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UNEMPLOYMENT, CRIME AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study examines the impact of unemployment and crime on economic growth in Nigeria from 1981 to 2022. It specifically examined the long-run impact of unemployment on economic growth of Nigeria; examine the long-run impact of gross crime incidence on economic growth of Nigeria; and examine how the size of labour force has influenced the economic growth of Nigeria. Descriptive statistics – the mean, sum, median, maximum, minimum, standard deviation, skewness, kurtosis, Jarque-Bera tests – were used to examine the statistical properties of the model. The study used Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) unit root test to check for stationarity properties of the variables. The long-run impact of unemployment and crime on the growth of Nigerian economy was examined using the long-run cointegrating

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coefficients. The results showed that unemployment rate exerted negative and significant influence on economic growth in Nigeria. It was also found that overall crime rates have a major long-term impact on Nigeria's economic growth – contrary to expectations and may be explained by the fact that enormous amounts of money were paid as ransom to terrorists and bandits, who used the money to buy goods and services instead of diminishing the RGDP. The study therefore recommended that the Nigerian government should continue promoting modern counterterrorism strategies for security agencies like the police, Department of State Services (DSS), army, navy, and air force, by providing advanced infrastructure and technologies, increasing budgetary support, and boosting morale and that the Nigerian government should create laws, regulations, and infrastructure to encourage private sector investment and job creation, thereby reducing unemployment and criminal activities.

Introduction

Among the greatest challenges facing the Nigeria economy are unemployment and security which have been on the rise over the years. According to Njoku (2011), the total labour force in Nigeria is made up of persons aged between 15-65 years excluding students and those medically unfit available for work but do not find work. Unemployment could be frictional, seasonal, structural and cyclical. The kind of unemployment in Nigeria is structural in nature, i.e. there is a huge difference between demand and supply of labour (Ajide, 2021).

The rising population of the country is faster than the job opportunities, a situation in which the birth rate is rising, death rate falling and the population growth is between 2.5%-3%, unemployment is bound to exist. There has been a total neglect of the agricultural and manufacturing sectors and consequent mass exodus of able-bodied youths from the rural to urban areas in search of greener pastures. This reduces employment in agriculture and puts pressure on the existing jobs (Anyanwu 1995). Official figures from the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics has it that the unemployed persons was 30 million about 19.70 percent. This statistic is scary

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and poses a threat to the economic development, security of Nigeria. Currently, the insecurity challenges such as insurgency, public violence and societal crime has been on the increase and the perpetrators of these occurrences are largely believed to be currently unemployed or underemployed. Unemployment is a problem both economically and socially. Unemployment in Nigeria has resulted in more people who do not have purchasing power. Less consumption has led to lower production and economic growth has been affected (Ajide, 2021).

Some of the young persons who cannot find work for whatever reasons resort to crime in order to survive under harsh economic conditions in the country. Criminality is denoted as a historical social phenomenon, which does not rule out from a person's life, but it keeps pace with the social and technological evolution. It has the tension to readjust all the time and as a result, a large variety of criminal activities is shown worldwide during different periods. Lately, types of organized, violent and profiteering crime appear to be the most prevalent, but without ruling out the different kinds of single crimes (Nikolaos and Alexandros, 2009). Crime had traditionally been the domain of labour economists, who studied the educational and career choices of youth, including the choice to pursue crime as a 'career' (Fontenay, 2008) or the necessity to resort to crime due to non-availability of employment opportunities.

After some time of relative silence with only a few major contributions in the eighties, the last few years witness a vitalization of the "economics of crime" (Dilulio, 1996; Ehrlich, 1996; Entorf and Spengler, 1998). In the 1980's and 1990's, economists embarked on an investigation into the relationship between crime and the economy, naming it the "economics of crime" which shifted the concern from the pure testing of the deterrence hypothesis to the analysis of socio- economic and demographic crime factors. In other words, research concentrating on the effects of changes in detection probability and the severity of sanctions has shifted to issues concerning some of the considerable factors (Chang and Wu, 2012).

The economics of crime are mostly related with these factors such as poverty, social exclusion, income, income inequality, unemployment, inflation, migration, human capital, worker ability or labor market skills, poor employment records, low legitimate earnings, cultural characteristics, age, sex, fertility, demographic transition, education level, family background, its unequal representation with regard to race, the level of urbanization and other economic problems (Nikolaos

and Alexandros, 2009; Chang and Wu, 2012; Hamzah and Lau, 2013; Freeman, 1999). Economic theory predicts that economic recessions generally tend to cause an upturn in criminal activities (Conley and Wang, 2006). Moreover, if, during a recession, government expenditures on crime prevention remain the same, then the rising crime rate results in a fall in the crime detection rate. When the recession is over, criminals may fail to adjust their anticipated probability of crime detection and thus crime rates will remain on a higher level compared to the prerecession period. Recession can have both a short-term and long-term impact on crime rates (Ivaschenko, Nivorozhkin, & Nivorozhkin, 2012). According to official data tables, during the last decades there is a constant rise of criminal acts in developed countries and countries of the western world (Nikolaos and Alexandros, 2009). Thus, modern studies have been stimulated by the dramatic increase of crime rates in western countries on one hand, and by recent increase in social and economic problems on the other (Entorf and Spengler, 1998; Onwuka, Ugwu & Chukuma, 2020).

Undoubtedly, unemployment and crime affect the trend of economic growth of Nigeria. Economic growth is a fundamental requisite to economic development. Essentially, economic growth is associated with policies aimed at transforming and restructuring the real economic sectors. Ever since independence in 1960, the challenge facing the Nigerian economy has been how to increase economic growth in order to reduce unemployment rate and by extension extreme poverty, strengthen democratic and political stability and diminish the incidence of crime and violence (Ismaila and Imoughele 2015). The GDP is one of the most widely used measures of an economy's output or production. The GDP is an accurate indication of an economy's size and is probably the single best indicator of economic growth. Gross domestic product are of two types; nominal and real GDP. Real GDP is an inflation-adjusted measure that reflects the value of all goods and services produced by an economy in a given year. It is often referred to as "inflation-corrected" GDP. Nominal GDP is a macroeconomic assessment of the value of goods and services using current prices in its measure. Nominal GDP is also referred to as the current dollar GDP. Economists typically use nominal GDP when comparing different quarters of output within the same year. However, when comparing GDP across more than one-year, real GDP is used. Real GDP is a much better index for expressing the output of an economy as it takes into account the fluctuating value of goods and services when expressed in monetary terms. It

therefore gives Economists a better idea of the total national output of a country. It is on this basis that this study examines unemployment within the scope of the Nigerian economy and its impact of the economic growth for the selected years.

Replete studies have concluded that Nigeria's economic growth indices have been affected by rising unemployment (Amassoma and Nwosa, 2013; Aminu, Manu, and Salihu, 2013; Asoluka and Okezie, 2011; Kareem, 2015; Eze, Atuma and Egbeoma, 2016; Iloabuchi, 2019). Other studies (Adekoya and Razak, 2017; Metu, Kalu and Maduka, 2018; Onwuka, Ugwu and Chukuma, 2015) have documented that economic growth can also be influenced by crime rate. Even the study by Ezeajughu (2021) that analysed both crime and unemployment failed to examine their effect on economic growth. However, studies have largely failed to analyze the impact of both crime and unemployment on economic growth. Authors and of course, nowadays research interest on economic growth and insecurity have often chiefly discoursed the short-run effect of unemployment on economic growth or crime on economic growth – neglecting the possible long-term effects of these indices (crime and unemployment) on economic growth.

Moreover, unemployment and crime can significantly affect the long-term economic growth process in Nigeria. Rather than narrowing attention to only crime or unemployment, it is more imperative and practically relevant to evaluate the combined effects of unemployment and crime on economic growth of Nigeria so that the criminality and unemployment indices could be tackled by government towards attainment long-term economic growth.

Therefore, this study endeavors to address the questions: What is the impact of unemployment on economic growth of Nigeria? And what is the impact of gross crime incidence on economic growth of Nigeria? Consequently, the specific objectives of this study are to: examine the impact of unemployment on economic growth of Nigeria; and evaluate the impact of gross crime incidence on economic growth of Nigeria. The remaining sections of this paper are organized as follows. Section 2 presents a comprehensive examination of the literature concerning the relationship between unemployment, crime and growth. Section 3 delves into the materials and methods employed in this study. Section 4 treats the empirical findings. Lastly, Section 5 encompasses the conclusion and policy recommendations.

Literature Review

Conceptual Literature

The main concepts reviewed under this section of the study include unemployment, crime and economic growth.

Concept of Unemployment

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) defines the unemployed as the number of all economically active population who are without work but are available for and are seeking work, including people who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work (World Bank, 1998). According to Fajana (2000), unemployment refers to a situation where people who are willing and capable of working are unable to find suitable paid employment. It is one of the macro-economic problems, which every responsible government is expected to monitor and regulate. He stated further that the higher the unemployment rate in an economy, the higher would be the poverty level and associated welfare challenges.

In addition, five distinct types of unemployment namely, seasonal, residual, frictional, structural and open unemployment have been identified by (Fajana, 2000; Alao, 2005). Seasonal unemployment, on one hand, is an unemployment experienced as a result of seasonal variation in the activities of particular industries caused by inherent nature of such industries. Seasonal oriented industries are bound to give rise to seasonal unemployment. Residual Unemployment is an unemployment caused by personal factors such as old age, physical or mental disability, poor work attitudes and inadequate training.

On the other hand, frictional unemployment is an unemployment caused by industrial friction in which jobs may exist yet, the workers may not possess the necessary skills, or because they are not aware of the existence of such jobs. The employable may remain unemployed on the account of shortage of raw materials or mechanical effects in the working of plants, or mostly as a result of innovation. Such people include local farmers who use hoes and machetes before the introduction of modern equipment, and typists who are displaced by computers.

Furthermore, structural unemployment is the type of unemployment occurs when there is a change in the structure of an industry or the economic activities of the country. This type of unemployment is due to the deficiency of capital resources in relation to their demand.

Open unemployment is the type of unemployment where there are categories of young men and women who are roaming the streets looking for job, but there is no job for them to do. They refused to do the job(s) they see because of certain reasons best known to them (Fajana, 2000; Alao (2005).

Lack of employable skills due to inappropriate school curriculum is one of the factors that have contributed greatly to the rising youth unemployment in Nigeria. Analysts have argued that in Nigeria generally, the skills that job seekers possess do not match the needs and demands of employer (Mcgrath, 1999; Kent & Mushi, 1996). According to them, the education system in Nigeria has its liberal bias which indeed over supplies the labour market with graduates who do not possess the skills required by employers. Also, many graduates in Nigeria lack entrepreneurial skills to facilitate self- employment (Oladele, Akeke and Oladunjoye, 2011).

Scholars have written widely on unemployment issue and its effects on the growth and development of Nigeria. According to Anyadike, Emeh and Ukah (2012), every nation's economy is characterized by both active and inactive populations. They observed that the economically active ones are those populations willing and able to work, and include those actively engaged in the production of goods and services and those who are unemployed. The International Labour Organisation in their contribution has it that the unemployed are numbers of the economically active population who are without work but available for and seeking for work. They also include people who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work (World Bank, 1999). On the part of Bassey and Atan (2012), Nigerian has the potential for rapid economic growth and development, with her rich human and material resources, yet the country's economic performance has been described as being truncated, erratic, dismal and largely unimpressed (Ajayi, 2002; lyaha and Oriakhi, 2002; Kayode, 2004; Ekpo, 2008). The poor growth performance of the economy is depicted in the rising incidence of poverty, massive and graduate unemployment, skyrocketing inflation, worsening balance of payments disequilibrium, monumental external debt burden, widening income disparity and growing fiscal imbalances, which takes into consideration the Nigeria crises of underdevelopment. This is why Ekpo (1987) in Bassey and Atan (2012), affirmed that all these problems are rooted in the pervasive distortions existing within the economy. Unemployment, takes a doomsday scenario in Nigeria, it develops a decade after Nigeria had her independence. Akintoye (2008) in Bassey and Aten (2012) opined that the rate of unemployment rise from 4.3% to 6.4% and further

rose to 7.1% in 1987. This rise in unemployment rate came as a result of economic depression which engulfed the nation and spread its effects that resulted to massive closure of businesses and retrenchment of workers. This was followed by the placement of embargo on recruitment which further worsened the situation. Bssey and Atan, (2012) opined that the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) had a salutary effect on job creation leading to a sharp fall in unemployment figure from 7.1% in 1987 to 3% in 1994. However, the rate of unemployment in Nigeria kept on increasing.

Concept of Crime

There is no singular universally acceptable definition of crime as there are many scholars on crime studies. According to Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (third edition), crime "is illegal activities in general". This implies that any activity that is illegal is regarded as crime. In the same vein, the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (6th ed) defines crime "as activities that involve breaking the law, an illegal act or activity that can be punished by law and an act that you think is immoral or is a big mistake". This definition explains the complex nature of crime i.e. any act or action that is considered immoral is seen as a crime but such act is subject to frequent changes and interpretations. The Black Law Dictionary (9th edition) defines crime as "an act that the law makes punishable, the breach of a legal duty as the subject matter of a criminal proceeding".

Durkhein (1933) in analyzing the high rate of crime and industrial conflicts in the industrial society, belief that expansion of industrialized society due to division of labour portends a great fear to social solidarity that can cause crime or violence. To him (Durklein) crime is a normal occurrence emanating from situations where moral obligations and social controls are weak and not strong enough to control social behaviour. Adebayo (2013) opined that the police are mandated to prevent and control crime as government agent. He further stated that the inability of the police to control and prevent crime, the breakdown of family values, prevalence of bribery and corruption and high unemployment rate have all contributed to a further breakdown of law and order. To him – Adebayo, it is the sole responsibility of the police to deal with social problems (crime inclusive) in any society.

According to Oniha and Edobor (2019), "crime dates back to the origin of man". It is traceable to the Garden of Eden where God specifically instructed Adam and Eve

not to eat of the forbidden fruit, with penalty for disobeying or violating the instruction.

Crime, as variously conceptualized is a problem that afflicts all societies and countries though to varying degrees (Wu and Wu, 2012). The theory of crime was largely composed of recommendations made by sociologists, psychologists, criminologists, political scientists and law professors that were not based on rigorous empirical investigation, but on beliefs about concepts like depravity, insanity and abnormality (Entorf and Spengler, 1998). Criminality is denoted as a historical social phenomenon, which does not rule out from a person's life, but it keeps pace with the social and technological evolution. It has the tension to readjust all the time and as a result, a large variety of criminal activities is shown worldwide during different periods. Lately, types of organized, violent and profiteering crime appear to be the most prevalent, but without ruling out the different kinds of single crimes (Nikolaos and Alexandros, 2009). Crime had traditionally been the domain of labour economists, who studied the educational and career choices of youth, including the choice to pursue crime as a 'career' (Fontenay, 2008).

Edohor, Imade and Oke (2020), summarized the causes of crime as been categorized into three main groups namely; Biological, Sociological; and Psychological. However, other causes of crime which may fall into these categories include: family neglect, greed/quest for quick wealth, retaliation over perceived offence, agitation over resources control, government ineptitude/failure, government policies and peer group influence.

Concept of Economic Growth

Generally, economic growth is an expansion of the size of the economy without a change in its structures. In other words, economic growth is related to a quantitative sustained increase in the country's per capita income or output which is usually accompanied by expansions in the labor force, consumption, income, capital and volume of trade. It can also be referred to as the increase in the gross domestic product. Relatively, economic growth is a straight forward measure of output and portends how well or not an economy is faring. According to Enu (2009), economic growth is a measure of the wellbeing of a State; usually in real terms, all other things being equal.

Jhingan (2003) defines economic growth as a process whereby the real per capital income of a country increases over a long period of time. According to him, economic growth is measured by the increase in the amount of goods and services produced in a country. Economic growth occurs when an economy's productive capacity increases which, in turn, is used to produce more goods and services. A nation's economic growth can be measured in terms of its national income and the real per capital income. Economic growth is a very important goal of macro-economic policy because of the role it plays in economic development.

According to Mladen (2015), economic growth is changes in material production and during a relative short period of time, usually one year. In economic theory, under the concept of economic growth implies an annual increase of material production expressed in value, the rate of growth of GDP or national income. Mladen (2015) further averred that economic growth is obtained by an efficient use of the available resources and by increasing the capacity of production of a country. It facilitates the redistribution of incomes between population and society. The cumulative effects, the small differences of the increase rates, become big for periods of one decade or more. When the rate of economic growth is big, the production of goods and services rises and, consequently, unemployment rate decreases, the number of job opportunities rises, as well as the population's standard of life. For the purpose of this study, we shall, employ the definition of economic growth by Mladen (2012) as the working definition because it is broad-based and by far more encompassing in explaining economic growth than others.

Theoretical Literature

Marxian Theory of Crime

The Marxian Theory of Crime have William Chambliss (1978) and Laureen Snider (1993) as its major proponents. The theory originally is borrowed from the ideas of Karl Marx, the key insight into the theory is that, crime is a natural outgrowth of capitalism and view society as constantly changing in response to social inequality and social conflict. Capitalism as an economic system is based on the private ownership of property with personal gain rather than collective well-being is encouraged. The theory argues that capitalism is itself a crime and it further causes crime. It is based on oppression and economic exploitation of the majority, and creates a competitive world in which greed, violence and corruption flourish.

Giddens (2001) provided a very clear interpretation of Marxian ideas on crime and deviance. To him, by nature, humanity is altruistic and not competitive. This suggests that capitalism itself, as a form of economic organisation, makes humanity greedy and selfish. Giddens (2001) further argues that under capitalism the law is used to oppress the working class. He suggests that what we now regard as 'criminal' will disappear only once capitalism itself has disappeared. He contends that there will be no greed and profit-seeking under socialism; also, the ruling class will not exist to use the law as a weapon to define as deviant or criminal those working-class activities they do not wish to allow.

Many Marxists see crime as a natural 'outgrowth' of the capitalist system. The Capitalist system can be said to be crimogenic in three major ways: capitalism encourages individuals to pursue self-interest rather than public duty; capitalism encourages individuals to be materialistic consumers, making us aspire to an unrealistic and often unattainable lifestyle; and capitalism in its wake generates massive inequality and poverty, conditions which are correlated with higher crime rates. Marxist Sociologist David Gordon says that Capitalist societies are 'dog eat dog societies' in which each individual company and each individual is encouraged to look out for their own interests before the interests of others, before the interests of the community, and before the protection of the environment. If we look at the Capitalist system, what we find is that not only does it recommend that we engage in the self-interested pursuit of profit is good, we learn that it is acceptable to harm others and the environment in the process.

Marxists point out that in a Capitalist society, there is immense competitive pressure to make more money, to be more successful, and to make more profit, because in a competitive system, this is the only way to ensure survival. In such a context, breaking the law can seem insignificant compared to the pressure to succeed and pressures to break the law affect all people: from the investment banker to the unemployed gang member.

The Marxian theory of crime has been criticized on the basis that, it dwells solely on giving an insight on the prevalence of crime in a society, without equally giving solutions to such societal ills. The theory is found lacking in its inability to significantly make provision for the dos and the don'ts characterizing the society, this is largely unfortunate because its failure in that regard have given rise to the incessant manifestation and increase in the crime rate of several coexisting states across the globe.

Okun's Law

The Okun's law originates from the study between unemployment and economic growth by Okun (1962) on the United States' economy, where he observed that there was an inverse relationship between the two variables. Okun (1962) observed that a percentage increase in economic growth would result in a 0.3% decline in the unemployment rate. Output might logically be expected to move approximately one for one with employment, yet Okun argued that measured unemployment is less volatile than output because fluctuations in hours per worker and labour force participation hide some underemployment (Neely, 2010). The Okun's law has been observed to fit developed economies better whereas in most developing economies the law has failed to explain the inverse relationship between unemployment and output growth. Lal et al. (2010) traces the breaking down of Okun's law in developing economies to failure by researchers to take into account of the asymmetric properties of the relationship between unemployment and output. Symmetrical studies assume that unemployment responds equally to both economic booms and contractions and therefore employ linear models, while asymmetrical studies take into consideration that unemployment responds differently to economic regimes and therefore, employ non-linear estimation methods (Harris and Silverstone, 2001; Cosar and Yavuz, 2019). Despite the success of most symmetrical studies in fitting the Okun's Law in developed economies, Harris and Silverstone (2001) question the accuracy of the observed Okun coefficients in these studies given their use of linear regression models. This theory can be used in explaining the relationship between growth and unemployment in Nigeria.

Several studies have made attempts to validate the theoretical claims of the Okun's law which posit a negative relationship between economic growth and unemployment. That is, when the economy progresses, such progress would be accompanied by decline in unemployment, which would mean increase in employment. These attempts to validate the Okun's Law can be seen in the case studies of Villvarde and Maza (2008); Dritsak and Dritsaki (2009); Ball, Leigh and Loungani (2012); Fernandez, Prieto and Saez (2018). These studies have established similar conclusions that led to validating the Okun's Law. But the experience of Nigeria in most of the years illustrates little or no consonance to this law. Onwuka, Ugwu and Chukuma (2015) observed that the Nigeria's economy has been grown amidst rising unemployment.

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This study adopts the Okun's law to evaluate its validity in Nigeria as regards economic growth indices as they tend to reduce unemployment. Equally, the Marxian theory of crime would be used to investigate the rationale behind criminality in Nigeria during the period under review.

Empirical Review

Omoyele, Oleke, Olabisi and Aderemi (2022) carried out a study on 'Economic Growth, Youth Unemployment and Poverty in Nigeria: A Granger Causality Approach' The aim of the study was to examine the direction of causality among economic growth, unemployment and poverty in Nigeria. The study examined a causal relationship been between economic growth, unemployment and poverty in Nigeria between 1990 and 2019. Findings include here was no directional causality between youth unemployment and economic growth in Nigeria Similarly, no evidence to support the direction of causality between economic growth and poverty in Nigeria. However, unidirectional causality runs from poverty to youth unemployment in Nigeria. This implies that youth unemployment in Nigeria was largely motivated by high level of poverty in the country. In the light of the above findings, this study therefore makes the following recommendations for the policymakers in Nigeria that any time these policymakers want to address the problem of youth unemployment in the country, policy that will reduce poverty level should be embarked upon. Also, policy that stimulates economic growth should be encouraged in Nigeria.

Ezeajughu (2021) carried out a study on "High Rate of Unemployment and Crime Increase in Nigeria", and observed that crime situation in Nigeria is more intense in urban centres than rural areas due to high level of urban poverty, congestion, unemployment, cost of living, disorganization and moral decadence confronting urban system. He further noted that the preponderance of urban crimes in Nigeria is a reflection of deprivation, marginalization and breakdown in infrastructure and amenities that are supposed to manage or control crime among urban residents. Violent crimes such as murder, armed robbery, kidnapping and terrorism are the most inhumane crimes that continue to plague Nigeria. Lately, kidnappings for ransom and terrorism have taken the centre stage leading to bloodshed and economic set-backs. The causes are not farfetched as studies have associated rising youth unemployment to the increase in crimes. The youths are also the most volatile when their energies are misdirected or channeled into wrong endeavours.

Available data show that youth employment is very rampant in Nigeria and this has contributed immensely to their involvement in criminal activities. The study argues that criminal activities such as armed robbery, kidnapping, political thuggery, militancy and other social vices found among the unemployed and jobless youths have contributed greatly to the slow pace of development in Nigeria. The study proffers that; addressing youths' unemployment will stop the tide of crime and foster rapid development in Nigeria. The study found significantly negative effects of unemployment on high crime rates that are stable across model specifications.

Edohor, Imade and Oke (2020) examined the Impact of Crime on Sustainable Economic Growth and Development in Nigeria and observed that the alarming rate of criminal activities such as Boko Haram, kidnapping, bank fraud, financial misappropriation, embezzlement, armed robbery, political thuggery, etc. and their consequences on our economy calls for urgent attention of every development minded Nigerian. The study examined the concept of crime and criminality, sustainable economic growth and development. The causes and types of crime, impact of crime on sustainable economic growth and development in Nigeria were considered as well as the prevention and the control. The authors equally looked at the challenges of crime management in promoting economic growth and development. It is the opinion of the authors that crime can be reduced to its barest minimum by providing functional education that is capable of creating jobs and promoting peaceful co-existence. The need for prompt crime detection and reduction strategies was suggested by the authors.

Metu, Kalu and Maduka (2018) carried out a study on 'analysis of crime rate and economic growth in Nigeria: the institutional challenges and way forward' and analyzed the effect of crime on economic growth as well as the challenges to effective crime prevention and control in Nigeria using descriptive statistics. Data were sourced from Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and World Development Indicators (WDI). Number of people serving prison terms was used to proxy crime rate and the findings showed the rate of crime increased over the study period. Increased crime rate has adverse effects on sustainable economic growth in Nigeria by driving away both foreign and domestic investors; low investment eventually increases unemployment and poverty. The challenges to effective crime prevention and control are corruption, poverty, family issues and poor motivation for the Nigerian Police Force. Based on the findings, the study

recommends an increase in economic activities that will help to increase employment, reduce poverty and also reduce crime in Nigeria.

Adekoya and Razak (2017), in a study 'the Dynamic Relationship between Crime and Economic Growth in Nigeria, posited that crime is a major impediment to economic growth and development in Nigeria despite measures taken to reduce it. The study examines the link between crime and growth based on the theory of rational choice and empirical data. Exogenous and endogenous growth models are employed, and include deterrence variables. The period examined is 1970–2013 and estimation is done using the autoregressive distributed lag model. The results of our study show that crime affects economic growth at a 1% and 10% level of significance. In other words, crime imposes the costs of prosecution and punishment on the citizens and country, which influences the growth of the economy. Given our results, we suggest that police and the system of justice should be strengthened. Indeed, this may be necessary if the development target stated in Nigeria vision 20: 2020 is to be reached.

Enejoh and Tsauni (2017), analyzed the impact of unemployment on economic growth in Nigeria from 1970 to 2016. The study used ARDL and Error Correction Mechanism (ECM) to test the short-run and long-run impact of youth unemployment and interest rate on economic growth. The result shows that there is a negative and significant impact of youth unemployment and interest rate on economic growth in Nigeria both in the short run and long run. The study also revealed that youth enrollment rate and education expenditure has a positive and significant impact on economic growth.

Eze, Atuma and Egbeoma (2016) in a study "The Relationship between Unemployment and Economic Growth in Nigeria: Granger Causality Approach", examined the relationship between unemployment and economic growth in Nigeria; and specifically focused on the impact of unemployment on economic growth for the period 1980-2013. Cointegration test, Vector Error Correction Model (VECM) technique and Granger causality test were employed in the analysis. The variables utilized in the investigation include real gross domestic product (RGDP), unemployment rate (UNEMP) and private consumption expenditure (PCE). Stationarity test was conducted and the results indicated that all the variables except UNEMP were stationary at level; however, UNEMP became stationary after first differencing. The cointegration test result revealed that long run relationship exists among the variables under study. More so, VECM result

showed that unemployment has negative and significant impact on RGDP. Finally, the Granger causality results indicated unidirectional relationship between UNEMP and RGDP, with causality running from RGDP to UNEMP. Based on the findings above, the study therefore, recommends that government should as a matter of urgency create more employment opportunities to absorb the teeming population of the unemployed labour force in the country through modernization of the agricultural sector, bring in modern equipment in the facilities of agriculture to make the sector more attractive to all citizens despite one's qualifications and profession, as that alone would go a long way in reducing unemployment level in the country.

Onwuka, Ugwu and Chukuma (2015) conducted a study on Implications of Youth Unemployment and Violent Crime on the Economic Growth (A case study of Anambra State, Nigeria) and examined the implications of youth unemployment and violent crimes on the economic growth of Nigeria. The sample size was calculated using Taro Yamane's statistical technique. A sample of 272 persons were selected from the population of 147 business owners and 125 members of the national council of youth in Anambra state Nigeria and questionnaires were administered through simple random sampling to collect data for analysis. SPSS version 20 software was used for analysis using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to analyze the data and compare different population of mean existing within the groups and between the groups at five point-likert scale of strongly agreed, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree. The result of hypothesis one, indicated that when F- calculated value (1714.670) is greater than F-tabulated value (2.53), decision rule was applied to rejects the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis that, there exist a significant relationship between youth unemployment and violent crimes in Nigeria. The result of hypothesis two, indicated that when F-calculated value (852.659) is greater than F-tabulated value (2.53) study rejects the null hypothesis and accepts the alternative hypothesis that, there exist a strong relationship between youth unemployment and violent crimes in Nigeria. Study conclude that youth unemployment affects negatively economic growth in Nigeria due to high increase in violent crime such as, kidnapping, robbery, thuggery and terrorism which hinders business investment and economic growth. Study recommends that government should support unemployed youth with incentive such as unemployment benefit as it is done in developed nation like America, Europe and Asia. Finally, government should make

entrepreneurship education compulsory at all levels of education and monitor its implementation plan to ensure that both the trainees and the instructors are complying with the laid down policy and budget plan.

Jibir, Bappayaya and Babayo (2015) carried out a study on "Re-Examination of the Impact of Unemployment on Economic Growth of Nigeria: An Econometric Approach". The study examined the impact of unemployment on economic growth of Nigeria using time series data between 1982 and 2014. The major objective of the study was to analyse the impact as well as direction of causality between unemployment and economic growth in Nigeria. Secondary data were sourced from Central Bank Statistical Bulletin. An exploratory research design was conducted using OLS, Phillips-Perron unit root test and Pair-wise Granger causality test. The result of the OLS shows a negative relationship between unemployment and real GDP proxy for economic growth which is in line with Okun's law. Also, granger causality test shows absence of causality between the unemployment and Nigerian economic growth. Government expenditure and capacity utilization that are incorporated in the model portrays positive relationship with economic growth. The existence of a negative relationship between unemployment and economic growth necessitates the need for government to introduce programs and policies that will create job opportunities for the teeming unemployed youths in Nigeria. The study also recommends provision of skills acquisition centres and transformation of the educational system so that youths will be job creators rather than job seekers.

Materials and Method

The data used in this paper consists mainly of secondary data, which are relevant to the study and were obtained from published sources. The published sources include data from Central Bank publications, journals, internet, and other relevant publications. These were collected for a period of 1981 to 2022.

Following Adekoya and Razak (2017), Jibir, Bappayaya and Babayo (2015) and Okun's Law, the model for this study is stated as:

$$RGDP = \beta_0 + \beta_1 UER + \beta_2 GCI + \beta_3 SLF + \beta_4 INF + \beta_5 INTR + \mu \dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots (1)$$

Where, RGDP is real gross domestic product, UER is unemployment rate, GCI is gross crime index, SLF is size of labour force, INF is inflation, INTR is interest rate, β_0 is intercept of the model and $\beta_1 - \beta_5$ are parameter estimates.

Essentially, the techniques adopted for this study is the VECM approach. The VECM is one of the most successful, flexible, and easy to use models for the analysis of multivariate time series. The estimation procedures are unit root tests, co-integration test where the Johansen Cointegration test was used. Furthermore, the Vector Error Correction Model (VECM) was used to give the short run dynamics of the variables know the speed of adjustment to a unique equilibrium.
The use of this method is justified on several reasons. First, the endogeneity problems and inability to test hypotheses on the limited coefficients in the long run associated with the Engle-Granger method are avoided. That is, it has superior statistical properties such as asymptotically unbiased and consistent (even) in small samples as it is relatively more efficient in small sample data sizes found mostly in studies on developing countries. Second, the long run and short run parameters of the model are estimated simultaneously. It can be applied irrespective of whether the variables in the model are endogenous. Thus, applying VECM is helpful in data generating process through taking sufficient number of lags in a general-to-specific modeling framework. Finally, the VECM approach is particularly applicable in the presence of the disproportion nature of the time series data stemming from the presence of possible structural breaks as it is a common feature with most economic variables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Summary Statistics

Descriptive statistics were utilised to calculate the data on the study's variables. Mean, median, maximum, minimum, standard deviation, skewness, kurtosis, Jarque-Bera, sum, and sum squared deviation are among the statistics. These statistics were calculated to assess the statistical characteristics of the key research variables. Table 1 presents the results.

Table 1: Summary Statistics of the Variables used in the Study

Statistic	RGDP	UER	GCI	SLF	INF	INTR
Mean	36524.11	4.889756	7.403659	42736275	13.11634	119.7544
Median	25267.54	4.020000	8.200000	42586340	13.50000	12.45000
Maximum	73060.06	9.790000	9.990000	64479540	26.00000	33.40000
Minimum	13779.26	3.700000	3.210000	22962631	6.000000	0.640000

Statistic	RGDP	UER	GCI	SLF	INF	INTR
Std. Dev.	21361.95	1.841834	1.939381	12396911	3.952562	11.34572
Skewness	0.558948	1.630784	0.675451	0.017670	0.653370	1.144514
Kurtosis	1.691290	4.069172	2.380420	1.778775	4.489820	3.760675
Jarque-Bera	5.060791	20.12581	3.773397	2.549926	6.708853	9.939548
Probability	0.079628	0.000043	0.151571	0.279441	0.034929	0.006945
Sum	1497488	200.4800	303.5500	1.75E+09	537.7700	4909.930
Sum Sq. Dev.	1.83E+10	135.6941	150.4480	6.15E+15	624.9100	550768.3
Observations	41	41	41	41	41	41

Source: Researcher's Computations from Eviews 12

There are various thorough analyses of the power of tests for multivariate normality, but none of them is completely adaptable, according to Dornanski (2010). This is because it would be pointless to look at every method now in use and nearly impossible to examine every potential departure from normality. Jarque & Bera (1987) provided skewness and kurtosis measures; the Jarque-Bera test is frequently used to assess the normality of distributions. For the series employed in this paper, the Jarque-Bera, skewness, and kurtosis statistics were used.

The normal distribution, which distributes data along its mean, has a standard value of zero for skewness. Most of the series used in the study have skewnesses that are significantly different from those that are thought to have a normal distribution. However, neither the left (negatively) nor the right (positively) of these series are significantly skewed.

The kurtosis statistic of a normal distribution is 3. It measures how peaked and flat a normal curve is. The kurtosis gauges how peaky a distribution is, which is typically taken to be about normal. Leptokurtic (k>3) distributions with a high peak and "fat tails" are what the series UER, INF and INTR typically display. However, RGDP, GCI and SLF have platykurtic (k<3), thinner tails, and somewhat flat-topped curves. These series are biased, though.

Unit Root Test

In order to avoid spurious regression results, stationarity properties of the series used in this study were subjected to tests using the ADF. The results obtained are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Stationarity Test Results

Variable	t-Statistic	Critical value @ 5%	Order of Integration	Decision
RGDP	-3.542825	-2.938987	I(1)	Reject H_0
UER	-5.241020	-2.938987	I(1)	Reject H_0
GCI	-6.045154	-2.943427	I(1)	Reject H_0
SLF	-4.605413	-2.938987	I(1)	Reject H_0
INF	-3.367273	-2.936942	I(0)	Reject H_0
INTR	-7.684697	-2.938987	I(1)	Reject H_0

Source: Researcher's Computations from Eviews 12

Table 4.2 shows the stationarity test results. The table indicates that most of the series failed to attain stationarity at levels, except INF. The series – RGDP, UER, GCI, SLF and INTR attained stationarity at their first difference. Thus, the null hypotheses of the series having unit roots were rejected as indicated in the fifth column of Table 4.2.

Cointegration Analysis

Cointegration Test Results

Unit root test results showed that all the variables used to establish the long-run relationship among the variables were stationary at the first difference. Thus, we have established the long-run relationship that existed among the variables used in the study. The study employed the Johansen Cointegration Technique because it is so required for series whose order of integration is I(1). The cointegration tests was conducted and the results presented in Table 4.

Table 3: Results of Unrestricted Cointegration Rank Tests (Trace and Maximum-Eigen Statistics)

Hypothesized no. of CE(s)	Eigen value	Trace Statistic	0.05 Critical Value	Prob.**
None*	0.660546	106.4124	95.75366	0.0076
At Most 1	0.495980	64.27620	69.81889	0.1278
At Most 2	0.358119	37.55574	47.85613	0.3218
At Most 3	0.271501	20.26499	29.79707	0.4750
At Most 4	0.176991	7.911011	15.49471	0.4750
At Most 5	0.008026	0.314284	3.841465	0.5751

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Hypothesized no. of CE(s)	Eigen value	Trace Statistic	0.05 Critical Value	Prob.**
Hypothesized no. of CE(s)	**Eigen Value**	**Max-Eigen Statistic**	**0.05 Critical Value**	**Prob.****
None*	0.660546	42.13622	40.07757	0.0289
At Most 1	0.495980	26.72046	33.87687	0.2786
At Most 2	0.358119	17.29075	27.58434	0.5551
At Most 3	0.271501	12.35398	21.13162	0.5131
At Most 4	0.176991	7.596727	14.26460	0.4212
At Most 5	0.008026	0.314284	3.841465	0.5751

Source: *Researcher's Computation.*

Trace test and Max-Eigen tests indicates 1 Co-integrating Equation(s) at the 0.05 level.

***** Denotes rejection of the hypotheses at the 0.05 level using the MacKinnon-Haug-Michelis (1999) p-values denoted by ******.

Table 4.4 presents the Johansen Cointegration results. The results show that both the Trace test and Max-Eigen test have indicated 1 cointegrating equation each at 0.05 critical values. This is because the Trace and Max-Eigen statistics of 106.4124 and 42.13622 are greater than their respective critical values of 95.75366 and 40.07757 at 5% level of significance. Thus, we reject the null hypothesis of None* of the hypothesized number of cointegrating equations for both Trace and Max-Eigen statistics. For the remaining hypothesized number cointegrating equations (ranging from At Most 1* to At Most 5*), we cannot reject the null hypotheses as their Trace statistics are less than their respective 0.05 critical values.

Long-Run Impact of Unemployment and Crime on Economic Growth in Nigeria

The existence of cointegrating relationships among variables used in the study had been established. The nature of the long-run relationship between unemployment, crime and economic growth in Nigeria using the cointegrating coefficients normalized by b^1*s11*b=1 (the inverse matrix) was estimated and the results are presented in equations 4.1.

$$lnRGDP = -0.654^{*}lnUER + 1.730^{*}lnGCI + 2.130^{*}lnSLF + 0.031^{*}INFL + 0.003INTR \ldots\ldots(2)$$

$$(0.340) \qquad (0.383) \qquad (0.757) \qquad (0.013) \qquad (0.002)$$

Note: standard error in parentheses

*denotes that the coefficient is significant at 5% level.

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Equation 2 shows estimate that have been obtained from the model to establish a long-run relationship between unemployment, crime and economic growth in Nigeria. The estimates in the regression are treated as elasticities of RGDP with respect to the independent variables in the equation, since all other variables are held constant in each case when a particular variable is being treated. As shown in equation 2, coefficients of variables in the long-run are significant in all of estimation at 5% level of significance, except INTR.

Equation 2 shows that a one percent increase in unemployment rate (UER) is associated with a 0.654% decrease in RGDP (real gross domestic product) – the size of the economy – in the long run. This finding is consistent with the findings of Eze, Atuma and Egbeoma (2016), who reported that unemployment has a negative effect on economic growth in Nigeria. The findings of this suggests the rejection of null hypothesis one which states that there is no significant long-run effect of unemployment on economic growth of Nigeria; and thus, its alternative is hereby accepted. This implies that unemployment has a significant long-run effect on economic growth of Nigeria.

The results presented in Equation 2 also shows that gross crime index (GCI) has positive relationship with RGDP with a coefficient of 1.730, which implies that a 1 percent change in GCI will lead to 1.730% positive change in RGDP. This finding is contrary to expectations and, might be attributed to large sums of money paid to terrorists and bandits as ransom, which they use it for consumption of goods and services leading to increase in RGDP, rather than reducing it. The effect of GCI on RGDP is statistically significant at 5% level of significance. Since, gross crime index has a significant relationship with RGDP, we reject null hypothesis two which, that gross crime incidence has no significant long-run impact on economic growth of Nigeria, and accept its alternative. This means that gross crime incidence has significant long-run impact on economic growth of Nigeria.

As shown in Equation 2, size of labour force (SLF) has a positive impact on RGDP in Nigeria in the long run. The coefficient of 2.130 implies that a 1% increase (decrease) in size of labour force leads to 2.130% increase (decrease) in the growth of real gross domestic product in Nigeria in the long run. As reported by the associated standard error of SLF coefficient (0.757), the long run impact of SLF on RGDP is statistically significant at 5% level of significance. This suggests the rejection of the third and last null hypothesis which, states that the size of labour force has no influence on economic growth of Nigeria, thus the alternative is

accepted. This implies that the size of labour force has significant influence on economic growth of Nigeria in the long run.

It is shown also from the results that inflation rate (INFL) shows a negative relationship with RGDP, in line with expectations. These results show that a one percent increase in inflation rate is associated with 0.032% decrease in RGDP in the long run. Finally, the results show that a one percent increase in exchange rate (EXR) is associated with 0.003% decrease in the growth of RGDP in Nigeria.

The Vector Error Correction (VEC) Model

The accompanying short-run model of the study was estimated via VECM. The VEC models were therefore selected on the basis of the lag order selected by the criteria earlier presented in Tables 3. The results for the leading model in its first and second logarithmic differences on the short-run relationship between unemployment, crime and economic growth in Nigeria are presented in Table 5.

Table 4: The Vector Error Correction (VEC) Estimates

Variables	Coefficient	Std. Errors	t-statistic
RGDP(-1)	-0.177876	0.17780	-1.00044
RGDP(-2)	0.131179	0.19385	0.67671
UER(-1)	-0.100636	0.07945	-1.26670
UER(-2)	-0.081183	0.08034	-1.01046
GCI(-1)	-0.103973	0.06043	1.72049
GCI(-2)	-0.112719	0.08693	-1.29661
SLF(-1)	0.050506	0.16061	-0.31446
SLF(-2)	0.142872	0.15829	-0.90260
INF(-1)	0.077860	0.06132	1.26969
INF(-2)	-0.005305	0.06265	-0.08467
INTR(-1)	-0.100636	0.07945	-1.26670
INTR(-2)	-0.081183	0.08034	-1.01046
ECM(-1)	-0.291839	0.12637	-2.30939*
C	0.016694	0.05101	0.32724

R-Squared	=		0.349294		
Adj. R-squared	=		0.273996		
Sum Sq. Resids	=		1.372201		
S.E. equation	=		0.229732		
F-statistic	=		3.866051		
Log likelihood		=	9.182564		
Akaike AIC	=		0.148286		
Schwarz SC	=		0.665419		
Mean dependent	=		0.009474		
S.D. dependent	=		0.238735		

Source: Researcher's Computations from Eviews 12

***** denotes significance at the 5 percent level.

Table 4.5 shows the short-run VEC estimates for study model. The results show that in the short-run, the growth of RGDP in the current year is negatively influenced by the rate of unemployment in the previous year (UER(-1)). This implies that a one percent increase in UER(-1) is associated with 0.101% decrease in RGDP. Even in the second year lag, unemployment rate (UER(-2)) still exerts negative influence on real gross domestic product in Nigeria in the short-run. The results show, that gross crime index in the first and second year lags (GCI(-1)) and (GCI(-2)) exerts negative influence on real gross domestic product. The results also show that size of labour force in the first and second year lags (SLF(-1)) and (SLF(-2)) positively influence economic growth (RGDP). It was also reported that while inflation in the first year lag (INF(-1)) exerted positive influence on RGDP, a negative influence was reported in the second year lag (INF(-2)). The Adjusted R-Squared of 0.273996 shows that even with adjustments in the model, the explanatory variables included in the model can still explain 27.40% of changes in the RGDP in the short-run. The ECM(-1) value of -0.291839 with the standard error of 0.12637 show that the speed of adjustment is significant. This demonstrates that variables included in the model have the ability of returning to their long-run equilibrium values after experiencing short-run perturbations at a speed of adjustment of 29.18%.

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Causality Test Results

The Granger Causality test is a statistical hypothesis test for determining whether one time series is useful in forecasting another. The Granger Causality Test shows the direction of causality between and among the series: RGDP, UER, GCI, SLF, INF and INTR. In order to examine the direction of causality among the variables, the study employed the Granger Causality within the VAR environment. The results of the test are presented in Table 4.6.

Table 5: VAR Granger Causality/Block Exogeneity Wald Tests

Causality	Chi-Sq.	Df	Prob.
UER→RGDP	9.902263	2	0.0071*
GCI→RGDP	8.098654	2	0.0312
RGDP→UER	14.74511	2	0.0006*
GCI→UER	7.823719	2	0.0423
GCI→SLF	8.653421	2	0.0332*
INF→SLF	10.73870	2	0.0047*
EXR→SLF	11.52875	2	0.0031*
INF→SLF	15.29366	2	0.0005
SLF→GCI	6.305381	2	0.0427*
INF→GCI	23.59651	2	0.0000
SLF→INF	9.805424	2	0.0074*
SLF→INTR	7.507180	2	0.0234*

Source: Researcher's Computations from Eviews 12

***** denotes bi-directional causality between variables

→ denotes direction of causality between the series

Table 4.6 present the results of Granger Causality within the VAR environment. The results show that, gross crime index (GCI), INF, INTR Granger cause RGDP, UER and SLF. This means that GCI is bidirectional useful at 5% level of significance in forecasting SLF in Nigeria, while GCI is unidirectional useful at 5% level of significance in forecasting RGDP and UER in Nigeria. Similarly, INF is unidirectional useful at 5% level of significance in forecasting UER. In the same uni-directional format, INF forecasts GCI. There is, nevertheless, a bi-directional causality between UER and RGDP; between INF and SLF; as well as between INTR and SLF.

Discussions

The first objective of this paper was to examine the long-run impact of unemployment on economic growth of Nigeria. The results obtained showed that unemployment rate exerted negative and significant influence on economic growth in Nigeria. This means that a one percent increase in unemployment rate (UER) is associated with a 0.654% decrease in RGDP (real gross domestic product) – the size of the economy – in the long run. This finding is consistent with the findings of Eze, Atuma and Egbeoma (2016), who reported that unemployment has a negative effect on economic growth in Nigeria. This implies that unemployment has a significant long-run effect on economic growth of Nigeria.

The second objective of this study is to examine the long-run impact of gross crime incidence on economic growth of Nigeria. According to the results, the gross crime index (GCI) and real gross domestic product (RGDP) have a positive association with a coefficient of 1.730, meaning that a change of 1% in the GCI will result in an increase of 1.730% in RGDP. This result is unexpected and may be explained by the fact that enormous amounts of money were paid as ransom to terrorists and bandits, who used same to buy goods and services leading increase in the RGDP in the long-run. At a 5% level of significance, the impact of GCI on RGDP is statistically significant. This indicates that overall crime rates have a major long-term impact on Nigeria's economic growth.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

Conclusion

Based on the research's findings, it can be said that crime and unemployment have had significant effects on Nigeria's long-term economic growth – while unemployment exerted negative influence on the economic growth process in Nigeria, gross crime index has positive influence on it. Additionally, if the government does not address or rein in criminal activity caused by militants, kidnappers, dangerous armed robbers, and notably Boko Haram, the country's goal of achieving economic progress may be cut short. Overall, an unstable country will never be able to draw foreign investment or expand its economy.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this research, the following recommendations are made. First, the government needs to foster an environment that would allow young

people in Nigeria to find employment. This can be accomplished by enacting laws, regulations, and infrastructure that will encourage private sector organisations in the nation to invest and create jobs. The engagement of young people into meaningful employment opportunities would reduce the issue of unemployment in Nigeria and reduce criminal activities. Lastly, the police, Department of State Services (DSS), army, navy, and air force, as well as all other security agencies, should be trained and retrained on contemporary counterterrorism techniques. Even if this is already happening, the government should continue to support and encourage it by providing state-of-the-art tools and infrastructure to improve intelligence collecting and efficiently coordinate the efforts of the nation's security services. Additionally, the government should strengthen the budgetary support it gives to these organisations to raise their morale in protecting the lives and property of both Nigerian nationals and foreigners who reside there.

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