[https://encrypted-tbn1.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcRJ2KK3mSSlgJ326gJIFOrLzm4FHF63NviyJIsmtgLrlmIRyKG4](http://www.google.com.ng/imgres?imgurl=http://www.nimeche.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/nimeche_logo.png&imgrefurl=http://www.nimeche.org/nimeche-ilorin-chapter-inaugurated/&h=79&w=400&tbnid=3qUZo6jVIl1MjM:&zoom=1&docid=_PIiifwCoyKAWM&ei=dw-7U82LFomR7AbhzIHYCQ&tbm=isch&ved=0CHMQMyhOME4&iact=rc&uact=3&dur=1360&page=4&start=75&ndsp=26) **MINNA CHAPTER**

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**Nigerian Youth Graduates Unemployment in the Midst of Final Year Projects: The Roles of the Institution, Professional Body, Research Institute and Government.**

BY

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Phone Numbers: - (234)805418767 or (234)7064358815 **Keywords: Youth Graduates, Unemployment, Institution, Entrepreneurship, Government**

**1.0 ABTRACT**

This paper presents that 80% of Nigerian youths are unemployed, with primary and secondary school graduates mostly found among unemployed rural population accounting for about 40%, while university and polytechnic graduates make up the remaining 40%. The reality is the fact that the nation’s universities and polytechnics continue to churn out over 150,000 graduates annually and available jobs remain inadequate to keep pace with the ever-expanding army of jobseekers. This paper suggests employments can be generated for the graduates of Nigerian tertiary institutions who embark on R and D final year projects before graduation. This can be achieved through the establishment of Science and Technology Parks in all the institutions and other local areas to incubate and harness for commercialization to the fullest, the novel and innovative works as Small and Medium Enterprises powered by a dedicated collaboration of relevant stakeholders with government.

**2.0 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Nigeria yearly graduates youths with final year Research and Development projects from over 124 Universities, 125 Mono-Polytechnics,98 Colleges Of Education in the midst of over 300 Research Institutions, Industrial capacities, Research capabilities (Inventors, Innovators ,Investors, Professors, PhDs, Professional bodies and Diaspora capacity) but yet worse hit by unemployment. The situation in Nigeria is that most of the novel, locally satisfying innovations/inventions and far reaching research outputs were allowed to waste away while the youths who carried out these researches still struggle to get white collar jobs if there are available (Sadiq, 2015).

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**Plate Ia: Abandoned Innovations in Nigerian Higher Institutions Plate 1b: Creative Innovations that could employ**

**Nigerian Youths if commercialized by institutions**

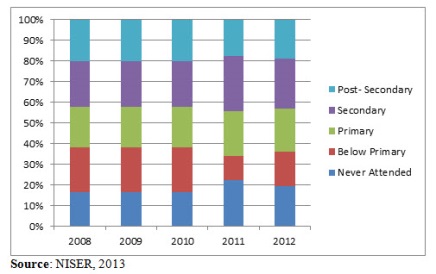
**Source:(Sadiq,2015)**

**3.0 INTRODUCTION**

Nigeria’s population is said to have reached about 167 million people in 2012 (National Bureau of Statistics). The National Population Commission (NPoC, 2013) states about half of the population is made up of youth, defined as individuals between 15 and 34 years of age. Unfortunately, as the youth population grows, so does the unemployment rate. In fact, unemployed youth numbered about 11.1 million in 2012. Here I shall explore a trend in youth unemployment in **Nigeria** relatedly in terms of education. From 2008-2012, over half of unemployed youth did not have an education past primary school as shown in figure 1. This particular group has consistently accounted for over 50 per cent of all unemployed youth with graduates of tertiary institutions making up substantive per cent of youth unemployment lots and often remaining so for upward of five years after graduation (NISER, 2013).

According to Falusi,(2014) ascertaining policies that have worked in addressing unemployment in Nigeria is rather difficult in light of the incredibly high and rising unemployment rate in which at least around 1.8 million youth are entering the labour market every year .He further stated that it is unclear to what extent any given intervention may have reduced the youth unemployment rate in aggregate, but what this paper presents is more helpful effective policies that will definitely deliver on their stated objectives if the program is systematically and sustainably implemented to indicates success.

In his presentation, Tunji,(2014) explained that public policies directed at addressing youth unemployment have faced different challenges including finance, the absence of good administration and implementation, inconsistent policies, unimpressive responses from would-be trainees, and unqualified resource personnel handling the training programs. According to a recent survey by the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research NISER, 2013, youth unemployment programs have concentrated more on training than on other activities that actually provide openings for immediate employment in white-collar jobs or jobs in the small- and medium-scale industries (NISER, 2013).

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**Figure 1:Nigerian Youth Unemploment in term of Educational inclinations**

**4.0METHODOLOGY: The Roles of the Institution, Professional Bodies, Research Institute and the Government**

Every outstanding financial success starts with a unique idea that is NOT obvious to most people.

In the context of commerce, "research and development" normally refers to future-oriented, longer-term activities in science or technology, using similar techniques to scientific research but directed toward desired outcomes and with broad forecasts of commercial yield.

An R&D department being either staffed by engineers and tasked with directly developing new products, or Staffed with industrial scientists and tasked with applied research in scientific or technological fields is one way the Institution can encourage jobs creation for their graduates.

To reduce the scourge of youths unemployment especially the creative, Innovative and ingenuous ones in Nigeria, the following collective efforts of Government, Institutions and research institutes/industries would be needed;-

(1)The universities investing both informal programs as well as in extra-curricular activities to channel student interest in solving problems through entrepreneurship(Office of Innovation&Entrepreneurship,2013).Examples of formal programs include degrees and certificates in Entrepreneurship while extra-curricular activities include Business Plan Contests, entrepreneurship clubs and start-up internships(SEDI, Minna). The University of Colorado and Clarkson University adopt this method.

(2)Experiential learning in the institutions to improve upon traditional lecture based classroom instruction by actively engaging students in innovative and entrepreneurial activities through workshops, conference, internship, hands on experience and real word projects. University of Illinois, Wisconsin-Madison, California and Stony Brook University (SUNY) embraced this path.

(3)Adoption of the University of Illinois’ Patent Clinic Model which provide law students with the opportunity to draft patent applications for student inventors. Student-innovators with potentially patentable inventions are referred to the patent Clinic by the Technology Entrepreneur Centre (TEC) at the College of Engineering. The patent Clinic then reviews the innovations, searches for relevant prior art and selects one innovation for each law students who then proceed to work with the inventor to draft a patent application on their innovation in consultation with an instructor.

(4) Competitions among students provide a unique space for students to exercise both creativity and theory. This exciting platform also allows students learn practical skills such as how to craft business plan, access venture funding and pitch ideas. Sequential competitions build upon project ideas could lead to completed business plans that are ready for possible funding from investors. Stony Brook University has developed an Entrepreneurial Challenge where student teams from various backgrounds develop a product a viable business plan and pitch their business plan in front of industry professionals. Mechanical Engineering Department of the Federal University of Technology, Minna in conjunction with NIMechE and SEDI, Minna could mimick this program. Similar competitions exist across the United State.

(5)Innovation Collaboration Spaces: Physical innovation spaces are crucial in developing a product and holding user testing sessions as well as for general collaboration and feedback. Examples are Stony brook University Innovation Lab and University of Florida’s Infinity Hall.

(6)University-Industry Collaboration: Building effective collaboration is crucial to creating effective entrepreneurial ecosystem where students are directly linked to emerging and connecter industries and research institute like SEDI, Minna. Through this partnership, offering internship and externship, sharing facilities with start-ups, there is an increased output in product development by university students, faculty and staff.

(7) Creating a dedicated office directly under the presidency (Office for the Promotion of Youth Inventions/Innovations Empowerment and Liberal Development PRO-YIELD) and well-funded to scout youths with creative, innovative and ingenuous Research and Development outputs from all the tertiary institutions, research centres and in the industries across the country (Sadiq 2014).

(8) Including in its management an active person(s) of vision, with power of decision and with high and visible profile, who is perceived by relevant actors in society as embodying the interface between [academia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academia) and [industry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industry) long-term plans and good management.

(9)The establishment of a Mini Science and Technology Parks in all the higher institutions, research centres and the various geopolitical zone of the country.

(10) Incubating, harnessing, commercializing and engaging (in form of Innovation SMEs) the Youth inventors/Innovators of these products that satisfy the local needs both as form of employment generation and contributions to National economy and building.

**5.0CONCLUSIONS** I’m not sure if youth unemployment will not be drastically reduced by at least 50% with all the outlined suggestions systematically implemented with effective political will of the government of Nigeria, Institution ( may be Mechanical Engineering Department of the Federal University of Technology, Minna), Professional Body(NIMechE to POWER/organize events/Competitions) and SEDI, Minna serving as interested industry/research Centres.

But I can guarantee success if we start from somewhere: **Check out this Wrong Technical Prediction (WTP) of "*Darryl Zanuck, 20th Century Fox, 1946***

**"Television won't be able to hold on to any market it captures after the first six** months**. People will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night. This executive did not realize that the convenience of having entertainment at home would outweigh technological limitations at that time. The story is well known to us now.**



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