



Rising Rate of Youth Unemployment and Fish Farming: A Panacea to Development in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The rising rate of youth unemployment in Nigeria is highly unprecedented. Fish farming option is a project meant to look into the unemployment situation in the country, identify the course and effect and possible effort being made by the government to remedy the situation. The study focuses on exploring the fish farming business as the way youth can be self-employed. The study explored journals and other sources of information to assess the level and nature of unemployment situation globally and also in Nigeria. The use of questionnaire were designed and administered to respondents selected through simple random sampling, simple percentage, regression analysis and Spearman rank order correlation method were used to test the two hypotheses of the fish farming reduce youth unemployment and fish farming is a lucrative business. The option fish farming was expressively discussed for easy understanding of those who intend to go for the business. The study revealed that fish farming could be a better option to checkmate the rising rate of youth unemployment if both the government and private sector could be of immense assistance.

Keywords: Development, Fish-farming, Skill- acquisition, Unemployment and Youth

INTRODUCTION

A reflection as a citizen for sometimes now, the Nigerian state has been faced with a frightening situation of unemployment. Remarkably aspect of the occurrence is that it is not limited to only the illiterates and people with poor educational background, it equally affects both graduates of tertiary institutions such as the Universities, the Polytechnics and Colleges of Education.

Unemployment or joblessness as construed by the International Labour Organization (1982) occurs when people are without jobs and they have sought work within the past five weeks. The unemployment rate is a measure of the prevalence of unemployment and it is calculated as a percentage by dividing the number of unemployed individuals by all individuals currently in the labour force. Unemployment in Nigeria is defined as the proportion of labour force that was available for work but did not work in week preceding the survey period for at least 39 hours. Official figures from Bureau of Statistics puts the figure of unemployed at 19.70 percent, about 30 million, but this figure still did not include about 40 million other Nigerian Youths captured in World Bank statistics in 2010. By implication, it means that if Nigeria's population is 160 million plus, then 50 percent or more of Nigerians are unemployed, Njoku and Okezie (2011) asserted.

On the other hand, the National Youth Development Policy (2001) asserts that the youth are the foundation of a society; their energies, inventiveness, character and orientation define the pattern of development and security of a nation. The youth are a particular segment of the national population that is sensitive, energetic, active and the most productive phase of life as citizens. The youth are also most volatile and yet the most vulnerable segment of the population in terms of social-economic, emotion and

other aspects (Anasi, 2010). These entities called youth has gained a wide currency and has been variously classified into such age brackets as 15-24 years (World Bank and United Nations); 15-29 years (Commonwealth Youth Programmes); while for many countries, the figure varies from 13-18 years, 20-25 years, and 12-20 years (Bello-Kano, 2008).

Moreover, in Nigeria context, the National Youth Development Policy (2001) defines youth as people aged between 18 and 35. And they constitutes “all young males and females aged 18 – 35 years which are citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria” (National Youth Policy of Nigeria, 2001:4). The paper is attuned to this position. The youth constitute about 60 percent of the more than 160 million people of Nigeria. The Nigeria’s unemployment rate is projected at over 11 percent compared to the average rate of 9.5 percent in sub-Saharan Africa. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2004), young people aged between 15 and 24 years account for 52.9 percent of unemployed people while those aged between 25 and 44 years accounted for 41.1 percent. Therefore, those in age bracket of 15 and 44 years account for 94 percent of the total unemployed persons in Nigeria (Osibanjo, 2006). Based on series of conceptualization of youth in available literature, the paper aligned with the definition given by National Youth Policy of Nigeria (2001). Therefore, the youth is conceived to mean male and female within the age bracket of 18 - 35 who are citizen of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Also, the term “development” has been variously conceptualized by scholars and writers. The like of (Rodney, 1972; Nnoli, 1981) serves as an inroad to gaining a shared understanding of the term national development. The conceptualization of development according to Rodney and Nnoli (1972 and 1981) respectively can be subsumed as follows:

- human-centered rather than artifacts-centered.
- a dynamic process rather than a static state,
- involves a complex interactive relationship between individual and society and
- predicated essentially on production rather than on consumption.

Viewed from this perspective (national development) could, therefore, be defined as the unending process of qualitative and quantitative transformation in the capacity of a state to organize the process of production and distribution of the material benefits of society in a manner that sustains improvement in the wellbeing of its individual members in order to enhance their capacity to realise their full potentials, in furtherance of the positive transformation and sustenance of their society and humanity at large (Onuoha, 2007). Remarkably, at the just concluded **2015 World Economic Forum in Davos**, Switzerland.

Youth unemployment took a center stage. The panel discussion comprising of many global business and public sector leaders who were in Davos, engaged in debate, unanimously agreed that youth unemployment is growing in uncomfortable proportions. Available statistics revealed that, in India as at 2013 recorded a total population of 1.27 billion people with youth (aging between 14 and 30 years) constituting 65% of the population, and an annual growth rate (the fastest of which was recorded between 2001 and 2011, when about 181 million people were added to the population). The current projection has also indicated that by 2025, the country would have overtaken China as the most populous country in the world with an estimated population of 1.44 billion people. The country has one of the highest number of youth in the world out of which 75 million youth are unemployed (even when more than one million people are added to the unemployed labour market on daily basis). Similarly, the National Bureau of Statistics in Nigeria revealed the alarming rate of youth unemployment which is as much as 50%, out of the country’s 167 million population.

Considering the enormity of this challenge, Roberts (2007) opines that to realize the potentials of youths as the engine of (poverty alleviation and social-economic) development, governments have a salient role to play in addressing these obstacles and facilitating a successful transition to adulthood through pursuit of programmes and policies that alleviate poverty and expand opportunities for employment. Development and sustainability inclusive. It is in light of this introduction, and the need to proffering solution to the problems of rising rate of youth unemployment and the need for development that the paper is germane. Therefore, an exploration into fish farming (small scale enterprises) as an option, possibly could serve as panacea to youth unemployment and engender development in Nigeria.

Objective of the Paper

The only and paramount objective of the paper is to

- i. Scrutinize youth unemployment and focus on fish farming as a way to combat rising rate of youth unemployment in other to engender development in all its ramifications in Nigeria.

LITERATURE/THEORETICAL UNDERPINNING

Situation Analysis of Rising Rate of Youths Unemployment in Nigeria

Youth in Nigeria

Youth-hood can be defined as that phase or period of life in which one passes from childhood to maturity. Maturity on the other hand refers to a situation whereby one becomes fully developed. In Nigeria, the youth usually fall into the 18 – 35 years age bracket, that is, both genders (male and female) (Abdullahi, 2008) affirmed National Youth Policy conceptualization of youth as defined in Nigeria context.

Generally, youths are the one of the greatest assets that any nation can have and therefore, need to be developed and empowered. They serve as a good measure of the extent to which a country can reproduce as well as sustain itself. The youth have been described as the greatest assets in any nation, are the greatest investment for a country’s development (National Youth Policy of Nigeria, 2001).

Over the years, various regimes came up with programmes for youth empowerment and skill acquisition for self-reliance and sustainable livelihood (Project Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES) 2003). At this point, it is observe that despite all governmental efforts at youth empowerment, through some of her institutions like the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and Ministry of Women and Youth Development, the Nigerian Youth still command high position in the statistics of unemployment and poverty.

Youth Unemployment in Nigeria

Nigeria’s population is said to have reached about 167 million people in 2012 (National Bureau of Statistics). The National Population Commission (NPC, 2013) states about half of the population is made of youth, defined as individuals between 18 and 35 years of age. Akande (2014) further stressed that, unfortunately, as the youth population grows so does the unemployment rise. In fact, unemployed youth numbered about 11.1 million in 2012.

There are number of trends in youth unemployment in Nigeria. The tables below indicate the trends over the years.

Table 1: National Youth Unemployment Figures by Gender

Year	Percentage of unemployed Youth that are Female and Male	
	Female	Male
2008	58.50	41.50
2009	57.82	42.18
2010	54.52	45.48
2011	50.85	49.15
2012	55.42	44.58

Source: NISER, 2013

Available statistics, from the table 1 as indicated above show that a majority of unemployed youth are female. Women accounted for more than 50 percent of unemployed youth between 2008 and 2012. Many reasons have been adduced for female gender unemployment. Empirical evidences have revealed that the female gender generally experience poverty more than male gender as a result of unemployment.

Payne (1991:87) and Abdullahi (2004) observe that (female) specific risk of poverty stems from the structuring of (female) economic dependency, within families and marriage and in the sexual division of labour that come together to create a gendered vulnerability to poverty and deprivation.

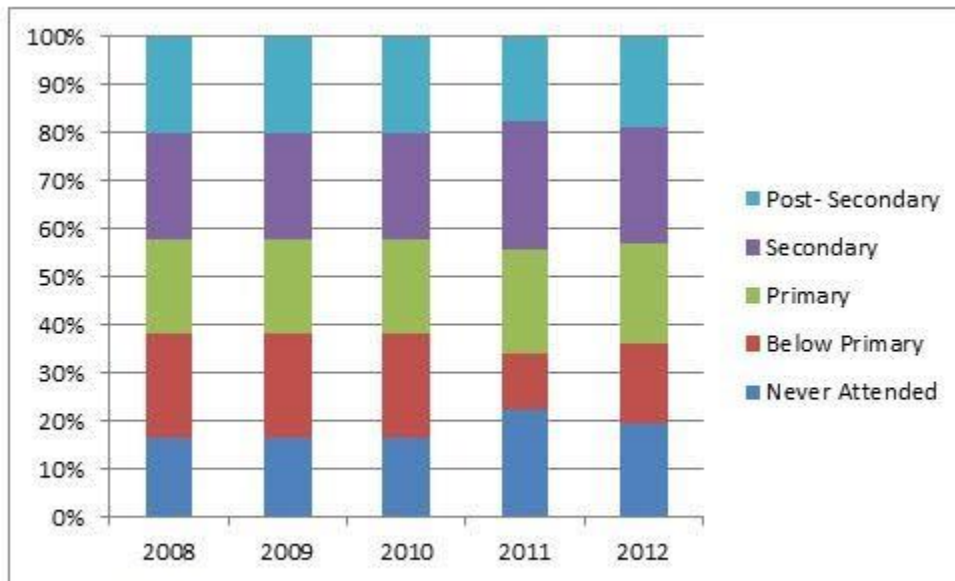
Table 2: Graduate Unemployment Rate 2003 – 2011 by Residence (Rural/Urban)

Year	Rural	Urban	Total
2003	8.3	17.3	25.6
2004	12.8	25.2	38
2005	13.3	19.0	32.3
2006	13.4	18.8	32.2
2007	13.4	18.7	32.1
2008	21.7	15.8	27.5
2009	19.8	19.2	39
2010	20.7	22.8	43.5
2011	25.6	17.1	42.7

Sources: *The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2012)*

Table 2 indicates that the problem of youth (graduate) unemployment is critical in both urban and rural Nigeria. The major significance inferences from the table shown above is that, for a period of nine years compared in totality, graduate youth unemployment was high six years in urban as compared to the rural areas. This could be attributed to migration indices – pull and push factors. In addition, considering 42.7 percent as the total population of unemployed youth (graduate) as at 2011 compare with the current population of about 50 percent (unemployed youth) of the total population of Nigeria (167 million) gives credence to the statistics revealed as at 2011 as credible. Simply because, the total population of Nigeria as at 2015 have increased compared to 2011. Therefore, there could be possibilities.

Table 3: National Youth Unemployment Figures (15 – 34 years) by Education, 2008 – 2012



Source: NISER, 2013

Relatedly, in terms of education, from 2008 – 2012, over half of unemployed youth did not have an education past primary schools (see figure/table 3). This particular group has consistently accounted for over 50 percent of all unemployed youth. However, graduates of tertiary institutions also seem to be badly hit by unemployment too – making up about 20 percent of youth unemployment as indicated in the table 3 above. And often remaining unemployed for upward five years after graduation (NISER, 2013).

Fish Farming an Option to Rising Rate of Youth Unemployment: Panacea to Development in Nigeria

Fish farming is practiced all over the world. National Geographic reports that about half of the fish we consume now comes from farms. According to Abiola (2003) large commercial fish farms raise a wide variety of aquatic life, from catfish in ponds to large cages or nets in oceans and seas. Specialty fish farms frequently use tanks to grow large numbers of fish in a concentrated area.

Aquaculture, farming of aquatic organisms in fresh, a wide variety of aquatic organisms is produced through aquaculture, including fishes, unlike capture fisheries; aquaculture requires deliberate human intervention in the organisms' productivity and results in yields that exceed those from the natural environment alone. Stocking water with *seed* (juvenile organisms), fertilizing the water, feeding the organisms, and maintaining water quality are common examples of such intervention (Muhammed, 2007).

Most aquaculture crops are destined for human consumption. Aquaculture is considered an agricultural activity, despite the many differences between aquaculture and terrestrial agriculture. Aquaculture mainly produces protein crops, while starchy staple crops are the primary products of terrestrial agriculture. In addition, terrestrial animal waste can be disposed of off-site, whereas in aquaculture such waste accumulates in the culture environment. Consequently, Aquaculturists must carefully manage their production units to ensure that water quality does not deteriorate and become stressful to the culture organisms (Ogunleye, 2004).

Brief History of Fish Farming

Aquaculture was developed more than 2,000 years ago in countries such as China, Rome, and Egypt. Not long after, aqua- cultural practices in Europe, China, and Japan commonly involved stocking wild-caught seed—for example, carp *fingerlings* (juvenile fish) captured from rivers—in ponds or other bodies of water for further growth.

Mollusk culture was advanced in the 1200s by the discovery in France that mussel *spat* (newly settled juveniles) would settle on upright posts in the intertidal zone, and in the 1600s by the discovery in Japan that oyster spat would settle on upright bamboo stakes driven into the sea floor. The concept of *pond fertilization* was developed in Europe about 1500. In this process, manure is added to the water to encourage the growth of small organisms such as aquatic invertebrates and plankton, which in turn are eaten by the fish.

The United States system of federal hatcheries for the propagation of *anadromous* fishes (fishes that live and mature in salt water but reproduce in fresh water) was established in the 1870s. Much of the current technology used to reproduce fish in hatcheries has been developed by these federal hatcheries. In 1959 the first marine shrimp hatchery and farm was established in Japan, and it was the forerunner of the commercial shrimp-culture industry. The salmon-culture industry in Europe and the channel-catfish-culture industry in the United States both began in the 1960s (Muhammed, 2007).

Construction of Fish Farming Pond

Agricultural fish farming ponds are constructed to facilitate the particular species being raised. Some ponds have shallow areas for growing vegetation, deeper areas where the fish can escape from the sun and warmer surface water. Some ponds are like large bowls, so the fish may be "herded" and netted by hand at the end of the growing season.

Methods of Fish Farming

There are many methods that can be use in fish farming which range from place to place and the varieties of fish to be store. The following are the method that can be used, according to (Evbuomwan, 2005).

a. Earthen ponds method of raising fish:

Most fish is undertaken in earthen ponds. These ponds are usually equipped with water inlets and outlets that permit independent control of water addition and discharge. Ponds are stocked with a specific quantity of juvenile aquatic animals. Management practices range from pond fertilization, which increases

the number of natural food organisms, to provision of a complete, formulated feed that supplies all nutrients necessary for growth. Animals that have reached market size are harvested from the ponds. In a *complete harvest*, the pond is drained and all animals are removed from the pond for processing. In a *partial harvest*, only a portion of the animals are removed from a full pond using a seine net. Additional juveniles are often stocked into the pond after a partial harvest, and the production cycle is continued. Channel catfish, tilapia and carp family are often cultured in earthen ponds.

b. Cages and Raised Ways Method of Fish Farming:

Fish can also be raised in cages and *raceways*- long, narrow earthen or concrete ponds that receive a continuous flow of water from a nearby artesian well, spring, or stream. Often, several raceways are built in series down the slope of a hill. Cages are used to raise fish in lakes, bays, or the open ocean and are constructed of flexible netting suspended from a superstructure floating on the water's surface. Many more fingerlings can be stocked into raceways and cages than into earthen ponds, but nutritionally complete formulated feed must be provided to fish grown in these systems. Rainbow trout are grown in raceways in many places. The advantage of this method is that it does protect the stock against predators.

c. Indoor Fish Farming:

An alternative to outdoor open ocean cage aquaculture, one in which the risk of environmental damage is high, is through the use of a recirculation aquaculture system (RAS). A RAS is a series of culture tanks and filters where water is continuously recycled and monitored to keep optimal conditions year round. To prevent the deterioration of water quality, the water is treated mechanically through the removal of particulate matter and biologically through the conversion of harmful accumulated chemicals into nontoxic ones.

Other treatments such as UV sterilization, ozonation, and oxygen injection are also used to maintain optimal water quality. Through this system, many of the environmental drawbacks of aquaculture are minimized including escaped fish, water usage, and the introduction of pollutants. The practices also increased feed-use efficiency growth by providing optimum water quality. Because of its high capital and operating costs, RAS has generally been restricted to practices such as bloodstock maturation, larval rearing, fingerling production, research animal production, SPF (specific pathogen free) animal production, and caviar and ornamental fish production.

Species of Fish that can be Farm in Nigeria

a. Carp family: - Carp are prolific and breed rapidly, and they are bred and fished commercially in Asia, Europe, southern Africa, and, on a smaller scale, the United States. As bottom feeders they stir up mud and uproot vegetation, often driving out other fish; on the other hand, they can survive in stagnant or polluted waters that most other fish do not inhabit.

The types of carp we have are

- Tench
- School of Koi
- Common carp fish

b. Cat fish: - Catfish are named for the feelers, or barbells, located around the suggesting the whiskers of a cat. These feelers are used for finding food. The body is scale less, either naked or with bony plates. The dorsal and pectoral fins are often edged with sharp spines that are used for defense. The kinds of cat fish are:

- Brown Bull Head Cat fish
- Channel Cat fish

c. Tilapia: - Tilapias have laterally flattened bodies that range from about 10 to 30 cm (about 4 to 12 in) in length. They feed on a wide variety of food, including insect larvae, crustaceans, juvenile fish, worms, various plants, and detritus. Some species can survive in waters with oxygen concentrations as low as 0.1 parts per million, and one species inhabits hot springs with water temperatures as high as 40° C (104° F). However, most species of tilapia are not so tolerant. (Abiola, 2003).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In an attempt to appraise the effectiveness of fish farming business to checkmate rising youth unemployment, state ministry of Agriculture and fish farming enterprises in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria were selected for the study. The method use in collection of data and presentation of data for analysis is presented in this paper.

Method of Data Collection

The major instrument used for data collection in this research work are; questionnaire, observation and personal interview. The secondary data sought from text textbooks, business magazine, interview, the personal interviews were conducted by the researcher for the success of this study.

Sample Design

Due to relatively large and very expensive cost of using aggregated information of entire population, a sample is necessary in order to give fair representation of the entire population to study. In determining the sample size a special consideration is made as to how the whole population can be fairly represented the result. Since it is not visible to consider the whole population, sample size of 80 was drawn from the Ministry of Agriculture and among fish farming enterprise using random sampling technique.

Method of Data Analysis

The statistical methods used to analyze, interpret and test data related to this study were:

- Simple percentage: - Which was used to analyze respondent bio data.
- Regression analysis: which was use for the testing of hypotheses.

$$Y = a + bX$$

$$a = Y - bX$$

$$b = \frac{n\sum xy - \sum x \sum y}{n\sum x^2 - (\sum X)^2}$$

- Spearman rank order correlation (RHO) was equally used for the testing the hypothesis.

$$R = \frac{6\sum d^2}{n(n^2-1)}$$

Research Hypotheses

The research hypotheses for this study include: -

- a. H0: Fish farming does not reduce unemployment rate in Nigeria
H1: Fish farming reduce unemployment rate in Nigeria.
- b. H0: Fish farming is not a lucrative business
H1: Fish farming is a lucrative business

Testing of Hypotheses

The focal point of this study which was based on testing the hypotheses and these includes thus:

- To show that fish farming reduces youth unemployment in Nigeria.
- To show that fish farming is a lucrative business.

RESULTS

Test of Research Hypothesis 1

To show that fish farming has provided employment opportunity to many youth therefore reduces youth unemployment.

Ho: That fish farming does not reduce youth unemployment in Nigeria.

H1: That fish farming reduce youth unemployment in Nigeria.

Model summary

Model	R	R-square	Adjusted R-square	Standard error of the estimate
1	0.519	0.269	0.243	0.98534

a. Predictor: (constant), youth unemployment.

The above table gives the model summary with R-square value of 0.269(26.9%). This implies that, 26.9% of the variability is the unemployment rate is being explained by the fish farming.

ANOVA

Model	Sum of square	Df	Mean square	F	Significant
Regression	10.015	1	10.015	10.315	0.003
Residual	27.185	28	0.971		
Total	37.200	29			

- a. Predictor: (constant), youth unemployment
- b. Dependent variable: fish farming.

The above table shows the analysis of variance (ANOVA) table with F- calculated value at 10.315 which the critical value obtained from statistical table at 4.28 level of significant. The decision rule is that when F- calculated is greater than the value of F- tabulated, reject null hypothesis (Ho) that says fish farming does not reduce youth unemployment in Nigeria.

Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized coefficient.		Standardized coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
Constant	5.259	1.153		4.560	0.000
unemployment	-1.926	0.600	-0.519	-3.212	0.003

- a. Dependent variable: fish farming

The above table gives the coefficient of the regression model. From the table, the decision rule is reject Ho if P- value < α -value =0.05, do not reject Ho Decision since P –value =0.003 is less than α –value of 0.05, we therefore reject Ho in favour of Alternative hypothesis H1.

Conclusion: the study concludes that fish farming reduce youth unemployment rate in Nigeria.

Test of Research Hypothesis 2

Null hypothesis (Ho): That fish farming is not a lucrative business

Alternative hypothesis (H1): That fish farming is a lucrative business.

Model summary

Model	R	R square	Adjusted R square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.411	0.169	0.139	1.05090

- a. Predictors: (constant), lucriveness.

The above table shows the summary modes with R –square values of 0.169 (16.9%). This implies that, 16.9% of the variability in the lucriveness i.e making large profit is being explained by fish farming.

ANOVA

Model	Sum of square	Df	Mean square	F	Significant
Regression	6.277	1	6.277	5.684	0.024
Residual	30.923	28	1.104		
Total	37.200	29			

- a. Predictors: (constant), lucrative business.
- b. Dependent variable: fish farming.

It gives the analysis of variable (ANOVA) table with F- calculated value at 5.684 which the critical value obtained from statistical table at 4.20 level of significant. Therefore, reject null hypothesis.

Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized coefficient.		Standardized coefficients		
	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
(constant)	2.923	0.587		4.978	0.000
Lucrativeness	-0.923	0.387	-0.411	-2.384	0.024

- a. Dependent variable: fish farming.

Decision Rule: reject Ho if P- Value is less than α –value of 0.05 accept null hypothesis.

Decision: since P- value = 0.024 which is less than α - value of 0.05, we reject null hypothesis and accept alternative hypothesis (H1).

Conclusion: Hence, the study concludes that fish farming is a lucrative business. The coefficient of the regression model show the intercept and slope are 2.923 – 0.923 x where “y” is the fish farming and “x” lucrative business. The model shows that lucrative business has a negative impact on fish farming.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The research carried out through the use of questionnaire attempts to identify the extent at which fish farming option can checkmate rising rate of youth unemployment, panacea to development in Nigeria. The research questionnaire was distributed at the Kwara State Ministries of Agriculture (Department of Fishery) and the fish farmer from selected location in Ilorin metropolis. Also, questionnaire was design and printed to seek consumer’s opinion.

From the research work it was discover that youth within the age range of 20-40 years engage in the business of which 33%are OND/NCE and 22% are HND/ Degree holder. From the consumer side it was discover that there is higher demand on catfish more than any other kind of fish as 77.7% of respondent who are customer to fish farmer prefer cat fish more than any other kind of fish.

The minimum capital required to nurture 1000 fingerling to maturity is one hundred to two hundred naira (#100,000 - #200,000) according to larger percentage of 53% respondents, the maturity period is four month as respondents said one can harvest trice in a year. The average price of selling one unit of fish is #450, bases on the research findings 87.7% agreed that there is market for all their produce. This means for every two hundred thousand naira invested, after four month one will have a total earning of four hundred and fifty thousand naira. Also, in a year the total out flow of cash will be almost #750,000 when one is sure of gaining an inflow of #1350, 000.

CONCLUSION

Youth unemployment in Nigeria is indeed a reality; the fish farming business can be seen as a business that is not only a remedy for unemployment situation but as well lucrative. Fish farming enterprises has engaged most of the OND /NCE and secondary schools drop out. In recent years many HND/university graduate had got themselves engaged in the venture. However, the major problem facing the fish farmer is high price of fish feed and inadequate government support in terms of loan and extension officer's services.

RECOMMENDATION

In view of the findings above a few recommendations can be made to government, business enterprises, and unemployed youth. On the part of the government, government at all level should make loan available and accessible for youth who want to go into or already in the business of fish farming. Government should deem it fit to subsidize the price of feed for fish farmer as other crop farmer enjoy subsidy on fertilizer and encourage the local production of fish feed. The service of government extension will make Nigeria fish farmer attain self-sufficient in fish production as Nigeria can only supply half of the demand for fish.

Fish farming business can be recommended to corporate establishment who wishes to diversify its business for they have the capacity to go on large scale and thereby employed more youth of this nation. The majority of canning fish product we have is imported, if corporate company can invest in that it will be another means of enlarging the fortune of this business. Preservation and package of fish can be promoted by corporate establishment for export.

The youth can start the business with zero capital by using the step by step approach of writing a good business proposal to somebody that has a large produce of fish. To sell for the person, all that will be needed is a guarantor. That can continue until one get at least sixty thousand naira for a start and simultaneously combining management of pond with fish selling business till one is able to stay alone.

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