwined and integrated to the extent that, whatever happens in one part of the world affects every other area of the world. Events that cause recession in one country end up affecting countries worldwide. These have adverse effects on global economies and youth unemployment. For instance, the great depression in the 1930s, the economic recession in 2007/8, and recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified youth unemployment across borders. McInnes and Lee (2006) argue that infectious diseases do not recognise state boundaries and the attempt of international cooperation to control their spread. This is a demonstration of the highly interconnected nature of the global political economy of which Ghana is not an exception. Focusing on the COVID-19 pandemic, it can be deduced that it has contributed to the intensity of youth unemployment in Ghana. According to the World Bank (2020), the economic shock of the COVID-19 in Ghana resulted in reductions in income for over 770,000 workers, reductions in working hours for over 700,000 workers, and layoffs for over

42,000 workers. This contributed to the rise in youth unemployment rate to 12% (World Bank, 2020).

Laziness on the part of some youth has added to the high incidence of youth unemployment in Ghana. Specifically, students, already wealthy and disabled do not need jobs so in this context they are excluded. On the contrary, some youths are strong and energetic but have decided not to work yet are expecting to live life. There are several instances where the government and stakeholders are being blamed for lack of job opportunities for the youth in the country meanwhile some youth in the country have chosen not to work. According to the Ghana Statistical Service (2021) more than two in five (45.5%) unemployed persons 15 years and older are available for work but not seeking for employment of which the youth (15-35 years) constitute two-thirds (65.8%). Arguably, this has contributed to the high incidence of youth unemployment in the country.

Over reliance on politicians for employment by the youth is a major cause of youth unemployment in Ghana. As part of campaign messages and manifestos, politicians promise the electorate especially party foot soldiers of employment opportunities ahead of elections. This encourages the youth to campaign massively for the political party of the promised politician with hope of being employed when the said party wins the election. Bob-Milliar (2014) found that one factor that foot soldiers' aggression can be linked to is youth unemployment. There are several instances, where the politicians after winning the elections fail to fulfil their promises. However, some politicians fulfil their promises but due to the large number of youths supporting the party they are not able to help all the youth get employed leaving a larger proportion of the youth unemployed.

Again, labour demand and supply mismatch are one reason for the high rate of unemployment in Ghana. Labour demand and supply mismatch also known as skills mismatch in the words of Perry et al. (2014) refers to a situation where skills possessed by workers or job seekers do not meet the skills required at their workplace or the job market. The world is changing rapidly, and the skills demanded by the global workforce are changing with it. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD, 2012) describes skills as “the new global currency” of 21st-century economies. Stressing that no serious economy will survive with substandard workforce and skill-deficient human capital. Ghana can only have a position in this global economic race by investing in its human capital with the modern requisite skills. However, Ghana’s education system like most African countries do not prepare graduates for economic realities prevailing outside the school system. For instance, in 2018 the Educational Sector Analysis Report showed that 48% of Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) tutors did not have technical skills qualifications. This has rendered many youth undesirable for the economic market leading to skills Labour demand and supply mismatch. This ends up increasing the incidence of structural unemployment in the country.

Youth unemployment has been on the ascendancy since Ghana gained independence. The zeal to reduce incidence of youth unemployment to the barest minimum has been the headlines for political parties’ campaign messages during elections but all these efforts have proven futile due to some of the factors elaborated above. Data gathered for the study clearly indicate that the high incidence of youth unemployment in the Effutu municipality is as a result of some of the factors elaborated in the preceding paragraphs.

2.8 Overview of Human Security

Security traditionally focused on the state as the main entity for protection against internal and more crucially external threats. The traditional conception of security is generally structured around the defence and preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the state. Traditional security focused on military alliances, which were cemented along ideological lines, demarcating the world into East-West divide to which countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America were often induced or forcibly incorporated (Arie & Leaning, 2000). This gave attention to the formation of military alliances such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the Warsaw Pact, among others such as the invention of nuclear weapons geared toward protecting state boundaries which were championed by realists' ideas. Braimah (2020) asserts that the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed countries around the world even superpowers like the United Kingdom (U.K), United States of America (U.S.A) among others to giving attention to ammunition and nuclear weapons than investing in health care system to combat diseases. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 1994) report argues that, the proponents of traditional security lost sight of the security concerns of the ordinary people. Going forward, the 1990s witnessed radical changes in the nature of conflict around the world. The rapid decline in conflicts between states was matched in the opposite direction by the rapid rise in disputes, conflicts, and “emergencies” within states (Arie & Leaning, 2000, p.3). It can be justified that, most of these intrastate conflicts and disputes were as a result of social, cultural, political and economic problems which confronted the people. There was therefore, the need to give attention to developing human capabilities to combat such problems without necessarily using ammunition hence the introduction of the concept human security.

In the words of Zgüç (2007), in contemporary, times a notable catalyst to the Human Development Report was the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues also known as the Palme Commission which was formed in 1980s. The Commission proposed that conceptions of security must move from a militaristic model to a more holistic model. However, it failed to take into consideration the “human” aspect. Contrary to the Palme Commission report was the 1993 Human Development Report (HDR) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which also called for a modification of the perception of security from exclusively focusing on national security to a much greater focus on people’s security; from security through armaments to security through human development (UNDP, 1993). Succeeding the 1993 HDR was the 1994 HDR, which led to the inception of human security. Hendricks (2007) throws more light on the essence of the 1994 Report by emphasising that although the idea to broaden security had been on the margins of security discourse, the 1994 Report gave “coherent and systematic” expression to those ideas and named the concept Human Security.

From the assertions above it can be deduced that over the years the concept of security has been contested with the evolution of what security truly entails, being the core value of human life (Hashimwimana, 2017). More importantly, the term “human security” gained prominence only in the early 1990s through the publication of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report of 1994. The report identified seven elements that comprise human security: economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security. Significantly, this study focuses on the economic dimension of human security.

Human security is a critical concept that determines and identifies the security of human lives viewed as the central aim of international and national security policy-making (Fukuda-Parr & Missineo, 2012). According to Wolfers (1952), the concept of human security emanated traditionally from the notion of security viewed as the non-existence of threats to the vital or values of life. In the acknowledgement of Gasper (2010), the concept has been widely used increasingly in the mid-1990 through to our modern times. Currently, the concept centrally pinpoints on privacy of the individual. This grew out of the increasing dissatisfaction with the state-centred approach to security that focuses on military strength as opposed to human vulnerabilities (Kador, 2007). Targeting the individual, human security must necessarily encompass all aspects of human rights by forms of meeting the human basic needs and political and social freedom. Haq (1995), posits that modernity has dramatically changed the core idea of security from security of state territory and nations to security of people; security through development, not arms and security of all people everywhere – (in their jobs, streets, societies and environments).

According to Buzan, (2004), Busumtwi-Sam, (2008), Owen, (2004), and Paris, (2004), the UNDP Report has led to the emergence of two general positions on Human Security; the “broad” and “narrow” perspectives. The narrow definition limits human security to the absence of violence or what has been termed ‘freedom from fear’ (Krause, 1998; Mack, 2004) and this school of thought is led by Canada. Categorically, the narrow discourse of human security is centralised on freedom from organised political violence. The broad definition of human security goes beyond the narrow approach described above to include ‘freedom from want’ (Thakur, 2000) this school of thought is led by Japan. The broader denotation of human security is necessarily connected with overall human vulnerabilities hence encompassing all forms of threats

from varied sources. The broader conceptualisation of the concept captured other forms of violence in addition to the threats of natural disaster, hunger, diseases environmental degradation, economic downturn and unemployment (Fakuda-Parr & Missineo, 2012; King & Murray, 2001; UN, 1994). This therefore makes unemployment a problem to be dealt with in the quest for human security. The United Nations in almost all its documents and debates characterised human security as incorporating the two pillars of its charter considered as the foundations of human rights instrument: “freedom from fear” and “freedom and from want” (Annan, 2000; Frechette, 1999; Ogata, 1998). Accordingly, the former combines elements such as violence, conflicts, crimes and clashes that induce fear and deprive people of satisfactory living, while the latter alludes to deprivations such as lack of employment, education, housing, health, sanitation and others that undermine honourable life (Akpopari, 2012). These two perspectives informed the UNDP Report’s categorisation of Human Security into “freedom from want” and “freedom from fear” (Busumtwi-Sam, 2008, p.17).

Corollary, human security denotes an all-encompassing situation where people live in peace, freedom, and safety and participate in the process of governance. The interest of humans as the focal point means the enjoyment of fundamental human rights, access to basic necessities of life and resources, and habits in seemingly health-injurious environments. Poverty eradication remains central to ensuring the security of all people and the state (Commission on Human Security, 2003). According to the Commission on Human Security, (2003), human security means protecting the vital core of all human existence by forms of expediting human freedoms and fulfilment. The commission in its final report added that human Security encompasses protecting fundamental freedoms essential to human survival, protecting individuals from situations and threats that are severe and widespread. It also means creating political,

environmental, social, economic, cultural and military systems that accumulatively provides the people with favourable livelihood, survival and dignity (Commission on Human Security, 2003). In the context of this study human security can be defined as the protection of individuals from all forms of vulnerabilities that affect the economic well-being of individuals. Categorically, human security has two main components (UNDP, 1994). Firstly, it includes safety from chronic threats such as hunger, disease, and repression, while the second component connotes protection from unawares and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily living in homes, jobs and societies (UNDP, 1994). Contextually, threats of insecurity can be man-made or natural.

The broader concept of human security is intertwined with and reflects the intellectual roots in theoretical underpinnings of human capabilities and rights. Corollary to the above, the Commission on Human Security, (2003), conceptualises human Security in the context of Amartya Sen's capability approach. According to this approach, human freedom encapsulates individual's abilities to do the things they value in accordance to their live choices (Fakuda-Parr & Missineo, 2012). Notwithstanding the above, human security means all people can freely exercise these choices with the confidence that such opportunities they have today will be forever (UNDP, 1994). By emphasising the material aspect that accompanies security, Leaning and Arie (2000b) acknowledged the psychological sense of well-being, not merely access to reliable shelter but a sustainable home; not merely for political freedom and lack of repression but also constructive attachments in groups; not merely for impromptu downturns but also accepting the past and grasping the future. Thus, human security encompasses dignified lives and freedom from fear and wants.

Despite its popularity, human security as a concept has received intellectual condemnations. For instance, Paris (2001, p.89), criticizes the concept as being too

broad and including “virtually any kind of unexpected or irregular discomfort.” On the other hand, feminist contend that the expression of the concept has not taken into consideration the concerns of women (Basch, 2004). Also, some scholars see the concept as narrow and focusing exclusively on humans. This view suggests an expansion in the focus of the concept to take into consideration “traditional” ways of living (Pettman 2005, p.140).

Human security in line with the capability approach of Amartya Sen discloses that every human being living everywhere should be able to embark on profession of his or her choice. However, youth unemployment as a canker has rendered many youth jobless across the globe. This therefore compels these vulnerable youth to pursue a on any activity possible to make earns meet which sometimes is against the human security of the said youth and the inhabitants of the society as a whole which is contrary to the freedom from fear and freedom from wants.

This called on the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to implement the Security Needs Assessment Protocol (SNAP) which aims to create a systematic and rapid means of assessing local security problems as they are understood by community members themselves. This Protocol could be applied by interested agencies and individuals to conduct cooperative cultural research in villages, towns or cities, municipalities such as the Effutu municipality, counties or chiefdoms (Miller & Rudnick, 2008).

2.9 Dimensions of Human Security

The UNDP report (1994) report suggested seven dimensions to human security. According to the report, there are essentially seven broad facets of life associated with human security. These include the following;

Economic security means the guarantee of basic income for individuals, usually from productive work or from a public finance system. Buzan (1991), states that economic security is related to access to resources, finance and markets which are needed to support acceptable wealth and power levels in the state which reflects in the lives of the citizenry. Tsereteli (2008), similarly points out that the concept refers to long-term security of accessing to economic opportunities in market resources such as human capital, capital, energy, water, technology and education. This is focuses on a secured minimum wage rate. Thus, the minimum amount of remuneration or incentives that an employer is required to pay employees for the work done during a given period, which cannot be reduced by collective agreement or an individual contract.

Another dimension is food security. The term food security is defined as “access by all people at all times to enough food for active and healthy life” World Bank (1986, p.8). This definition looks at food security in terms of food accessibility, availability and utilisation of food for a healthy life. However, it failed to bring on board the nutritional value and food preferences. As a result, the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) added nutritional value and food preferences to the World Bank’s definition. The FAO (1996), defined food security as a “situation in which all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for a healthy and active life”. Simply put, this dimension of human security focuses on the assurance of physical and economic access to basic food at all times.

Again, health security can be defined as a guarantee of minimum protection from diseases and lifestyles that are detrimental to the health of people. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic with its accompanying devastating effects on economic security across the globe indicates how crucial it is to give health security the needed attention. Health security globally has been given minimal attention. This confirms the findings of Braimah (2020), that the corona virus pandemic has uncovered that countries around the world have given attention to ammunition and nuclear weapons than investing in health care system to protect the individual against diseases.

To add up, environmental security focuses on the protection from the effects of deterioration of the natural environment. According to HDR 1994, it covers issues such as the prevention of water pollution, prevention from deforestation, irrigated land conservation, prevention of natural hazards such as droughts, floods, cyclones, earthquakes, among others.

More so, personal security can be explained as the protection of people from physical violence. It focuses on protection against crimes of life and property and from accidents, abuse (including self-abuse, such as drug abuse) and neglect. On this note, it can be deduced that an attempt to commit suicide is possibly against one's personal security.

An equally important dimension is community security which is defined as the protection of people from the loss of traditional relationships values and from sectarian and ethnic violence. This covers the conservation of traditions, cultures, languages and commonly held values. It also includes the abolishment of ethnic conflicts, and protection of indigenous people.

Lastly, political security is identified as an assurance that people live in a society that honours their basic human rights among others. It focuses on the enjoyment of civil and

political rights, and freedom from political oppression. Human interaction has been in existence since the pre-Socratic era, hence Aristotle's description of man as *homo est animal politicum* (Brako & Ansah-Asante 2014, p.2) meaning "man is a political animal" and any man who is not affected by politics is either a god or a beast but not human. This therefore makes politics important in the existence of every human being. From the above, Owutu (2012) asserts that almost every facet of society's life is politicised and politics affect the entirety of human life. As a result, the 1994 UNDP Report used the term to mean the "prevention of government repression, systematic violation of Human Rights and threats from militarisation" (UNDP, 1994, p.32).

2.10 Economic Insecurity

Economic insecurity has received maximum public attention and policy debates. Yet like, other concepts in the social sciences, a precise definition for the term has remained elusive. This has attracted a lot of opinions from scholars on what economic insecurity means. According to Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi (2009, p.198), economic insecurity may be defined as "uncertainty about the material conditions that may prevail in the future. This insecurity may generate stress and anxiety in the people concerned, and make it harder for families to invest in education and housing." Emphasising on their definition, economic insecurity is the anxiety produced by the possible exposure to adverse economic events and by the anticipation of the difficulty to recover from them. Bossert and D'Ambrosio (2013, p.1018), defined economic insecurity as "the anxiety produced by possible exposure to adverse economic events and by anticipation of the difficulty to recover from them". Simply put, it refers to the lack of resources to meet basic needs. It includes fear of unemployment, and expectation of worsening financial situation, among others.

Insecurity affects economic growth by drying out investments, increasing unemployment and dwindling government revenue. A practical situation that has rendered global economies completely insecure is the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and this has transcended into the lives of the individual.

The attempt of the global economy to recover from the 2007/8 financial crisis has been crushed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Employment is the heart of economic security. However, the COVID-19 pandemic led to a huge government as well as private-led reduction in economic activities (such as the closing of borders and compelling other private enterprises to close down their businesses and lay off workers among others) across the globe, in order to contain the pandemic and save lives. The unprecedented shock has therefore intensified economic insecurity globally. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), around 220 million people remained unemployed globally in 2021, while the global unemployment rate reached 6.3 percent and projected to fall to only 5.7 percent in 2022, which still would be above the pre-pandemic level of 5.4 percent registered in 2019 (ILO, 2021) with an accompanying high level of debt among developing economies of which Ghana is not an exception.

According to the World Bank (2020), the economic shock following the COVID-19 pandemic in Ghana resulted in reductions in income for over 770,000 workers, reductions in working hours for over 700,000 workers and layoffs for over 42,000 workers. This contributed to the rise in youth unemployment rate to 12%. As a result, the economy of Ghana has deteriorated and government is struggling to revive it. Economic insecurity has received maximum public attention and policy debates. Economic insecurity in general and unemployment in particular, in the words of Clark and Georgellis (2013), have negative effect on mental health prior to the realisation of unemployment expectations.

2.11 Effects of Youth Unemployment on Human Security

The youth in every society can essentially be a part of the problem as well as the solution to the progress of society depending on how their potential will be harnessed. According to GSS (2021), it is estimated that young people form 59.73 percent of the Ghanaian population. This indicates that the youth constitute a greater part of the country's human resources potential, yet opportunities for employment open to them are limited. Given the large youthful population in Ghana, high unemployment rates among the youth possess serious threats to social, economic and political well-being as well as human security in the country. The argument is that whenever there is an issue of youth unemployment, the human security of the unemployed youth, the family and the nation at large is endangered.

Many studies have shown that unemployment negatively affects the psychological and physical well-being of the youth (McKee-Ryan et al., 2005; Mousteri et al., 2018; Paul & Moser, 2009) and is particularly devastating for unemployed young adults (Mokona et al., 2020; Thern et al., 2017). Poku-Boansi and Afrane (2011) found that prolonged joblessness of the youth creates intense frustrations, hopelessness and desperation among these frail and inexperienced young folks. The psychological effects of unemployment and the feeling of worthlessness on the side of the unemployed youth compel them to do anything possible to feel worthy in their homes and societies. As a result, they end up embarking on acts that are contrary to constitutional demands of the state such as armed robbery, drug abuse, prostitution, teenage pregnancy and disrespect for the elderly. Some end up contracting deadly Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) such as HIV/AIDS with others suffering from mental and psychiatric problems which are against their health security. Amissah and Nyarko (2017) believe that suicide may

be counted among the negative consequences of unemployment as prolonged joblessness can drive frustrated youth to commit suicide.

The most devastating aspect of it all is the dwindling interest of the youth in formal education. This is because students will spend resources and years in school only to graduate to become a liability to their families and country due to unemployment. Some of these youth end up becoming rebels and launching terrorist attacks against their motherland with the mindset that their country has let them down. Going forward, if governments, stakeholders and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) do not come with prudent policies to curb the problem of youth unemployment, disinterest in education by the youth today will be a threat to human security of the country tomorrow.

According to Amuzu-Pharin (2021), data available to the Ghana Statistical Service indicate that currently in Ghana, graduates remain jobless for an average of about five years after school before he or she can get a job. Several studies have indicated that in Ghana, only 10 percent of the students who graduate every year find jobs after their first year of graduating from the various tertiary institutions in the country (Adogla-Bessa, 2020; Dadzie et al., 2020; Ghana News Agency, 2017; GSS, 2016; ISSER, 2017; Yeboah, 2019; World Bank, 2020). The remaining 90 percent of the job seekers are left to find employment in the informal economy where levels of compliance with labour standards are not existing, are very low, or remain unemployed. The rest are expected to be absorbed by the private and agricultural sectors, while the private sector is not growing fast enough to grip the teeming youth labour force. Most of these frustrated youth are therefore forced to enter into professions against their preference. For instance, many unemployed youth are forced to enter the agricultural sector, illegal mining (especially those in the rural areas) among others which is against their human

security since they should have the freedom to choose their preferred professions, in relation to the capability approach by Amartya Sen, yet this case is the contrary in Ghana due to unemployment. This is because, the employment structure of the Ghanaian economy has not seen much progress over the last few decades to curb this problem.

At the national level, youth unemployment has several adverse effects on human security. Any country whose population is youthful yet, has a larger proportion of the youth unemployed is subjected to demonstrations and political upheavals. For instance, in 2021 Ghana experienced a serious demonstration dubbed “Fix the country” on the streets of Accra and one of the major demands of the demonstrators was to provide employment for the youth. Urdal (2006) conducted a study on youth bulges and political violence. He found out that the presence of youth bulges increases the risk of conflict outbreaks significantly. Numerous studies argue that youth unemployment is a threat to the social, economic and political stability of nations (Urdal, 2006, 2012). This view follows the increasing body of literature on the causes of political instability and conflicts, such as Collier and Hoeffler (2002) or Miguel et al., (2004) to name a few. Choucri (1974, p.73) argued that “high unemployment among educated youth is one of the most destabilising and potentially violent socio-political phenomena in any regime.” In relation to the idea of Choucri (1974), Goldstone (2001) avers that a rapid increase in the number of educated youths has preceded historical episodes of political upheaval. It has been argued that the Arab spring is a critical example of the explosive impacts of youth unemployment on societies that have not given the issue the necessary attention. The Tunisian young man, Mohammed Bouazizi, who instigated the Arab spring by burning himself, was protesting due to lack of meaningful work. Lia (2005), posits that youth unemployment has a radicalising effect and provides new recruits to

militant organisations. This ends up intensifying issues of terrorism among most African countries which is a serious human security threat. It is significant to note that, youth unemployment can lead to political upheavals and armed conflicts in developing countries such as the Liberian civil war, Sierra Leone civil war and recently, the xenophobic attacks in South Africa. In many cases, riots as a result of the high rate of youth unemployment does not aim to terminate a political regime but can lead to anti-government demonstrations. This ends up having negative impacts on human security.

The impact of youth unemployment on the national economy is even more significant and far-reaching. High incidence of unemployment among the youth population result in high economic dependency ratio. Second, despite the inability of the youth to contribute to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), these young people would continue to exert increasing pressure on our national budget for social services such as health and housing given the size of their population. Another problem youth unemployment creates for the nation is the high cost of crime control. With the increasing crime rate resulting from joblessness among the youth, the country has to spend more money on strengthening our security and corrective institutions like the police, prisons and mental/psychiatric hospitals. Teenage pregnancy is not only ruining the future of our young ladies, but it is also undermining our population control programme. Children born to these teenage parents are more likely to be liabilities to the nation.

2.12 Summary

This chapter discussed literature on youth unemployment and human security. It brought to limelight how social vices and crime as a result of youth unemployment affect human security. It has been argued that since independence, there have been several youth employment interventions implemented by government to curb the

problem of youth unemployment, yet all efforts to mitigate youth unemployment have proven futile as the situation still persists.

It has also been argued that the concept of human security which originated in the many debates about ‘collective security’ around the end of the Cold War expands the scope of analysis and policy in multiple directions. It could be said that in all the related literature discussed so far, it is clear that there is no universally accepted definition of human security as it is multifaceted. The literature also revealed that the causes of youth unemployment in Ghana. It has also been revealed that there is a working relationship between youth unemployment and human security and that youth unemployment poses threats to human security. It is based on this premise that, there was the need to undertake the study to gain insight into the way in which youth unemployment affect human security.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

According to Creswell and Clark (2017, p. 3), “research is all about gathering data in the quest to find the truth about an issue, event or a phenomenon.” This Chapter provides the methods that the study adopted which aided the researcher in gathering the requisite data that helped to achieve the study objectives.

This chapter presented a description of the research approach and design used in this study, the setting and context under which the study was presented, the target population for the study, the sample size, sampling techniques and procedures for data collection, data processing and data analysis. The study also captured the pre-testing of the interview guide and audio recording instrument that were used and finally, the rigor associated with the qualitative study and the ethical considerations were observed.

3.1 Research Approach

This study adopted the qualitative approach. In the words of Lokesh (2009), research approach refers to the various steps to be adopted in solving a research problem such as the manner in which the problem is expressed. According to Copley (2019), the task of qualitative research is to gain insights into the constructions of reality. Thus, to tease out the nature of the world as it is experienced, structured and interpreted by people in the course of their everyday lives. Bhandari (2022) avers that, the qualitative approach entails collecting and analysing non-numeric data such as texts, videos and audios in order to achieve understanding of concepts, opinions and experiences of a specific group of people or events.

Kombo and Tromp (2006) clarify that qualitative research is a form of research that involves the description of the data obtained. Berg et al., (2004), believe that the qualitative research approach is mostly concerned with the quality of information. Qualitative methods attempt to gain an understanding of the underlying reasons and motivations for actions and establish how people interpret their experiences and the world around them (Elo & Kyngas, 2008). The qualitative approach aims at a complete, detailed description of what is observed (Creswell & Creswell, 2017). It seeks to describe and analyse the behaviour of groups from the point of view of those being studied. In this study, the qualitative approach was used to enable the researcher to get direct explanations and views of informants.

Despite all the strengths of the qualitative approach critics believe that a major limitation of the approach is that, it generates results that cannot be generalised beyond the cases investigated. The motivation for the choice of the approach was the quest to get a comprehensive understanding of the study through the in-depth knowledge of the informants with regard to the social and cultural contexts within which they live.

3.2 Research Design

Research design, according to Cooper and Schindler (2001, p.134), is “the plan and structure of investigation so conceived as to obtain answers to research questions.” Research design is the arrangement of conditions for the collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in the procedure (Creswell, 2007). It is the conceptual structure within which research is conducted; it constitutes, the blueprint for the collection, measurement and analysis of data (Kothari, 2007). It is the “glue” that holds all elements in research together.

This study utilised the qualitative research approach, it adopted the case study design within the phenomenological interpretative paradigm to explore the nexus between youth unemployment and human security in the study area. Cooney (2010), defined a case study as an in-depth, detailed study of an individual or a small group of individuals resulting in a narrative description of behaviour or experience. Similarly, Yin (2017) emphasised that case study focuses on individuals or small group. This enables the researcher to conduct a comprehensive analysis from a comparison of cases. Flick (1998), argued that case study research is not used to determine causes and effects, nor is it used to discover generalisable truths or make predictions. Rather, the emphasis in case study research is placed on the exploration and description of a phenomenon. The case study design which mostly requires in-depth interviews was chosen for the study because it provides an in-depth understanding which cannot be achieved from a structured questionnaire.

According to Bryman (2008, p.87), “all research is based on some underlying philosophical assumptions about what constitutes ‘valid’ research and which research method(s) is/are appropriate for the development of knowledge in a given study.” Epistemologically, the study adopted interpretivism as a research philosophical worldview/paradigm. According to Bryman (2008), the qualitative approach rests on interpretivism as the philosophical assumption that considers reality as a complex social construction of meanings, values, and lived experiences. The qualitative method became needful for an enquiry into understanding human or social phenomenon. According to Cropley (2019), the task of qualitative research is to gain insights into the constructions of reality. Thus, to tease out the nature of the world as it is experienced, structured and interpreted by people in the course of their everyday lives. The concept of qualitative research is based on building a complex, holistic picture of the situation

under study, formed with words, reporting the views of informants in detail, and conducted in a natural setting (Creswell, 2008). This then translates that qualitative research is a method of inquiry in which phenomena are explored in their natural environment (Mayan, 2001).

The study adopted the qualitative design because it gives the respondents the opportunity to express their views on the issue with or without any limitations. Qualitative research design reduces the tendency of possible bias by the researcher and gives in-depth information. Also, the qualitative research design was adopted because it best explores behaviours, feelings, thoughts, actions and experiences.

3.3 Profile of Winneba

Winneba is traditionally known as ‘Simpa’, which was derived from the name of the leader of the Effutu ‘Osimpa’ who led the Effutus of the Guan ethnic stock from the Northern part of Ghana to the present location. The name Winneba originated from European Sailors who were often aided by favourable wind to sail along the bay. From the constant use of the words ‘windy bay’; the name Winneba was coined. It is the principal town of the Effutu state founded around 1530 AD (Effutu Municipal Assembly, 2022).

3.4 Setting of the Study

The Effutu municipality is one of the 261 Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDA’s) in Ghana and forms one of the 22 MMDA’s in the central region of Ghana. It was carved from the then Awutu-Effutu Senya Municipal Assembly and it was established by the Local Government Act (Act 462) and Legislative Instrument 1860 in 2007. Fishing is the main occupation in the municipality. Winneba is the administrative capital of the Municipality; a town renowned for several

specialised institution of higher learning. It is about 60 km from Accra, the capital of the Republic of Ghana and about 1 hour travelling time to the regional capital (Cape Coast). Other important towns in the municipality include Ateitu, Osubopanin, Atekyedo, Ansaful, Ekroful, Esuakyir, New Winneba, Gyangyanadze, Wonsom, Gyatakrom, Nseukyir, Gyaahadze, Pomadze, Aseibu, Sankor, Akosua Village and Hackmankrom.

The Effutu Municipal Assembly covers a total land area of 95 square kilometres. The Gomoa East District Assembly shares boundaries with it on its Western, Northern and Eastern flanks. On the Southern flank is the Gulf of Guinea (163 sq miles) (EMA, 2022). According to the 2021 population and housing census, the population of the municipality stands at 107,798 with 54,723 males and 53,075 females. The reason for selecting the Effutu municipality as the study area is that the Effutu municipality is one of the flash points in terms of youth unemployment. This is because the only occupation open to the youth in the municipality is fishing and majority of the youth do not have the zeal in embarking on fishing activities hence leaving a larger population of the youth unemployed.

3.5 Population

According to Kombo and Tromp, (2006) population is a group of individuals, objectives, or items from which samples are taken for measurement. Population refers to an entire group of persons or elements that have at least one thing in common (Kombo & Tromp, 2006). More formally, population is the theoretically specified aggregation of study elements (Rubin & Babbie, 2005). Simply put, population means the total group of people out of which researchers have an interest with regard to the study. The population for the study consisted of all individuals in the Effutu

municipality. However, the target population was the youth (age 15-35) in the area both employed and unemployed. This is because they can provide first-hand information for this study since the study focuses on youth unemployment and human security.

3.6 Sample Size

According to Retzer (2003, p.13), a sample is a selection of a small subset of a population of a study. Since the entire population of the study can hardly be interviewed, the researcher resorted to interviewing a section of the population. Mason (2002), avers that the concept of sample arises from the inability of the researcher to test all the individuals in a given population. As a matter of fact, the researcher selected 20 informants which included 8 unemployed, 5 employed, an assemblyman, a chief fisherman, the director for youth employment in the municipality, police personnel in the municipality, the chairman for the Effutu traditional council, the spokesperson of the Member for Parliament for the Effutu Constituency and the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE). The table below gives a fair idea of the sample size of the study.

Table 1: Sample Size

S/N	Class of Interviewee	Number of Interviewee(s)
1	Unemployed Youth	8
2	Employed Youth	5
3	Assemblyman	1
4	Chief fisherman	1
5	The Municipal Chief Executive (MCE).	1
6	Police personnel in the municipality	1
7	The chairman for the Effutu Traditional Council	1
8	The director for youth employment in the municipality	1
9	The spokesperson for the Member of Parliament in the Municipality	1
TOTAL		20

Source: Field notes, 2022

Qualitative research has been characterised with small sample size (Bryman et al., 2019; Creswell, 2013, 2016). However, scholars have not agreed on a specific number of informants to be interviewed for a case study design (Creswell, 2016). To be sure, for an ethnography, Morse (1994) suggested approximately 30–50 informants. For grounded theory, Morse (1994) suggested 30–50 interviews, while Creswell (1998) suggested only 20–30. For phenomenological studies, Creswell (1998) recommends 5–25 and Morse (1994) suggests at least 6. As a result, after interviewing 20 informants, themes stated by the previous informants kept repeating itself hence the researcher halted the data collection. This is in line with the ideas of Charmaz (2006) that a

qualitative researcher must stop collecting data when the categories (or themes) are saturated- when gathering fresh data no longer sparks new insights or reveals new properties.

The study called for more unemployed youth because they are currently in the situation of unemployment and can really express the impacts on their security and the society at large. However, the study added the employed youth since they have once experienced the state of unemployment and experience, they say is the best teacher, also in one way or another, youth unemployment affects their human security in the municipality. Again, an assembly member was targeted since the person serves as the link between the people and the assembly and can channel the grievances of the unemployed youth to the municipality for solutions. The Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) was consulted since he is the representative of the assembly at the national level and can influence policies at the national level to deal with the unemployment problem in the municipality. The Member of Parliament was considered since he represents the constituency in parliament and can influence legislations to curb the youth unemployment situation in the area. The Director of Youth Employment was targeted since he is in charge of issues concerning youth employment in the municipality and could provide first-hand information on the issue. A member of the traditional council was deployed because they are the custodians of the land and know more about almost all circumstances on their land. The study called for a leader of a fishing group in the area because, fishing is the main occupation in the municipality therefore, fishing becomes a major determinant of employment situations in the area hence, he would be able to enrich the study of youth unemployment situation in the area, particularly with the youth who reside along the sea shores. It became a necessity to interview police personnel since the police are in charge of security issues in the municipality.

3.7 Sampling Technique

The sampling techniques deployed for this study were purposive and convenience techniques. The purposive sampling technique ensured that informants were selected based on specific characteristics or traits that best suit the study. Patton (2002, p.38), stated that “samples in qualitative research are usually purposive.” According to Berg et al., (2004), purposive sampling comes from the word “purpose”. This means that participants are selected because they are likely to generate key information on the topic under study. Here, the researcher purposefully searched for policymakers. Hence the criteria that guided the use of the purposive sampling technique was that the interviewee must be a policy maker in the Municipality.

In order to reach the employed and unemployed youth, the researcher adopted the convenience sampling technique. Convenience sampling (also known as Haphazard Sampling or Accidental Sampling) is a type of nonprobability or non-random sampling where members of the target population that meet certain practical criteria, such as easy accessibility, geographical proximity, availability at a given time, or the willingness to participate are included for the purpose of the study. Neuman (2006) defined convenient sampling as a non-random sample in which the researcher selects anyone he or she happens to come across. This is a sampling method in which the researcher will decide on the choice of sampling unit based upon their convenience. A convenience sample is one that is easily accessible to the researcher and there is a good chance that there will be a good response rate (Bryman et al., 2014). Convenience sampling collects data from whoever is willing to partake in a study, it is the most approachable or is, in other ways, conveniently accessible to the researcher (Wienclaw, 2019).

Critics of this technique believe that it does not necessarily give a representative of the population the research is based on (Staetsky, 2019), which severely hampers

generalizability. Bryman et al., (2022) posit that it is impossible to assure that the results are extendable to the whole population. This sampling method therefore needs to be used with caution as the respondents may be atypical and introduce bias into the study. To prevent bias, only respondents who met the inclusion criteria were selected. In this regard, the selection of interviewees by the researcher was directly influenced by the main purpose of the study of which some benchmarks to qualify as an interviewee included:

- i. The interviewee must be an unemployed youth in the Effutu municipality
- ii. The interviewee must be an employed youth in the Effutu municipality

3.8 Data Collection Instruments

The main instrument for the study was interview guide (A semi-structured guide). As Hesse-Biber (2013, p.29) noted, “Interview guides can be helpful to researchers who are conducting semi-structured in-depth qualitative interviews.” Similarly, Mason (2002), explains that qualitative interviews offer a means of collecting in-depth information about a topic and limit the number of questions posed by the researcher. Other instruments that aided the study were a recorder, and field notebook, among others.

3.9 Sources of Data

This study made use of both primary and secondary sources of data. The former is for a specific research study and was achieved through interviews that will be conducted and the researcher's observations. The secondary was based on library research, books and articles from journals. These materials were drawn from libraries, electronic sources, Jstor, and Sage, amongst others.

3.10 Data Collection Procedure

Data was collected through in-depth interviews. In carving to get the required data from the field, the researcher first gave a brief introduction about what the study entails, using introductory letter from the Department of Political Science Education, by so doing sought the consent of the respondents. The interviews were conducted through face-to-face encounters with the interviewees. Denscombe (1998) asserted that even though an interview is not an easy option, yet has long been used in research as a way of obtaining detailed information about a topic or subject. In conducting the interviews, the researcher asked relevant questions and recorded the responses of the interviewees when permitted. It is necessary to indicate that responses from the interviewees probed further questions which were asked by the researcher.

3.11 Data Analysis

Banerjee and Chaudhury (2010), asserted that the purpose of analysing data is to obtain usable and useful information. Marshall and Rossman (2016), viewed data analysis as the process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass of collected data. The qualitative method demands that data analysis begins immediately with the preceding interview. Data from the field notes were analysed to boost the understanding of the various categories and themes that emerged.

Thematic analysis is a method for identifying, analysing and reporting patterns (themes) within data (Braun & Clarke, 2006, p.27). In the case of further verification of the themes, the researcher went back to some of the informants who agreed to do so. In this regard, the thematic analysis gives an opportunity to understand the potential of any issue more widely (Ibrahim, 2012, p.53).

Interviews that were audio recorded in the Twi or Fante languages were first translated into the English language after which the data were transcribed verbatim for discussions and analysis. This transcription was first written out, typed and printed. In simple terms, the researcher engaged in transcription and coding of the interviews through careful scrutiny of divergent and convergent views. The transcribed data were read thoroughly for meaning and understanding. Going forward, the transcribed data were subsequently validated. This was done by carefully listening to the audio tapes and comparing it with the transcribed data to ensure that the data has been accurately transcribed. Also, tables were used to represent the gathered data. Data were analysed using general thematic and content analysis approach.

3.12 Trustworthiness

Lincoln and Guba (2011) proposed four criteria that should be considered by qualitative researchers in pursuit of a trustworthy study. These include, credibility, transferability, confirmability and dependability. In addressing credibility, investigators attempt to demonstrate that a true picture of the phenomenon under scrutiny is being presented (Shenton, 2004). Credibility also deals with the focus of the research and a confidence in how well data and processes of analysis address the intended focus. The researcher employed the following measures in ensuring the credibility of the study: In the first place, research participants were taken through the same main question in line with the goal of the study. Also, the participants were interviewed to the point at which data saturation was achieved. Moreover, interviews were audio-recorded and transcriptions were made of each interview thereafter. Shenton (2004), stated that “In addressing the issue of dependability if the work were repeated, in the same context, with the same methods and with the same participants, similar results would be obtained” (p. 9). According to Lincoln and Guba (2011), dependability answers the question “Could we

repeat our findings in the same context with same subjects?” (p. 62). Shenton (2004), posited that in order to address the dependability issue more directly, the processes within the study should be reported in detail, thereby enabling a future researcher to repeat the work, if not necessarily to gain the same results (p. 9). Dependability in this study was achieved through an in-depth description of the methodology and approach used in conducting the study. Data was also organised into themes and sub-themes. To conduct an audit trail all relevant materials such as the instrument, transcriptions, interpretations, documents and findings were kept safely for verification by my supervisor.

Another criterion, which is confirmability deals with steps taken to demonstrate that findings emerged from the data and not the researcher’s predispositions (Shenton, 2004). It also refers to neutrality of the data rather than the neutrality of the researcher. In other words, if the research is confirmable, it should be able to find conclusions grounded in data. Miles and Huberman (1994), consider that a key criterion for confirmability is the extent to which the researcher admits his or her own predispositions. Confirmability was ensured by the audit trail of the verbatim descriptions as well as impressions and decisions made along the research path.

The last criterion of Lincoln and Guba’s proposal which is transferability deals with the extent to which the findings can be transferred to other settings/groups (INTREC, 2017). To allow transferability, the researcher provided sufficient detail of the context of the fieldwork for a reader. This is to enable a reader to decide whether the prevailing environment is similar to another situation with which he or she is familiar and whether the findings can justifiably be applied to the other setting (Shenton, 2004). For

transferability, the researcher provided a detailed description of the study area, the participants' background and the methodology adopted.

3.11 Ethical Consideration

Ethics refers to questions of right or wrong. A researcher must ask if it is right or wrong to conduct a certain study or ask certain questions in the course of his investigation into an issue. Ethical matters are very important in conducting research. Arrangements were also made with the informants for a suitable time, place or format (i.e., face-to-face) for the interviews and ethical clearance from the School of Graduate Studies and an introductory letter from the Department of Political Science Education to formally seek the consent of the respondents. Summarily, the study observed the following ethical issues; consent of respondents, respect for divergent views, anonymity and confidentiality of information that was provided. This helped to avoid unnecessary pain or distress, fear and harm among informants. As a result, the researcher built trust among the respondents in the field.

3.12 Summary

This chapter discussed the general approach and specific techniques that were adopted to address the objectives of the study. These included the research setting, the reasons for the choice of the study area and how the study was carried out. Primary data was collected from 20 informants which included 8 unemployed, 5 employed, an assemblyman, a chief fisherman, the director for youth employment in the municipality, police personnel in the municipality, the chairman for the Effutu traditional council, the spokesperson for the Member of Parliament for the Effutu Constituency and the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) with the aid of an interview-guide. Respondents were sampled through purposive and convenience types of non-probability sampling

techniques. The method of data analysis was also captured in the chapter. Ethical issues concerning the study were also considered in the chapter.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

The purpose of this study was to examine the connection between youth unemployment and human security in the Effutu Municipality. The research sought to achieve the following objectives: to find out the causes of youth unemployment in the Effutu Municipality; to examine the consequences of youth unemployment on human security in the Effutu Municipality; and to find out the measures adopted to mitigate youth unemployment to improve human security in the Effutu Municipality.

Data was collected from twenty (20) informants, this comprised of five (5) employed youth, eight (8) unemployed youth and seven (7) policymakers in the Municipality which included one (1) police officer, the chairman of the Effutu Traditional Council, the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE), the spokesperson for the Member of Parliament (MP), a Chief Fisherman, the Director of the National Youth Authority in the Municipality and an Assemblyman with the aid of an interview guide. There were two sets of interview guides which were separately administered. One set was administered to the employed and unemployed youth and the other set was administered to the policymakers. Data collected from the research participants were transcribed and coded after scrutiny of the responses. It was crucial to understand the data to successfully manage data, merge related data drawn from different notes, and identify patterns or relationships.

Data was analysed and categorised into various themes as guided by the theory adopted for the study (Keynesian unemployment theory). Several themes and patterns came out in coding the copious data. Themes that were dominant or kept on occurring were;

political differences, private investment, lack of job opportunities, creation of job opportunities, increase in social vices, laziness on the part of most youth, burden and disgrace to the family as well as protecting the individual from danger. The study focused on the experiences and views of participants of the study area with an emphasis on how their security is affected as a result of youth unemployment.

4.1 Findings Related to Research Questions

Summarily, the table below shows the main themes and sub-themes observed from thematic analysis of the qualitative data

Table 2: Main themes and Sub-themes observed from thematic analysis of the qualitative data

Main themes	Sub- themes
1. Causes Of youth unemployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of employment opportunities in the municipality • Laziness on the part of some youth • Lack of formal education. • Lack of interest in entrepreneurship • Lack of capital
2. Effects of youth unemployment on human security in the Effutu municipality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unemployed youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Psychological Effects ✓ Increase in the Rate of Teenage Pregnancy ✓ Subjection to negative peer influence • Family <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Financial problems ✓ Disgrace and Liability ✓ Livelihood of the family • The Effutu Municipality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dwindling Interest in Formal Education ✓ Increase in Social Vices and Political Instability

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Low Productivity and High Dependency Ratio
3. Measures to curb youth unemployment in the Effutu Municipality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Youth in Sports ✓ Youth in Afforestation ✓ Community Police and Fire Service • Stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Taxi Work and Pay Initiative ✓ Artisanal support to Promote Entrepreneurship
4. Effectiveness of measures to curb youth unemployment to protect human security in the Effutu municipality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the initiatives introduced by the government have reflected in the lives of the youth nevertheless greater part of the youth remain unemployed hence human security is not adequately improved
5. Constraints that impede the effectiveness of the measures put in place to eradicate youth unemployment to protect human security in the Effutu Municipality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political differences • Over-dependency on white collar jobs • Dwindling fortunes of the fishing industry • Lack of career guidance
6. Measures that can be adopted to curb youth unemployment in order to protect human security in the Effutu municipality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of job opportunities • Measures to curb illegal fishing • Career guidance • Policies should target the youth • Settling political differences

Field Report, 2022

4.2 Manifestations/Causes of Youth Unemployment

4.2.1 Informants' Views on the meaning of Human Security

The study revolves around youth unemployment and human security. Just as the concept human security has been defined severally by different authors, the opinions of

the informants on the meaning of human security differed. While others saw it to be a religious phenomenon a greater proportion of the informants saw it to be a social issue.

In the religious connotation, Mr. I responded that “human security involves going to church/mosque and receiving protection from God/Allah” (Field Report, 2022).

Although this opinion of human security by the informants cannot be fully evaluated as wrong since it contains elements of protection but on the other side the meaning is on the foundation of spirituality which deprives it of being a social phenomenon. On the flip side of the same coin some of the informants see human security as a social issue, to be sure, Mr. J, an employed youth defined it as:

“Human security refers to the situation where the individual is free from danger and all forms of threats. That is when you are stable financially and health wise and can take care of your family in all facets of life”. (Field Report, 2022)

One of the unemployed youth, Mr. A said this:

“Human security refers to taking into consideration the welfare of yourself as well as the people around you”. (Field Report, 2022)

Another informant, Mrs. L had this to say:

“Human security simply means to be safe from danger and all forms of threats. That is protecting yourself from unforeseen circumstances in the future”. (Field Report, 2022)

Although these definitions cannot be generally accepted as perfect, it unveils key indices of human security. This is in line with Leaning and Arie’s (2000b) idea on human security which emphasised the psychological sense of well-being that is attendant upon material aspects of human security. Their concern is not merely for

access to reliable shelter, but also for a sustainable sense of home. Just as posited by Asaka (2020) that human security is not just a concern regarding the protection of human life from threats to its core but also regarding the empowerment of people so that they can contribute to their own protection.

Buttressing the argument above, the Commission on Human Security (2003) concluded that human security encompasses protecting fundamental freedoms essential to human survival, protecting an individual from situations and threats that are severe and widespread. The assertions above indicate that majority of the informants have a fair idea of the meaning of human security.

4.2.2 Informants' Views on the Extent of Youth Unemployment in the Municipality

According to the 2021 Population and Housing Census, Effutu Municipality's cumulative population is 107,789 people. Out of this population, 75,229 are between the ages of fifteen to sixty-four (15-64) years. Out of the thirteen (13) informants, five (5) chose very high, six (6) chose high, two (2) chose low and zero (0) chose very low. From the information above, it can be deduced that youth unemployment is high in the municipality. One of the informants Mr. M who said the extent of youth unemployment in the municipality is low had this to say:

Due to the university (UEW) which has about three (3) campuses (north, south and central) in the municipality most of the youth in one way or the other always have some work doing that provide them money to take care of themselves.
(Field Report, 2022)

Mr. J made this contribution:

At first, unemployment was rampant in the municipality but now I can confidently say it is low because the MP in the area has assisted a greater percentage of the youth to be recruited and continues to support those who are into artisanship and private businesses. (Field Report, 2022)

The informant believes that the unemployment situation in the municipality is low as a result of the presence of the University of Education, Winneba (UEW) as well as other tertiary institutions such as the Winneba Nursing Training College, Winneba Police Training School among others which have been a source of employment to many youth in the municipality in diverse ways. Mr. D who believes that the youth unemployment situation in the municipality is high said that:

I believe the situation is high and not very high because when students are on campus there are a lot of job opportunities although not permanent. The problem of youth unemployment only increases when students vacate and we all know students spend more time on campus every year than in the house which means under normal circumstance, most of the youth who are hardworking normally have something doing. (Field Report, 2022)

Mr. H who also believes that the youth unemployment situation in the municipality is high had this to say:

The rise and fall of the incidence of youth unemployment depends on the schools in the municipality. This is because the university as well as other schools in the municipality bring a lot of students to the municipality and as matter of fact any job one embarks on certainly attract people who will patronise, this helps to reduce the unemployment situation. But it is the other way round when schools vacate. (Field Report, 2022)

The above assertion confirms the seasonal nature of unemployment in the municipality. Opportunities for employment in the municipality have been on and off. When school resumes there are job opportunities, usually informal but when school vacates opportunities dwindle. One of the informants Mr. A who believes the youth unemployment situation in municipality is very high captured his experience in the excerpt below:

Well, I know most of the youth after school travel out of the municipality in search of job opportunities and majority of those who stay remain jobless. On the other side those who do not have a strong education background are into daily basis work and pay (*by-day*) building construction, carpentry among others which are not full-time employment. (Field Report, 2022)

This was the opinion of a teacher, Mrs. L:

“In my view, I will say the unemployment situation in the municipality is very high because most of my friends whom I completed school with are jobless”. (Field Report, 2022)

This informant also believes that both literate and illiterate youth in the municipality are jobless. In this context being educated in the municipality is not necessarily a key to gaining employment. It can therefore be deduced that the lack of job opportunities is the core reason for the high level of youth unemployment in the municipality. The table below gives a further description of the informants’ views on the extent of youth unemployment in the Effutu Municipality.

Table 3: Extent of youth unemployment

Extent of youth unemployment	No of informants
Very high	5
High	6
Low	2
Very low	0
Total	13

Field Report, 2022

4.2.3 Informants' views on the causes of youth unemployment

The factors accounting for youth unemployment in Ghana are myriad. Scholars have shared their views on some of these contributory factors. Frimpong (2012) suggests that the educational system in Ghana is not directly in line with the economic realities prevailing beyond the school system. This situation is not different in the Effutu municipality. This ends up producing job seekers whose skills do not match the requisite skills in the job market.

Consequently, the first objective of the study was to find out the causes of youth unemployment in the Effutu municipality. Informants shared their views on the causes of youth unemployment in the municipality. Some of these are elaborated below;

4.2.3.1 Lack of employment opportunities

Almost all the informants suggested that the primary cause of youth unemployment in the municipality is lack of job opportunities. The field report indicates that the formal and informal sectors are not helping to reduce the menace in the municipality as expected. The only job which is at the doorstep of the youth is fishing and daily basis work and pay (*by-day*) and construction work which most of the youth are not enthused with. This ends up rendering majority of the youth unemployed. Mr. F had this to say:

Life in the Effutu municipality is devastating. The population of the youth keeps increasing and most of us are willing to work especially, those who have graduated from tertiary institutions but sadly there are no job opportunities not only in the formal sector but the informal sector as well. This makes us feel that spending several years in school to add to the production process of the municipality and Ghana as a whole is now a fallacy. No wonder most of the youth have a dwindling interest in education and resorting to betting and scamming and young ladies embarking on hook-ups. (Field Report, 2022)

Adding up, Mr. A shared his view:

I am not amazed that youth unemployment is on the rise in the municipality. What I know is that to every problem there is a solution and the solution to unemployment is adequate availability of job opportunities which are not available in the area. (Field Report, 2022)

On this same issue one of the unemployed youth, Miss G shared this excerpt:

The Effutu municipality has been facing the problem of lack of job opportunities. With the rapid increase in the youthful population the demand for jobs is outpacing the rate of job creation as a result most of the youth are unemployed. (Field Report, 2022)

These opinions of the informants are in consonance with the ideas of O'Higgins, (2001), who believes that youth joblessness will probably experience a further downturn if the total work showcase is not sufficient to retain the increasing number of the youth populace and this goes a long way to affect their human security. The argument is that day-in-day-out, the population of the youth keeps increasing yet there are no new jobs

being created. This is in line with the assumption by Keynes (1936), in his theory of unemployment that unemployment emerges when government fails to create job opportunities for each qualified, capable and willing person who needs a job.

4.2.3.2 Laziness on the part of some youth

The argument as to whether or not laziness is one of the factors accounting for youth unemployment in Ghana has received divergent views from some citizens, public figures and statesmen over the years. The youth always point their fingers at the top apportioning the blame for youth unemployment on our political leaders. Leaders always point their hands back to the youth blaming them for their laziness. Some of the informants admitted that laziness on the part of some youth in the municipality is a reason for the high rate of youth unemployment in the municipality. Miss G had this to say to buttress the assertion above:

What I have witnessed is that the youth are lazy even those with shops if the shop belongs to a guy, you will see that always his relatives and sometimes friends will always be around him at the shop instead of them to go out there and such for job. (Field Report, 2022).

To Miss B most of the ladies in the municipality think that the easier way to run away from hunger is get a boyfriend to take care of you instead of trying to start a small business or securing a job to take care of themselves. Most of them prefer sleeping with guys or putting their burden on their boyfriends to take care of them instead of working. (Field Report, 2022). The argument however is that if there are job opportunities available in the municipality the youth would never be idle and starve or be in dire need of their basic necessities, they would definitely work in order to acquire their needs. On May 12, 2016, commenting on this dilemma, Dr. Paa Kwesi Nduom told the sit-in-host

of the *Anopa Kasapa* morning show on Kasapa FM, Kwaku Owusu Adjei that Ghanaians are not lazy people, if there are jobs available, you can bet they'll do it, but the fact is as a country we're in dire situation with employment issues (ModernGhana, 2016). Government has not created the opportunities for people to be employed. By extension, the politician and business mogul believe that if the enabling environment is created to support the private sector, it can aid in creating job opportunities to absorb the teeming unemployed youth in the country.

4.2.3.3 Lack of formal education

Lack of formal education is an identified indicator of the causes of the high rate of joblessness among the youth in most African nations. In this regard, about half of the working-age population has acquired no formal education at all or just basic education which only enables them to read and write with no employable skills to secure employment in the formal segment of the labour market (Baah-Boateng, 2013). This deprives some of the youth the opportunity to be part of the production process which in the long run affects their human security as well as the people around them. Since unemployed youth will be compelled to adopt any means possible (such as armed robbery and prostitution) in order to cater for their basic needs. This will end up threatening the security of the unemployed youth and the people around them. Some of the informants disclosed that most of the youth in the municipality are unemployed because they have no education, especially those who live along the seashores in the municipality. The argument is that they are introduced to fishing at a tender age and most of them grow to have no interest in formal education, and as time unfolds if their interest in fishing dwindles, they end up becoming unemployed. Perry et al. (2016) believes that this sets in when skills possessed by workers or job seekers do not meet

the skills required at their workplace or the job market, thus, creating Structural unemployment. Apparently, some of the informants blame this lack of support to acquire formal education on some families. Mr. J had this to say:

What I have realised is that, most of the parents in Effutu especially, the men do not take responsibility of taking care of their kids and most do not care about the educational wellbeing of their children. They therefore end up growing with a little or no education which renders most of them unemployed. (Field Report, 2022)

Mr. F made this claim:

The world is changing now and almost every work demands some level of education. Even if you want to establish your own business you need some level of education to thrive. But here is the case most of the youth especially those along the sea shores in the municipality are not educated and if it happens like this and the youth in question is not interested in fishing then he/she is likely to be unemployed. I believe that lack of education has contributed to the problem. (Field Report, 2022)

Mr. F had this to say:

My worry is that even if it is this tertiary education that some of the youth are not interested in, we are lucky to have a Technical and Vocational Training (TVET) in the municipality yet they will still show no interest in it either. You will always see them on the street roaming to and fro claiming they are hustlers but their hustle has no direction. (Field Report, 2022)

This calls for parents in the municipality to take the educational well-being of their wards into consideration. In this regard, the people should capitalise on the free education system in Ghana to help reduce the level of illiteracy in the municipality. Again, fortunately on the part of the youth, there is the Winneba Vocational Training Institute in the municipality which will help the youth to enrich their technical and vocational skills which can fetch the youth jobs after graduating. Former finance minister Kwabena Duffour, recognising the need for proper skill development admonished the government of Ghana to focus on Technical and Vocational Training (TVET) as it is the only effective solution to the rising youth unemployment in Ghana (Ghana News Agency, 2021). This stresses how Technical and Vocational Training can help reduce youth unemployment generally in Ghana and particularly in the Effutu municipality.

Arguably, this finding contradicts the finding of Biney (2015), the study revealed that hitherto unemployment was closely related to lack of education but the situation has changed these days since there are a lot of unemployed graduates in the country. He believes that some decades ago the number of employed youth were few so jobs were created to absorb them but in recent times the population the educated youth have increased yet there are no jobs being created. This has resulted in the high rate of unemployment in the country.

4.2.3.3 General lack of interest in entrepreneurship

Formal or public job opportunities available in the municipality are minimal, as a result there are more job seekers than job opportunities available. The best that could have been adopted to reduce the unemployment menace is entrepreneurship yet most of the youth have no interest in it. An informant had this to say:

Most of the youth prefer to work in the public services than embarking in entrepreneurship and personally, I don't blame them because there is no adequate vocational support, training facilities and emphasis on the importance of entrepreneurial skills to let the youth have interest in building their own businesses. (Field Report, 2022)

Adding to the above Miss G made this claim:

These days learning entrepreneurial skills has become a substitute of formal employment and even some formal workers learn entrepreneurial skills to serve as a part time work for them but majority of the youth in this municipality have little or no interest in entrepreneurship rendering most of the unemployed. (Field Report, 2022)

This contradicts the findings of Padi and Musah (2022) that entrepreneurship is a potential solution to high unemployment and a determining factor for reducing unemployment and ensuring economic growth. This calls on the government to provide support to the youth in municipality who wish to create their own business by offering them loans. These loans should have low-interest rates and flexible repayment conditions to enable the youth to successfully run their own businesses.

4.2.3.3 Lack of capital to start a business

Among the unemployed youth in the study area there are some of them who have business ideas and skills to start their own businesses but lack of capital to start the businesses have crippled their business ideas and skills leaving them unemployed. Some of the informants shared their views on how lack of capital has rendered some youth unemployed in the study area. Mr. F had this to say:

Growing up, it has been my biggest dream to be my own boss. I want to establish my own business and run it. I don't really have interest in government work but I don't have any capital to start my own business and I haven't gotten employment in the public sector too, so this is why I am still unemployed. So, I believe lack of capital to start our own private businesses is one of the causes of youth unemployment in the municipality. (Fieldwork, 2022)

Adding up, Mr. A shared his view:

“Sometimes I feel like going to bank for loan to start my own business but I am scared I will be denied since I am unemployed and the bank may perceive that I can't pay the loan”. (Fieldwork, 2022)

The argument is that some of the youth aspire for different professions. This is because there are no vacancies with regard to the jobs that the rest of the youth aspire for within the various sectors of the economy. This conceptualises human security in the context of Amartya Sen's capability approach. According to this approach, human freedom encapsulates an individual's abilities to do the things they value in accordance with their life choices (Fakuda-Parr & Missineo, 2012). By extension, the needed capital to start their own businesses are also not available as a result, rendering most of them unemployed.

4.2.3.4 Informants' views on the type of unemployment in the Effutu Municipality

Basically, there are four types of unemployment namely, structural, frictional, cyclical, and seasonal unemployment. Going forward, the researcher found it beneficial to find out the type of unemployment in the study. Since the capital town for the Municipality (Winneba) is renowned for several specialised institutions of higher learning and these institutions have greater impact on the economic activities that go on in the

municipality, the informants were asked if the businesses they are into or have once ventured into are/were in relation to the institutions of higher learning such as the University of Education, Winneba (UEW) and other tertiary as well as Senior High Schools which are in Winneba? In response to the question above Miss B had this to say:

“It really affected my business, I was into the selling of indomie nodules and the students were my targeted consumers and whenever the students were on campus, business really flourished but as soon as they vacate, I also vacate”.
(Field Report, 2022)

Mr. H who happens to be a taxi driver said this:

Businesses in Winneba and its environs become very boring when students vacate. For instance, when they vacate you will see that a greater amount of all the taxis from Winneba Junction to south campus are without passengers. When this happens most of the taxi drivers move to Kasoa and Swedru to work instead but as soon as school resumes especially on the day of reopening that is when we have our bumper harvest because almost every student needs to hire a car ‘*dropping*’ to carry their luggage to places of residence. So, it is true when school vacates businesses go down. (Field Report, 2022)

From the opinions of the informants, the unemployment situation in the study area is on and off. Economic activities dwindle when schools vacate and there is an economic boom when schools resume. This further affirms the argument that the unemployment situation in the municipality is a seasonal type of unemployment. This is in line with the idea of Ehrenberg and Smith (2012) as well as Naftanaila et al. (2016) that seasonal unemployment occurs when a job cannot continue during the entire period, usually a

year, due to lack of demand for manufactured goods, weather conditions and so on. This confirms the idea of Keynes (1936) that unemployment is caused by deficits in aggregate demand over certain periods in the business cycle where jobs created are not enough for everyone who wants to work as postulated in the Keynesian unemployment theory.

4.3 Effects of Youth Unemployment on Human Security in the Effutu Municipality

4.3.1 The Unemployed Youth

The youth in every society can essentially be a part of the problem and solution to the progress of society depending on how their potential will be handled. Given the large youthful population in Ghana, high unemployment rates among the youth pose serious threats to social, economic and political well-being as well as human security in the country. Urdal (2006) conducted a study on youth bulges and political violence. He found out that the presence of youth bulges increases the risk of conflict significantly. Urdal (2006, 2012) argues that youth unemployment is a threat to the social, economic and political stability of nations and this adversely affects human security. The argument is that whenever there is an issue of youth unemployment, the human security of the unemployed youth, the family and the nation at large is endangered.

The second objective of the study focused on finding out the effects of youth unemployment on the human security of the youth. Below are some of the views of the informants on the question, what are the impacts of youth unemployment on the human security of the following: the unemployed youth in Effutu, their family/society and Ghana as a whole?

4.3.1.1 Psychological Effects

One of the effects that most of the informants talked about is the psychological effect. They believe that unemployment creates mental scars for the unemployed youth. The youth in this situation lose self-relevance and feel worthless since they have the feeling that their parents have invested so much in them and deserve to reap the fruit of their labour. Mr. F shared this experience:

Prolonged joblessness is creating depression and frustration among us. Sometimes I spend sleepless nights thinking of how to get a job because I feel that my parents have done enough because after graduating from the university, I still take money from my parents just like my siblings in the primary school which is making me lose my respect as an elder brother. (Field Report, 2022)

An informant, Mr. K in an elaboration to this factor had this to say:

Sometimes I feel like I have failed in life. My friends that I attended school with, my brother, I was even better than some of them but now they are working in other places and when they come for funeral or any occasion here and I see how they dress and spend money, I am not able to mingle with them because I feel like they are far ahead of me in life. (Field Report, 2022)

Various studies have shown that unemployment negatively affects the psychological and physical wellbeing of youth (McKee-Ryan et al., 2005; Mousteri et al., 2018; Paul & Moser, 2009), and is particularly devastating for unemployed young adults (Mokona et al., 2020; Thern et al., 2017). A lot of these young folks end up suffering from mental and psychiatric problems which are against their health security. Amissah and Nyarko (2017) believe that suicide may be counted among the negative consequences of unemployment. Poku-Boansi and Afrane (2011) found that prolonged joblessness of

the youth creates intense frustrations, hopelessness and desperation among these frail and inexperienced young folks. This compels the youth to act in a way that is contrary to the constitutional demands of the land such as armed robbery and prostitution which are against the human security of the unemployed youth as well as the people around them. This is in line with the idea of Peltonen et al. (2017) that sadness, fear and distress undermine the psychological development which negatively affect the human security of the unemployed youth.

4.3.1.2 Increase in the Rate of Teenage Pregnancy

Again, the increase in the rate of teenage pregnancy in the Effutu municipality according to most of the informants is one of the negative effects of youth unemployment in the region. Miss. B concretising her position said this:

Some of the youth provide the needs of the young girls in their families and since they are jobless most of the young girls who are in such families who depend on the unemployed youth who do not have any proper job and therefore cannot afford all the needs of such young girls end up becoming school dropouts and before you realise, they are pregnant. (Field Report, 2022)

Miss E shared this:

Most of the girls who are within their teen ages are pregnant because of unemployment on the part of their parents. If you think I am lying go to the traditional towns in the municipality especially those along the sea shores if you see a 15- or 16-years girl it is either she has already given birth or she is pregnant. This is because most of their parents or care takers are not working and cannot take care of them so they need to get a boy-friend to take care of their needs and they end up being impregnated. (Field Report, 2022)

If breadwinners are unemployed, the young girls who are in such houses are likely to face the consequences. They end up becoming school drop-outs and being submissive to anybody who will be available to take care of their basic needs and the end product is being impregnated. The argument is that putting aside the risk of being pregnant at that tender age, some end up contracting deadly Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) such as HIV/AIDS, Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), and hepatitis among others which is against their health security.

4.3.1.3 Subjection to negative peer influence

Moreover, some of the informants believe that youth unemployment in the municipality leads to the joining of bad companies. As a matter of the desperation and frustration that the youth are unable to withstand at that tender age, they come together to fight for a common course by adopting any means of survival and end up making most of them form gangs. These frustrated gangs indulge in armed robbery and becoming tools of exploitation for some politicians to serve their selfish interest. On this Mr. A had this to say:

When you have nothing doing the devil will deploy you to do something. These unemployed youth see themselves as one people since they are in the same problem together, they end up conniving to do anything to ensure their survival. Some end up snatching phones and laptops of the university students to the extent of raping some of the female students and attacking inhabitants as well.
(Field Report, 2022)

On the same issue Mr. K said this:

I have not seen a lawyer or a doctor in a gang it is always these unemployed folks who form gangs. Some youth in the municipality have turned into drug addicts and when they meet in the ghetto, they come together to think about what to do to get their next drug to satisfy their edge for drugs. This leads to armed robbery to get money or any item to sell for money in order to be able buy their drugs. (Field Report, 2022)

As a result of this drug addiction, some eventually end up in jail which put the progress of their lives at a stalemate. Arguably, what worsens the issue is when the unemployed youth become subjected to negative peer group pressures and begin to practice deviant behaviours, which land some of them in psychiatric hospitals and jails. This ends up entangling the human security of the youth as Adams and Evans (1996) argue that deviance and crime is and has always been a threat to the serenity and tranquillity enjoyed by members of a community.

4.3.2 Family

The researcher asked about the views of the informants on what they think are some the effects of youth unemployment on the family of the unemployed youth in the Effutu municipality. Almost all the informants believed that family becomes constrained financially, disgraced and over-burdened and adversely affect the livelihood of the family as a result the situation.

4.3.2.1 Financial problems

One issue some of the informants raised was financial difficulties faced by families of the unemployed youth. Mr. A had this to say:

I have a twin brother and we graduated from the university the same year which was 2018 but we are still home and our parents take care of us including our younger siblings. Sometimes things become very difficult financially and my younger siblings would be compelled to stay home without going to school. Meanwhile, even if one of us has been employed, the person could have assisted the family financially to reduce the problem of my parents. (Field Report, 2022)

Mr. D shared this:

Sometimes I feel shy taking about money from my uncle. He has been able to take care of us after the demise of my parents up to date. Look at my age now but still, I depend on this man for survival. I feel like I am draining him financially. (Field Report, 2022)

The study confirms the finding by Poku-Boansi and Afrane (2011) that prolonged unemployment of the youth leads to a bigger family budget. After the long-term investment of family resources in the education of their wards, some parents as a result of youth unemployment are compelled to bear with the task of having to continue to provide daily support for these folks even after graduation. This ends up stagnating the personal development (thus suppressing their security) of some parents since the money that could have been used in setting up a business or acquiring properties will be used in providing the basic needs of the unemployed youth.

4.3.2.2 Disgrace and Liability

Mr. M had this to say:

I believe that whatever someone does the person expects something in return. Our parents take care of us at our younger age so that we will become great and

responsible people and take care of them in the future. Unfortunately, youth unemployment has made this a fiction. Our parents do not enjoy the fruit of their labour, we end up becoming a liability with some youth leading a lifestyle that tarnishes the image of their families. As a result of endless thinking of such situations, some of these weak old parents are forced into their early graves. (Field Report, 2022)

One of the respondents, Mr. F had this to say about the effects of youth unemployment on the family of the unemployed youth in the Effutu municipality:

I have depended on my parents for a very long time and sometimes with the little mistake I do they rain insults on me and I can feel that they are tired of me being in the house. But I perfectly understand them. They have done enough. (Field Report, 2022)

Some families have built good reputation and want their children to follow suit but youth unemployment has diverted the ways of these young folks and they end up becoming a disgrace to their families' reputation.

4.3.2.3 Livelihood of the family

The means of securing the necessities of life is another problem encountered by the family of the unemployed according to some of the informants. An informant, Miss L shared her experience:

My entire life depends on my parents as it stands. Even sometimes it becomes a burden for me when I need money for my basic personal hygiene as a lady because I have to tell my mum to give me money which is not supposed to be

the case at my age. But my parents understand me because I am not working.
(Field Report, 2022)

4.3.3 The Effutu Municipality

4.3.3.1 Dwindling Interest in Formal Education

Going forward, the informants shared their views on the effects of youth unemployment on the municipality as a whole. At the municipality level, youth unemployment has several adverse effects on human security. It becomes particularly critical if the youth form the greater proportion of the municipality's population as in the case of the Effutu municipality where young people constitute about 59.73 percent of the national population (GSS, 2021). The informants believe that youth unemployment is leading to a dwindling interest in formal education by the youth nationwide. On the question, what are the impacts of youth unemployment on the nation?

An informant, Mr. K had this contribution to make:

We were made to believe that education is the key to success but many of the graduates in the Effutu municipality and Ghana as a whole end up becoming jobless after many years of schooling, because of this formal education is gradually losing its relevance. I fear that if this unemployment issue is not solved, the youth will stop going to school and it will come back to haunt the country in the future. (Field Report, 2022)

Adding up, Mr. H said this:

The respect that people commanded at first especially when you happened to be a university student in the municipality is no more and it is the same nationwide because it is likely that you will be jobless after school. Some few days ago I

was discussing this issue of unemployment in the municipality with a friend and what he said was that the best way to become unemployed in Ghana these days is to be a graduate. And it is true so eventually formal education is losing its recognition and Ghana will suffer in the future when a greater proportion its youth are illiterates. (Field Report, 2022)

According to the Social and Demographic Statistics at the Ghana Statistical Service, data available to the Ghana Statistical Service indicate that currently in Ghana, it takes an average of five years to get a job after leaving school (GSS, 2021). In Ghana, only 10 percent of graduates find jobs after their first year of completing school (Ghana News Agency, 2017; Institute of Statistical, Social, and Economic Research (Adogla-Bessa, 2020; Dadzie et al., 2020; Ghana Statistical Service, 2016; ISSER, 2017; World Bank, 2020; Yeboah, 2019). If the government, stakeholders and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) do not come up with prudent policies to curb the problem of youth unemployment, disinterest in education by the youth today will be a threat to human security of the country tomorrow. The study has therefore confirmed the idea of Lia (2005) that countries that experience terrorist attacks such as Nigeria, and Somalia, among others have a large number of these disappointed youth in such terrorist groups.

4.3.3.2 Increase in Social Vices and Political Instability

In addition, some of the informants named the increase in social vices and political instability as effects of youth unemployment on human security. Numerous studies argue that youth unemployment is a threat to the social, economic and political stability of nations (Urdal, 2006, 2012) summarily, this adversely affects human security. This statement follows the increasing body of literature on the causes of political instability

and conflicts, such as Collier and Hoeffler (2002) or Miguel et al., (2004) to name a few.

Mr. M had this to say:

A hungry man they say is an angry man. In many instances, the youth unemployment situation in the Effutu municipality has led to increase in social vices especially in Winneba which happens to be the capital town in the municipality. This is because most of the youth are hungry and they use any ways and means possible in order to get their daily meal. In fact, we are suffering. (Field Report, 2022)

In similar vein, Mr. A said this:

The unemployment issues have made illegalities and social vices normal thing these days in the municipality. What people were really scared to do some years ago, they now do it with easy if only it will provide them with their daily meal. This has resulted in an increase in social vices in the municipality and Ghana as a whole. (Field Report, 2022)

The argument is that a country cannot see peace if its citizens are hungry as a result of youth unemployment. For instance, in 2021, Ghana experienced a serious demonstration dubbed “Fix the Country” on the streets of Accra, one of the major demands of the demonstrators was to provide employment for the youth. The study confirms the finding of Goldstone (2001) that rapid increase in the number of educated youths without employment has preceded historical episodes of socio-political upheaval. The Arab spring is a critical example of the explosive impacts of youth unemployment on societies that have not given the issue the necessary attention.

4.3.3.3 Low Productivity and High Dependency Ratio

More so, some of the informants believe that youth unemployment leads to low productivity and a high dependency ratio. Miss C made this contribution:

The youth are strong and energetic and they can work to help the development of ‘*Simpa*’ (the Effutu municipality) so if these energetic people are home without jobs, then it means the economic output will reduce and as a result, they will have to depend on the working few in the municipality to survive. (Field Report, 2022)

In addition, Mr. M said this:

Effutu is a very youthful municipality with a large number of energetic youth yet a few of them are gainfully employed and directly or indirectly the larger number of jobless youth depend on the few who are working. (Field Report, 2022)

The impact of youth unemployment on the national economy is even more significant and far-reaching. The high incidence of unemployment among the youth population results in a high economic dependency ratio. Simply put, fewer people would be supporting the rest of the population. Despite the inability of the youth to contribute to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), these young people would continue to exert increasing pressure on our national budget for social services such as health and housing given the size of their population.

4.4 Measures to curb Youth Unemployment in the Effutu Municipality

The third and final objective of the study focused on how to minimise or eradicate the incidence of youth unemployment in the municipality. Significantly, this theme focused

on only policymakers in the Effutu municipality, as a result, the researcher targeted seven (7) policymakers. Undoubtedly, a study of such nature could not be perfect without looking at the ways and means to reduce to the barest minimum the high incidence of youth unemployment in the municipality. In this context, the researcher inquired from the informants about the measures to curb the menace. A range of views were given by the informants which are presented and discussed in themes below:

The first question inquired whether the government/stakeholders/individuals have put measures in place to curb youth unemployment to ensure security in the Effutu municipality. This demanded Yes/No responses of which seven (7) informants responded Yes. Five (5) believed that the government has intervened and two (2) stated that they have not seen any government interventions in the municipality rather private individuals are working tirelessly to ensure the minimisation of the canker in the municipality.

Table 4 gives a further illustration of the phenomenon above.

Table 4: Intervention by government/stakeholders

<i>Intervention by government/stakeholders</i>	<i>No of informants</i>
Yes	7
No	0
Total	7

Field Report, 2022

4.4.2 Measures by Government/Stakeholders

The informants were asked to mention some of the measures taken by the government/stakeholders/individuals in the municipality. Firstly, the informants who

believe that the government has intervened made mention of some of the following; youth in sports, afforestation, police and fire services.

4.4.2.1 Government Interventions

The central belief of Keynesian economics is that government intervention can stabilise an economy. As part of the initiatives to reduce the high incidence of youth unemployment in the country, the Youth Employment Agency (YEA) in conjunction with Ghana Police Service launched the module: Community Protection Officers to reduce unemployment and some of the youth in the Effutu municipality have benefited immensely. Among the interventions talked about by some of the informants include the following;

4.4.2.2 Youth in Sports

On youth in sports, the informants believed that the Youth Employment Agency (YEA) in the municipality has modules to which Youth in sports is pivotal. Mr. N had this to say:

Most of the youth in the municipality have real talent in sports which when harnessed will help the youth, the municipality and Ghana as a whole. The government is therefore helping such people to discover and improve their talent to help reduce the high incidence of youth unemployment in the Effutu municipality through youth in sports. (Field Report, 2022)

Another informant, Mr. O in a similar vein said that the youth in the municipality who are talented in sporting activities are very fortunate due to the presence of the National Sports College which is located in Winneba. This is because the National Sports College selects and nurtures potential talented soccer and tennis players in the

communities around the Effutu municipality and beyond. (Field Report, 2022). The informants believe that the youth in sports programme aims to train and employ a greater section of the youth and sports enthusiasts in the municipality. This will help to academically and practically boost sports administration and management in the municipality. As part of youth empowerment and the creation of employment in both private and public sectors form the fulcrum of the YEA's mandate, the agency has situated itself to utilise all means available to assist in boosting economic empowerment for the youth of Ghana through all sectors of the economy.

4.4.2.3 Youth in Afforestation

Also, the idea of Ghana to ensure afforestation has created employment opportunities in Ghana of which the informants believe that the youth in the Effutu municipality have benefited considerably.

Mr. R had this to say:

“Although the main purpose of the afforestation programme was to reverse the effects of deforestation nationwide, it has created employment”. (Field Report, 2022)

Mr. P another informant supporting the above claim by Mr. R had this to say when asked about measures Government has put in place to curb youth unemployment to protect human security in the Effutu Municipality:

“The youth in afforestation programme aimed to restore degraded vegetation cover through reforestation and rehabilitation. The programme ended up creating employment for some of the youth in Winneba and its environs”. (Field Report, 2022)

Arguably the youth in afforestation programme which is in one way or the other part of the modules of the Youth Employment Agency (YEA) in Ghana needs to be given the needed attention to sustain it. This is because it serves two crucial purposes: ensuring afforestation as well as providing employment for the youth in Ghana of which the youth of the Effutu according to the informants have benefited in diverse ways.

4.4.2.4 Community Police Assistants and Fire Service

The collaboration between the community and the police makes it possible to detect various crimes to reduce criminalities to the barest minimum in our communities. As a result, more hands are needed in the security services such as the police and fire services. This resulted in the recruitment of some youth into these services. Though on a temporal basis its effect in reducing youth unemployment cannot be downplayed. Some of the informants concur that this initiative by the government has helped in sustaining youth employment in the area.

Mr. P had this to say:

I will say that the initiative has benefited the youth in the municipality because most of the youth who had the opportunity to be part of this scheme were retained and made permanent. Those who have not been recruited into the service permanently are keeping hope alive that with time they can also be made permanent in the services. (Field Report, 2022)

The Youth Employment Director in the municipality who happened to be an informant concretised the above claim by Mr. P by saying this:

As a youth employment boss our last recruitment that we did with regards to the community police, they were 73 but I can confidently say that almost 55 or 60

are now with mainstream institutions such as fire service, military, and immigration. Because we collaborated with the honourable MP hitherto the youth were not getting such opportunities. (Field Report, 2022)

This justifies the contributions of the government of Ghana to ensure reduction in the youth employment situation in the Effutu municipality.

4.4.3 Stakeholders

4.4.3.1 The Taxi Work and Pay Initiative

On the other hand, those who said that the government has introduced no measures to curb the menace in the area of study and rather stakeholders have contributed to ensuring the reduction of youth unemployment, made mention of taxi work and pay initiative, artisanal support (thus championing entrepreneurship) among others.

The taxi work and pay initiative refers to the situation whereby stakeholders or rich individuals purchase cars for people to drive and pay the owners of the car and after they have finished paying for the car it becomes the property of the driver. According to some of the informants, some of the youth have benefited from this initiative.

Mr. S had this to say:

“Some of the youths are car owners today, thanks to the taxi work and pay initiative. It has reduced the youth unemployment situation and some of the youths are now responsible and can take care of themselves and their families”.
(Field Report, 2022)

Commenting on the taxi work and pay initiative Mr. P added this:

“With the taxi work and pay initiative through the help of the MP we teach the youth how to drive and assist them in acquiring driving licenses by supporting

them with money. The same applies to tricycle (*Aboboyaa*) drivers”. (Field Report, 2022)

As a matter of fact, it will be more prudent for the government and stakeholders to put hands on deck to promote and sustain this initiative to help curb the youth unemployment situation in the municipality.

4.4.3.2 Artisanal Support to Promote Entrepreneurship

Some informants believe that artisanal support has been one of the contributions of stakeholders and individuals to promote entrepreneurship in the municipality. The informants believe that due to the lack of job opportunities in the municipality this can only be the way to promote craftsmanship to ensure the eradication of youth unemployment in the municipality.

Mr. Q said this:

Not all the youth are interested in going to school some have special talents that need to be guided and polished to become perfect. The artisan village at Winneba junction is therefore created to support such talents to promote entrepreneurship and youth empowerment to reduce youth unemployment in the municipality. (Field Report, 2022)

An informant, Mr. T in an elaboration on this factor had this to say:

In many instances, some youth who are into artisanship are given support in several ways which include sowing machines, hair dryers among others and sometimes physical cash to boost their business. Craftsmanship and skill acquisition are the best ways to reduce youth unemployment in the municipality. (Field Report, 2022)

With the increasing number of youth nationwide coupled with the lack of job opportunities, entrepreneurship is gradually becoming the only means to ensure national development. It is therefore important that the youth of the Effutu municipality is given the support to ensure entrepreneurship in the area.

4.4.4.1 The effectiveness of the measures that have been adopted to curb youth unemployment to protect human security in the Effutu Municipality

Some of the informants appreciate the effectiveness of the measures put in place by the government and stakeholders towards reducing the high incidence of youth unemployment in the municipality to the barest minimum and some do not contribute any positive development in the measures put in place to halt the youth unemployment canker in the area. Analytically, some of the measures can be described as effective for example the taxi drive and pay initiative. This is because it has reflected in the lives of some of the youth rendering some of them car owners but all the measures cannot be concluded as fully effective since some of the initiatives are crippled with different challenges (data gathered indicate that some of the youth end up squandering capital given to them by stakeholders and leadership in the area to boost their businesses) which need to be dealt with. However, the researcher believes that development does not happen overnight and with time these measures will be efficient and effective to reduce the youth unemployment menace in the area to ensure protection of human security. The researcher's perspective is that the government and leadership of the Effutu municipality should ensure that the youth engage in skill training which will be the best way to reduce youth unemployment.

4.4.5 The constraints that impede the effectiveness of the measures put in place to eradicate youth unemployment to protect human security in the Effutu Municipality

For every initiative that aims at ensuring development, some obstacles slow it down or quash it entirely. This is not different in the case of the measures introduced by government/stakeholders and private individuals to solve or reduce the high incidence of youth unemployment to the barest minimum in the Effutu municipality. In the view of the informants, some of these constraints include political differences, over-dependency on white-collar jobs, dwindling fortunes of the fishing industry, and lack of career guidance among others.

4.4.5.1 Political Differences

Polis, a Greek word from which politics was derived may be understood as a community of people (Brako & Ansah-Asante, 2014). Thus, it means the ways and means through which the people in the Greek city-states interacted among themselves to ensure development. Nonetheless, contemporary politics has become a source of divisions in our communities. Some of the informants believe that one of the core constraints that is suppressing the effective prevalence of the measures to curb youth unemployment in the area is a political difference.

Mr. N shared this:

I think political reasons are one of the constraints. Opposition sabotaging good policies has been one of the major problems. If we can settle our political differences and begin to understand that politics doesn't make us enemies but

demands collective efforts to ensure development then the municipality will flourish. (Field Report, 2022)

Mr. S had this to say on political differences impeding the effectiveness of the measures to curb youth unemployment in the area:

“Almost everything is politicised in the municipality. Policies are polarised politically and this makes it difficult to see the effective operation of measures to reduce unemployment in the area”. (Field Report, 2022)

The informants believe that the two major political parties namely the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the National Democratic Congress (NDC) through their leadership in the municipality are contributing immensely to ensure the reduction of youth unemployment in the municipality but sometimes their strong feelings of political differences end up nullifying their efforts.

4.4.5.2 Over-Dependency on White Collar Jobs

Over-dependency on white-collar jobs is another setback. Some of the informants believe that some of the youth in the municipality have little or no formal education however they aspire for jobs from the public sector instead of learning artisanal skills or entrepreneurship.

Mr. O had this to say:

“The youth have interest in the security forces of which the MP has been helping them to be recruited, so they are not cooperating when it comes to artisanship and entrepreneurship.” (Field Report, 2022)

Mr. N made this contribution:

The youth sometimes forget that life is a gradual process. They normally want to make money at a tender age they end up aspiring for white-collar jobs where they will dress in suit and tie to the neglect of craftsmanship and entrepreneurship. Unfortunately, opportunities available for white collar jobs in the municipality are not sufficient as a result most of the youth end up becoming jobless. (Field Report, 2022)

Lack of cooperation on the side of the youth when it comes to artisanship and entrepreneurship in the municipality suppresses the measures to reduce youth unemployment as a result of their desire for employment in the public sector particularly the security services.

4.4.5.3 Dwindling Fortunes of the Fishing Industry

Again, dwindling fortunes of the fishing industry. The traditional occupation of the people in the Effutu municipality is fishing. As a matter of fact, the fishing industry is a major determinant of the employment situation in the area. However, the informants believe that the dwindling fortunes of the fishing industry are combating the effectiveness of the measures to halt youth unemployment in the area.

Mr. R had this to say:

Fishing is the backbone of the Effutu municipality. At first, all was well with the fishing and we made a lot of money from it but things have changed and we don't get fish as it used to be because of illegal fishing practice which ends up killing fingerlings coupled with going contrary to the taboos of fishing in the area. (Field Report, 2022)

The issue of illegal fishing activities has been a very serious problem for the fisher folks in the Effutu municipality. Adding to this problem Mr. T made it clear that the fishing fortune has gone down over the period because of the introduction of lighting and other illegal fishing activities for fishing in the municipality. Some informants believe that the rise in the prices of fuel is also contributing to their inability to go far on the sea with their gadgets, especially those that require to be powered with fuel. As a matter of fact, those who cannot buy fuel do not go fishing at all. All these factors are accountable for the dwindling fortunes of fishing which happens to be the backbone and a determinant of employment in the municipality.

4.4.5.4 Lack of Career Guidance

About five (5) of the policymakers believe that lack of career guidance is contributing to the ineffectiveness of the measures to reduce youth unemployment in the area. Most of the youth are challenged with discovering what they do best. The youth cannot explore and plan for a future career based on their skills and values. They go in for professions because their friends are into it or because of attractive incentives and they end up unemployed because such jobs are not easy to secure.

Mr. Q shared this:

The youth of today do not humble themselves to be guided in all facets of life especially when it comes to career guidance. Some of them are very good when it comes to craftsmanship but they all prefer to work in the public sector. (Field Report, 2022)

Mr. P also said this:

“They lack career guidance. Imagine going to Accra from Winneba without knowing the way to Accra. You definitely need to be directed. The youth are naïve and need mentorship to realise the best in them”. (Field Report, 2022)

The systematic procedures to help the youth find the best career choice are not put to use in the lives of the youth. The informants, therefore, argue that the youth need to be supported to acquire the skills they need to earn a good living by focusing on what they are good at doing to realise the best in them.

4.4.6 Measures that can be adopted to curb youth unemployment to improve human security in the Effutu municipality

To every problem there is a solution, similarly, one of the core approaches of the study was to query the informants to find solutions to the problem of youth unemployment in the Effutu municipality. The researcher, therefore, found it important to ask the informants their views as to how the problem can be eradicated or reduced to the barest minimum. The informants came out with a lot of opinions which included the creation of job opportunities, measures to curb illegal fishing, career guidance (the youth should be made to get a better understanding of themselves), policies should target the youth (scholarship schemes, job opportunities, etc.), settling of political difference among others.

4.4.6.1 Creation of Job Opportunities

The Keynesian unemployment theory argues that in times of economic downturn as in the case of Ghana whose economy is yet to revive from the shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, the government should

increase spending and lower taxes in order to create jobs and boost consumer purchasing power.

The most crucial solution almost every informant talked about was the creation of job opportunities in the municipality. The informants believe that the job opportunities available in the municipality are very minimal which is undoubtedly adding up to the unemployment menace in the area. This was the view of one policy maker, Mr. O:

The major factor contributing to the high incidence of youth unemployment in this area is lack of job opportunities, we have energetic young people who are willing to work but there are no jobs. We are therefore urging government/stakeholders and individuals to create job opportunities for the youth. The leadership of the municipality is working tirelessly to attract investors and ensure adequate investment in the private sectors to curb the youth unemployment problem. (Field Report, 2022).

Mr. N had this to say:

Youth unemployment is on the ascendancy in the municipality but we all know youth unemployment is a traditional African problem and not only this municipality. This is because of the lack of job opportunities in the area. It really hurt me when someone says the youth in the municipality are jobless because they are lazy. They are only jobless because there is lack of job opportunities. The leaders in the municipality should focus on assisting in creating job opportunities and I believe the unemployment situation will reduce drastically. (Field Report, 2022)

As asserted by Banerji et al., (2014), there is no single way to solve the youth unemployment problem. Policies against youth unemployment must therefore be comprehensive, country-specific, and focused on reviving growth and advancing structural reforms. In response to the high incidence of youth unemployment in the municipality, the government and stakeholders must make a concerted effort to improve business opportunities to support employment and foster innovation in order to improve the status of job opportunities in the municipality. Equally, the private sector should be given the requisite attention and a business-friendly environment should be created to attract more investors to the municipality. In that way, the municipality can reap the demographic dividend offered by the municipality's growing young population in order to protect human security.

4.4.6.2 Measures to Curb Illegal Fishing

Fishing is the backbone of the municipality; it therefore becomes a major determinant of unemployment in the area. The progress in the fishing industry is likely to yield a positive outcome on youth employment status. As a result, the informants believe that curbing illegal fishing can contribute to reducing youth unemployment in the area.

Mr. N said this:

Every community or group of people has their own natural resources which served their ancestors yesterday, serve them today and will serve the future generation tomorrow. In this regard, the natural resource for the *Simpa* people (Effutu municipality) is the sea for fishing but due to illegal fishing, this resource is not being productive as it used to be. There is therefore the need to adopt measures to avoid illegal fishing so as to sustain the fishing industry for the generation to come. (Field Report, 2022)

Mr. S had this to say:

The sea is all we have. It has been a blessing and will continue to be blessing to us if only we can legally deal with culprits who use illegal methods for fishing especially the natives so that it will deter strangers who are into fishing here in order to go back to booming fishing fortunes. (Field Report, 2022)

The issue of illegal fishing is a serious canker for almost all countries blessed with sea across the globe including Ghana and by extension the Effutu municipality. As a result, on December 2017 the UN General Assembly in its annual resolution on sustainable fisheries proclaimed 5 June as the “International Day for the fight Against Illegal, Unprotected and Unregulated (IUU) fishing”. Illegal fishing activities such as light fishing, ghost fishing, the use of small mesh nets for fishing, fishing with chemicals (such as carbide and DDT) and explosives (such fish bombing and the use of dynamite) among others have led to Ghana receiving a ‘yellow card’ (warning) from the European Union as a result of Ghana’s non-cooperation in the fight against Illegal, Unprotected and Unregulated (IUU) as reported by Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC). The informants, therefore, agitate that measures should be adopted by the government and leadership of the municipality to curb illegal fishing in the area.

4.4.6.3 Career Guidance

Career guidance was another measure levelled by some of the informants in the quest to hinder the high incidence of youth unemployment in the municipality. They believe that for the youth to be acquainted with the occupational choices they need to be guided.

Mr. Q said this:

It is a necessity if we want to abort the high incidence of unemployment among the youth then they should be made to get a better understanding of themselves. This can help to overcome the issue of career uncertainties on the part of the youth in the municipality. (Field Report, 2022)

Mr. R made this contribution:

“Career guidance will help the youth to be aware of various career opportunities and deduce what will suit their interest”. (Field Report, 2022)

Decision on a career path is one of the challenges the youth face, when this is not carefully dealt with, it entirely affects their professional lives. The informant, therefore, argued that if the youth know themselves well and what they are good at, they will focus on building their skills in that area and be perfect at that to eradicate uncertainties when it comes to career choices which end up rendering some of them unemployed.

4.4.6.4 Policies Should Target the Youth

The youth are the spirit for today and the hope for the future. The policymakers believe that to eradicate youth unemployment in the municipality policies should target the youth. The youth should be the centre that policies should revolve around to make provisions for their future. Mr. T who happens to be a policymaker said this:

The issue of unemployment does not affect this municipality but Ghana as a whole. To solve this, we should also consider the youth first if we want to formulate and implement policies. Policies such as scholarship schemes, job opportunities among others should target the youth. (Field Report, 2022)

Significantly, there will be no magic wand that will solve the problem of youth unemployment, if policies are not made in that direction. The problem of youth

unemployment in the municipality is no more a threat but rather an emergency that needs urgent attention. Policymakers must therefore make it a point to formulate and implement policies with the youth in focus to help improve human security in the area.

One of the policy-makers, Mr. Q had this to say:

The tomorrow of this municipality belongs to the youth. We are drawing closer to exhausting our time and very soon the youth will take over as a result any decision we take today must benefit the youth in the future. We must not let the youth suffer in the future because of the decisions we are making today. They must be the focal point in our decision-making processes. (Field Report, 2022)

4.4.6.5 Settling Political Differences

As stated in the preceding paragraphs, politics has lost its main aim of ensuring interaction and interrelationship between people in the community to ensure development. In contemporary times it has been the medium for disintegration among people in the community. The informants believe that the misinterpretation of what politics means in the municipality has contributed to youth unemployment in the area.

Mr. R made this contribution:

The leadership of the two major political parties which are the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the National Democratic Congress (NDC) can be blamed in a way for the unemployment among the youth in the area. This is because they keep sabotaging any policies initiated by one another and see problems with whatever solution one brings on board. I believe that if we all come together and understand that we have only one Effutu, we can help solve the youth unemployment problem. (Field Report, 2022)

A policy-maker, Mr. T made this comment:

It is never a crime to be a diehard fan of any political party be it the New Patriotic Party (NPP) or the National Democratic Congress (NDC) but we must consider the wellbeing of the municipality first. Efforts to reduce youth unemployment in the area cannot be solved by one political party but demand a collective effort of all the people in the municipality. (Field Report, 2022).

The informants believe that it is about time the politicians in the area think about the development of the municipality first before their political interest and this can be done by settling their political differences. They should iron out their political ambitions and put their hands on the deck for the betterment of the municipality.

4.7 Summary

This chapter presented the analysis of the data gathered from the primary and secondary sources. This was done in line with the objectives of the study. The data gathered have been analysed, interpreted and discussed by the researcher in an attempt to find answers to the onerous task of the study. The chapter began with the causes of youth unemployment in the study area and ended with the measures that can be adopted to curb youth unemployment in order to improve human security in the Effutu municipality. The summary of the findings, conclusion of the study and recommendations are discussed in the last chapter.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.0 Introduction

The main purpose of the study was to examine the connection between youth unemployment and human security in the Effutu Municipality. The specific objectives were to: find out the causes of youth unemployment in the Effutu Municipality; examine the consequences of youth unemployment on human security in the Effutu Municipality and finally, find out measures to mitigate youth unemployment to ensure the protection of human security in the Effutu Municipality. The qualitative paradigm was adopted for the study. Twenty (20) respondents were sampled through convenience and purposive sampling techniques. Primary data was collected with the aid of interview-guide; and analysed using thematic narratives (verbatim quotes). This chapter focused on the summary of the findings, conclusions and recommendations.

5.1 Summary of Findings

This research was in five chapters. Chapter one (1) laid the foundation of the argument of the study by systematically presenting the problem from global, continental and national perspectives on the nexus between youth unemployment and human security. The Chapter also identified the gap in existing literature on the issue of youth unemployment and human security and how this study has been positioned to address the gap in existing studies. The Chapter provided the justification, goal and scope of the study which focused on how youth unemployment affects human security in the Effutu municipality.

Chapter two (2) explained the theory that underpinned the study – Keynesian unemployment theory as propounded by John Maynard Keynes (1936). Some concepts that were discussed included unemployment, youth unemployment and human security. Other major issues that were discussed in this Chapter were a review of the global perspective of youth unemployment, the African perspective of youth unemployment, the extent of youth unemployment in Ghana, the causes of youth unemployment in Ghana, phases of human security, economic insecurity, and the effects of youth unemployment on security which were extracted from the works of scholars related to the topic under discussion.

Chapter three (3) dealt with the research methodology including the research design, the setting of the study, the population of the study, sample size and sampling techniques, data collection instruments, data collection procedure, ethical considerations, and data analysis and presentation and chiefly the reasons behind the adoption of the components under the methodology. Primary data was collected from 20 informants which included 8 unemployed, 5 employed, 1 assemblyman, 1 chief fisherman, the director for youth employment in the municipality, police personnel in the municipality, the chairman for the Effutu traditional council, the spokesperson for the Member of Parliament for the Effutu Constituency and the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) with the aid of an interview-guide. Informants were sampled through convenience and purposive types of non-probability sampling techniques. The chapter also captured the method for data analysis. Ethical issues concerning the study were also observed. The fourth (4) chapter focused on the presentation and analysis of primary data as guided by the theory adopted for the study (the Keynesian unemployment theory). It clarified that the interventions of the government of Ghana

are crucial in the fight against the high rate of youth unemployment in the Effutu municipality and Ghana as a whole

5.2 The Main Findings of the Study

In the quest to answer the research questions in Chapter One which guided the study, the following findings were revealed. The major findings are categorically grouped under the research questions that guided the study as follows;

5.2.1 Causes of youth unemployment in the Effutu Municipality

- i. The study unveiled that the factors accounting for youth unemployment in Effutu municipality were myriad which included lack of job opportunities, laziness on the part of some youth, lack of education, search for white-collar jobs among others.
- ii. It was revealed that the unemployment situation in the municipality is largely seasonal type of unemployment. Seasonal because most of the youth in the municipality get some temporal work to do whenever students of the University of Education, Winneba (UEW) and other tertiary as well as senior high schools which are in Winneba are in session but as soon as they vacate their businesses dwindle or collapse rendering most of them unemployed.

5.2.2 Effects of unemployment on the human security of the youth in the Effutu municipality

- i. The study categorised the effects of youth unemployment on human security into three namely, the effects on the unemployed youth in the municipality,

- ii. Family and the nation at large. On the unemployed, it was revealed that some of the effects include adverse effects on psychological and physical well-being, teenage pregnancy coupled with deadly Sexually Transmitted Diseases and joining bad companies. At the family level, some of the effects disclosed by the informants were a burden (liability) and disgrace to the family, financial constraints, and adversely affecting the livelihood of the family. At the national level, some of the effects revealed were a dwindling interest of the youth in formal education, an increase in social vices, low productivity and a high dependency ratio.

5.2.3 Measures adopted to mitigate youth unemployment to improve human security in the Effutu Municipality

- i. It was revealed that the problem of youth unemployment in the area has received Government and stakeholders' interventions to ensure the minimisation of the canker in the municipality. Some of the intervention policies stated by the informants include youth in sports, afforestation, community police (assistantship) and fire services, taxi work and pay initiative, and artisanal support among others
- ii. The study found that some of the measures can be described as effective, for example the taxi work and pay initiative. This is because it has reflected in the lives of some of the youth rendering some of them car owners but all the measures cannot be described as fully effective since some of the initiatives are crippled with different challenges (some of the youth have ended up squandering capital given to them by stakeholders and leadership in the area to boost their businesses) which need to be dealt with.

- iii. The study further found that some of the constraints that hinder the effective realisation of the measures put in place to curb the high incidence of youth unemployment in the municipality include political differences, over-dependency on white-collar jobs, dwindling fortunes of the fishing industry, lack of career guidance among others.

5.3 Conclusions

Unemployment has been a problem of interest since the Industrial Revolution in the 1800s and reducing unemployment to the barest minimum is a challenging task for all economies across the globe. In the case of Ghana, the issue of eradicating unemployment specifically youth unemployment has been the campaign message of all political parties since independence yet durable solutions by previous and current governments have proven elusive.

Youth unemployment, as a type of unemployment, needs to be addressed. This is because issues of youth unemployment are not related to only today, but also to the future since the youth is the future of every society. Being jobless at the early stages of one's life scares young people immensely and affects their entire lives. Young people are more vulnerable to the crisis than adults. This adversely affects these young folks putting their human security as well as those around them at risk as in the case of the youth in the Effutu municipality.

Human security remains an illusion in the Effutu municipality because of the impact of youth unemployment. Although some measures have been put in place, but the study finds that until the government and stakeholders formulate and implement policies that will give youth unemployment the needed attention to support the protection of human security in the area cannot be in a good shape.

5.4 Recommendations

Taking the findings of the study into consideration, the following recommendations are put forward:

Firstly, the government of Ghana through the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) and other policymakers, as well as stakeholders, should formulate and implement policies that centre on the youth to reduce the high incidence of youth unemployment in the municipality to protect the human security of the people in the Effutu municipality, particularly the Effutu youth.

Again, the leadership of the municipality should create a business-friendly environment to attract more investors and possibly invest in the private sector to make it more attractive in order to realise the potency of the sector in the fight against the rising youth unemployment in the municipality.

The study also identified footprints of robbery attacks on the people in the municipality especially students in the various tertiary institutions and senior high schools in the area which is ferociously against the human security of the people in the municipality. On this premise, the researcher recommends that the security system in the area should be intensified with regular patrol of the police patrol team in the municipality.

More importantly, there cannot be development without unity. It was observed that one of the setbacks to the effective and efficient operationalization of measures against youth unemployment in the municipality is political differences. This goes far to the extent of political opponents sabotaging policies even if it is productive and seek to serve the interest of the youth in the municipality. The researcher recommends that the leadership of the two major political parties in the area namely, the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the National Democratic Congress (NDC) should iron out their difference

and understand that they are one people and they have one Effutu municipality and the interest of the Effutu people should be considered before their political interest.

The study recommends that the government of Ghana through the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD), Fisheries Commission, National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA), Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC) and various fishing groups in the municipality should adopt stringent measures to fight against Illegal, Unprotected and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the area to curb illegal fishing and revisit the fortunes of fishing in the municipality. Of equal importance, the government should reduce the prices of fuel to enable the fishermen in the area to buy fuel to power their gadgets for fishing.

5.5 Suggestions for Further Research

Following the findings and conclusion of the study, the study proposes the following suggestions for further studies.

Firstly, the study focused only on the Effutu Municipality, one of the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAS) in Ghana that is noted for its high level of youth unemployment which poses a threat to human security. The study therefore suggests that future research should focus on replicating the study in other Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAS) in Ghana in order to ascertain the validity of a study of this kind and to ensure the generalisation of the findings.

Again, protection of the people of Ghana remains the highest priority of the security agencies in the country especially, the Ghana Police Service. Despite their tireless effort to protect the human security of Ghanaians from all kinds of violence, the country continues to face myriad instances of violence which are threats to human security. The

study recommends that studies should be conducted on the challenges of the security agencies in Ghana with emphasis on the Police Service in dealing with issues that entangle human security in Ghana.

Moreover, it can be recorded that the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) and the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) Provide civic and human rights education respectively to the people of Ghana for individuals to seek redress when their security is endangered and not to trample on the rights of others. Nevertheless, issues of violence which are threats to human security persist. The study proposes that further studies should be conducted on the effectiveness of public education in the combat against issues of violence which pose threats to human security in Ghana.

Finally, the researcher believes that development can only be operationalised when there is togetherness. The study found that intense political difference is one of the major challenges hindering policies that lead to job creation in the area. Opposition sabotaging initiatives that can lead to the creation of job opportunities is not only a problem in the Effutu municipality but Ghana at large. The study suggests that future research should focus on political differences and their impacts on national development.

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APPENDIX A
INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE STUDY AREA
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

INTRODUCTION

This is an academic exercise which seeks to explore the youth unemployment and human security in Ghana, using the Effutu municipality as a case study. The Purpose of this interview is to find out how youth unemployment manifest and its accompanied effects on human security in the Effutu Municipality. Your collaboration is therefore extremely needed to warrant the success of the study. The research is purely for academic purposes, hence, any information you will give will be treated confidentially. Thank you for the acceptance to participate in this research.

Yours Sincerely,

.....

Clement Isaac Amoah
Department of Political Science Education
University of Education, Winneba
E-mail: clementaisaac@gmail.com
Tel: 0541937420/0553725947

Participant's Statement of Acceptance

I have read/the content of this letter has been read to me in a language that I understand and that I agree to participate voluntarily in the study and adhere to have the interview recorded.

Participant's Signature.....

Date.....

Section A- (Demographic Data of informants)

Indicate the appropriate response by ticking [] where necessary.

1. Sex Male [] Female []
2. Age (a) 15-20yrs [] (b) 21-25yrs [] (c) 26-30yrs [] (d) 31-35yrs []
3. Marital Status: a. Married [] b. Single [] c. Divorced []
4. How many dependants do you have? a. none [] b. Specify if any []

5. Educational Level Attained: a. None [] b. Primary [] c. Secondary [] d. Tertiary []
6. What is your occupation? a. Not working [] b. specify if any
7. If you are not working, how do you survive?
8. Do you have any other skill? a. Yes [] b. No []
9. Have you ventured into any business before a. Yes [] b. No []
If yes, is the business related to the University of Education, Winneba? a. Yes [] b. No []
10. If yes, how do you survive when the university vacates?
11. Have you applied for any insurance policy? a. Yes [] b. No []
12. If no, how do you intend to take care of yourself when you are old or in times of unforeseen circumstances?

Section B- Causes of youth unemployment

13. In your view, what is human security?
14. What is the extent of youth unemployment situation in the Effutu municipality?
a. very low [] b. low [] c. high [] d. very high []
15. In your view, what are the causes of youth unemployment in the Effutu municipality?

Section C- Effects of youth unemployment on human security

16. What are the impacts of youth unemployment on the following...
 - a. the unemployed youth
 - b. the family
 - c. the Effutu municipality

APPENDIX B
INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE STUDY AREA
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

INTRODUCTION

This is an academic exercise which seeks to explore the youth unemployment and human security in Ghana, using the Effutu municipality as a case study. The Purpose of this study is to bring to light the connection between youth unemployment and human security in the Effutu Municipality. The main reason for this interview is to find out the measures put in place by government and stakeholders to curb youth unemployment and to analyse how effective the measures have minimised the incidence of youth unemployment in the area to ensure the protection of human security. Your collaboration is therefore extremely needed to warrant the success of the study. The research is purely for academic purposes, hence, any information you will give will be treated confidentially. Thank you for the acceptance to participate in this research.

Yours Sincerely,

.....

Clement Isaac Amoah

Department of Political Science Education

University of Education, Winneba

E-mail: clementaisaac@gmail.com

Tel: 0541937420/0553725947

Participant's Statement of Acceptance

I have read/the content of this letter has been read to me in a language that I understand and that I agree to participate voluntarily in the study and adhere to have the interview recorded.

Participant's Signature.....

Date.....

1. Have government/stakeholders/individuals put measures in place to curb youth unemployment in order to protect human security in the Effutu municipality?
Yes [] No []
2. If yes, name some of the measures?
3. How effective have the measures been to curb youth unemployment in order to protect human security in the Effutu municipality?
4. What are the constraints that impede the effectiveness of the measures put in place to eradicate youth unemployment in order to protect human security in the Effutu municipality?
5. In your own view, what measures can be adopted to curb youth unemployment in order to protect human security in the Effutu municipality?