

Governance Deficit and Youth Restiveness in Nigeria

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Abstract—This study examines the impact of governance deficits on youth unrest in Nigeria, a country grappling with pervasive institutional flaws that hinder its socio-economic development. Governance deficit denotes the incapacity of governmental institutions to efficiently provide public services, maintain accountability, and guarantee inclusive growth. The failures—evident in corruption, inadequate infrastructure, and fragile institutions—have disproportionately impacted Nigeria's youth, leading to marginalisation, unemployment, and political disenfranchisement. As a result, several young Nigerians articulate their discontent through protests, civil disobedience, and, in severe instances, armed insurrection. This research utilises qualitative data from interviews with adolescents participating in the #EndBadGovernance protests and expert perspectives to examine how deficiencies in governance directly incite youth discontent and activism. Thematic analysis identifies primary factors contributing to young unrest: economic adversity, distrust in authority stemming from corruption and inadequate governance, insufficient educational and employment prospects, and a call for responsibility and inclusion in governance procedures. The results correspond with Social Contract and Strain theories, highlighting the erosion of trust between the state and its residents, as well as the challenges youth encounter when legitimate avenues to socio-economic success are obstructed. The report advocates for extensive reforms centred on anti-corruption initiatives, economic empowerment for young, educational enhancement, and more political engagement to alleviate youth unrest. Rectifying governance deficiencies is essential for Nigeria to capitalise on its demographic dividend, foster stability, and attain sustained growth. This study underscores the pressing necessity for inclusive governance that empowers youth and restores public trust.

Indexed Terms- Governance Deficit. Youth Restiveness. Nigeria. Corruption. Political Participation

I. BACKGROUND TO STUDY

Nigeria, the country with the highest population in Africa, with abundant natural and human resources. Nevertheless, despite its promising possibilities, the country has been burdened by substantial deficiencies in governance that have hindered its progress and nurtured widespread dissatisfaction, especially among its younger population. The term "governance deficit" in Nigeria denotes the inability of governmental institutions to efficiently provide public goods, uphold the principles of law, establish accountability, and promote inclusive economic development (Ibrahim, 2020). This insufficiency has appeared in multiple manifestations, such as widespread corruption, insufficient public services, feeble institutional frameworks, and inadequate economic management (Ojo, 2019).

The youth, being a substantial proportion of Nigeria's population, experience the severe consequences of these governance failures. Due to restricted availability of high-quality education, healthcare, and job prospects, a significant number of young Nigerians are caught in a recurring pattern of poverty and marginalization (Eze, 2021). The lack of attention to this issue has resulted in an increasing feeling of anger and disappointment, leading to a rise in young unrest. Youth restiveness is the escalating participation of young individuals in acts of civil disobedience, protests, criminal behaviors, and, in severe instances, violent insurgencies (Adewumi, 2018).

The correlation between a lack of effective governance and the rise of youth unrest is clearly demonstrated by the widespread socio-economic difficulties experienced in Nigeria. The youth's sense of marginalization is intensified by high rates of unemployment, inadequate infrastructure, and little

political representation (Chukwuma, 2022). As a result, some young Nigerians are compelled to articulate their complaints through diverse manifestations of social upheaval, encompassing nonviolent demonstrations as well as more aggressive methods like as affiliating with militant organizations or participating in criminal behavior (Nwosu, 2020).

To tackle the problems of governance deficit and youth restiveness in Nigeria, a comprehensive and diverse approach is necessary. Comprehensive reforms are required to enhance institutional capacities, foster transparency and accountability, and achieve fair distribution of resources (Adeola, 2019). Furthermore, it is essential to empower young people by providing them with education, opportunities to develop skills, and meaningful involvement in governance processes. This is important for cultivating a sense of belonging and decreasing restiveness (Babatunde, 2021).

Ultimately, the ongoing deficiencies in administration in Nigeria have played a substantial role in fueling youth unrest, which presents a crucial obstacle to the stability and progress of the nation. It is crucial for Nigeria to directly address these problems to fully utilize its demographic dividend and construct a prosperous future for its younger population.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Nigeria is confronted with a pressing issue of inadequate governance, which has a substantial impact on the socio-economic environment and contributes to widespread unrest among young people. The governance deficit in Nigeria is marked by pervasive corruption, feeble institutional frameworks, insufficient public service delivery, and inadequate economic management. These problems lead to a deficiency in confidence in governmental institutions and impede the successful execution of policies. The Nigerian youth, who make up a significant proportion of the population, are especially impacted by these deficiencies in governance. Many young Nigerians feel excluded and disempowered due to high unemployment rates, limited access to decent education and healthcare, and inadequate political representation. The feeling of being deprived of rights and privileges intensifies anger and disappointment,

resulting in a rise in youthful unrest expressed through acts of civil disobedience, protests, criminal behavior, and violent uprisings.

Existing literature frequently examines governance inadequacies and young restiveness as separate issues, without providing a thorough study of the cause-and-effect link between them (Ibrahim, 2020). Also, numerous studies primarily concentrate on macro-level research, neglecting the individual experiences and viewpoints of young individuals impacted by deficiencies in governance (Eze, 2021). This study aims to bridge this gap by examining how specific governance weaknesses, such as corruption and poor public services, interact with each other, and directly contribute to youth restiveness. This would be achieved by integrating qualitative data obtained from interviews conducted with selected Nigerian youths who participated in the #Endbadgovernance protest. This study is expected to offer a more profound understanding of the ways in which governance failures affect their everyday lives, aspirations, and behaviors (Adewumi, 2018).

Aim

The main aim of this study is to investigate the effects of governance deficit on youth restiveness in Nigeria.

Objectives

1. To investigate expert opinions on the causal relationship between governance deficiencies and the rise of youth restiveness in Nigeria.
2. To examine youths' experiences of governance deficits impact on youth behaviors.
3. To suggest recommendations for governance deficits and youth restiveness in Nigeria

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Youth Restiveness

The problem of youth restiveness in Nigeria is complex and has its origins in socioeconomic difficulties, political disenchantment, and cultural factors. "Youth restiveness" commonly denotes the diverse manifestations of unrest, dissatisfaction, and agitation displayed by the younger generation in the nation. To begin with, economic issues have a substantial impact. The youth population in Nigeria experiences a significant level of unemployment,

where numerous graduates struggle to obtain substantial employment opportunities despite their education (Oluwatobi et al., 2018). The economic marginalization frequently results in youngsters experiencing frustration and a feeling of hopelessness, which in turn motivates them to engage in different types of protest and unrest. Furthermore, political disillusionment is also a contributing factor to the restiveness observed among young people. The presence of corruption and nepotism in Nigeria's political system discourages young individuals from actively engaging in government processes (Oluwatobi et al., 2018). This disillusionment creates an environment in which young individuals are more prone to engaging in disruptive actions as a way of expressing their discontent with the existing situation. Moreover, cultural elements such as the exclusion or discrimination of specific ethnic or religious communities can intensify the agitation and unrest among young people. Political players in certain areas of Nigeria exploit ethnic tensions and religious divides, which exacerbate societal inequalities and contribute to unrest among the youth.

End Bad Governance Protests

The end bad governance (EBG) protests were peaceful protests which commenced in various Nigerian states including Lagos, Kaduna, Kano, Oyo, Gombe, Jigawa, Bornu, and the capital Abuja. However, the situation escalated into violence when the Nigeria Police Force employed tear gas and live ammunition against the protesters in Abuja, with the intention of dispersing them Cyril (2024). Jide Onyekunle, a journalist, was apprehended (Sahara Reporters 2024). The police apprehended over five protesters who were attempting to impose the restriction of protesters to Eagle Square, located in the heart of Abuja. In an attempt to intimidate the protesters, a police helicopter was dispatched. Nevertheless, the protesters disregarded the command (Philip, 2024). A minimum of 25 demonstrators were apprehended in Kaduna State following the deployment of tear gas by security officers to scatter them as they attempted to forcibly enter the Kaduna State Government House (Doris, 2024).

The End Bad Governance protests originated from Nigeria's escalating economic adversity and famine, characterised by BBC journalist Simi Jolaoso as the

"most severe economic crisis in a generation," resulting from unprecedented inflation, particularly in food prices. The crisis has been attributed by some experts to the implementation of economic reforms, specifically the elimination of fuel subsidies and the devaluation of the Naira after removing its peg to the US dollar. These reforms were carried out under the presidency of Bola Tinubu with the aim of liberalising the Nigerian economy and encouraging foreign investment (Jolaoso, 2024). Several government officials, including Tinubu himself, have made efforts to discourage protestors, and have even announced certain initiatives to provide financial assistance to young individuals (Jolaoso, 2024). Demonstrations commenced on July 29, 2024, with protesters taking to the streets brandishing placards bearing slogans such as "Enough is Enough," "Cease Anti-Masses Policies," "We Refuse to be Subjugated in Our Nation," "The Suffering is Intolerable," and "Reinstate Fuel Subsidy (Ogunrinde, 2024; Nigeria, News Agency of 2024). The user's text is a reference to a specific source or citation (Sahara Reporters 2024b). On 29 July 2024, the Nigerian Army placed roadblocks on key routes to Abuja, the nation's capital (Daily Trust 2024).

Restiveness Among Young Nigerian Youths

The occurrence of youth restiveness in Nigeria is evident through a range of manifestations, such as protests, militant actions, and criminal activity. The Niger Delta militancy, Boko Haram insurgency, and the #EndSARS protests exemplify instances of youth unrest that arise from shortcomings in administration. The growth of militant organizations in the Niger Delta region can be attributed to the historical neglect of the area by successive governments, despite its substantial economic contributions to the nation. The groups advocated for improved management of resources, safeguarding of the environment, and the advancement of infrastructure (Ikelegbe, 2010).

The Boko Haram insurgency in the northeastern region can be partially linked to inadequate government, poverty, and limited access to education. The rebels take advantage of these circumstances to enlist marginalized young people, offering them a feeling of direction and inclusion (Agbibo, 2013). In October 2020, the #EndSARS movement, led predominantly by young Nigerians, demonstrated against instances of police brutality and extrajudicial

deaths. The protests brought attention to wider concerns regarding governance, encompassing corruption, unemployment, and a lack of accountability (Akinwale, 2021).

Empirical Reviews

Empirical investigations have continuously demonstrated a robust association between deficiencies in governance and the tendency of young people to become restive or rebellious. Research conducted in Nigeria has shown that elevated levels of corruption, unemployment, and inadequate governance are strong indicators of young violence and unrest in the Niger Delta region (Aghedo, 2012; Okafor, 2011). Research conducted in the Middle East has established a connection between young upheavals that occurred during the Arab Spring and government failures such as authoritarianism, corruption, and economic disenfranchisement (Goldstone, 2011). Multiple studies have investigated the correlation between governance deficiencies and the tendency of young people to become restive in Nigeria. Aghedo (2012) discovered that elevated levels of corruption, unemployment, and inadequate governance have a substantial impact on the occurrence of youth violence in Nigeria's Niger Delta region. The analysis emphasizes the correlation between the government's neglect in addressing these concerns and the subsequent rise of militant organizations and regular occurrences of violent demonstrations.

Okafor (2011) examined the consequences of youth unemployment on the maintenance of democratic stability in Nigeria. The study discovered that the high rate of unemployment among young people, which is worsened by issues like corruption and ineffective policy execution, is a significant cause of political instability and unrest. The results indicate that enhancing governance and generating employment prospects for young individuals are essential for upholding peace and stability.

IV. THEORETICAL REVIEW

Social Contract Theory: Social Contract Theory, as advanced by philosophers such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, asserts that the government's legitimacy rests on an unspoken agreement between the state and its citizens. When the

government fails to meet its obligations, especially in ensuring security, justice, and opportunities, citizens may lose faith and become inclined towards rebellion (Hobbes, 1651; Locke, 1690; Rousseau, 1762). When the government does not adequately provide education, career prospects, and a safe environment, young people may engage in protests and violence to voice their frustrations, which is known as youth restiveness (Ake, 1996).

Strain theory: Strain Theory, formulated by Robert K. Merton, suggests that society systems can exert pressure on people, leading them to engage in deviant behavior. When cultural norms prioritize success and financial prosperity, but the acceptable methods to attain these objectives are obstructed, individuals may resort to alternate, frequently unlawful, methods (Merton, 1938). In the context of adolescent restiveness, deficiencies in governance, such as the absence of job prospects and inadequate educational systems, generate a burden that compels young people to resort to criminal behavior and violence as alternative methods to attain their objectives (Agnew, 1992).

V. METHODOLOGY

This study will employ qualitative methodology to investigate governance deficiency and youth restiveness. The researcher will conduct in-depth interviews, focus groups with six youth respondents. The study also employs personal observations to contribute comprehensive perspective of the lived experiences, perspectives, and motivations of young Nigerians who are impacted by governance deficits.

Sampling Method

Purposeful Sampling: the study chooses individuals who participated in the #EndBadGovernance protests in Lagos and Oyo states who also had firsthand experience of the protests. The study also selects Nigerian university based political scientists and scholars, with knowledge in the areas of governance inadequacies and youth restiveness. The study also employs the stratified sampling technique to ensure inclusivity. This ensures representation from two universities; Lead City university and Lagos state university, to capture a wide range of opinions.

Method of Data Analysis

Thematic Analysis

Thematic analysis is a qualitative technique employed to discern, examine, and communicate recurring patterns (themes) in data. The process entails multiple crucial stages:

Data Familiarization: the researcher will engage in a process of getting familiar with the gathered data. This would help the researcher to gain a deep understanding of the contents of the data through repeated readings or listening.

Coding: the researcher would also methodically provide descriptive or interpretive labels (codes) to parts of the data that represent specific concepts, ideas, or patterns associated with governance deficit and youth restiveness. These codes would be classified as deduced from existing theories, as well as inductive, meaning they are derived from the data itself.

Theme Development: the codes would be categorized into key themes according to their similarities or correlations. The themes would capture the basic nature of the data and would be reinforced by various coded excerpts.

Reviewing and Defining Themes: The themes would undergo a process of iterative analysis, during which the researcher will carefully examine and reinterpret them to ensure they accurately represent the data and align with the study questions.

Interpretation and Reporting: Ultimately, the researcher will analyze the themes in relation to the research objectives, place the findings within the framework of current literature, and present them in a logical narrative that demonstrates the links between governance deficiency and youth restiveness in Nigeria.

The researcher would utilize these approaches and employ thematic analysis to reveal the fundamental causes, dynamics, and ramifications. Through the integration of meticulous data gathering techniques and systematic theme analysis. Also, significant insight that can help to the formulation of policies, advocacy initiatives, and academic discussions targeted at tackling these crucial societal problems will

be provide. These techniques are expected to offer strong research findings, subtle, and based on empirical data, hence increasing their relevance and influence in shaping actions and initiatives to reduce youth restiveness and enhance governance practices in Nigeria.

VI. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Expert opinions on the causal relationship between governance deficiencies and the rise of youth restiveness in Nigeria.

Respondent 1: asserted that the lack of effective governance in Nigeria has played a major role in the increase of youth restiveness. The shortcomings encompass corruption, absence of transparency, subpar service delivery, and insufficient infrastructural development. Youth restiveness, which manifests as protests, militancy, and other kinds of civil disturbance, is frequently a reaction to these enduring governance problems.

Respondent 2: Shortcomings in governance resulting from corruption in Nigeria has been widespread, impacting all tiers of government and public institutions. Nigeria consistently receives low rankings on the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index, suggesting a high amount of perceived corruption (Transparency International, 2023). This pervasive corruption erodes public confidence in the government and diminishes the efficiency of public service provision.

Respondent 3: The absence of openness and accountability in governance processes results in a deficit of trust in governmental institutions. When citizens, especially young people, believe that their leaders lack accountability, it generates sentiments of disenfranchisement and animosity (Akinola, 2021).

Respondent 4: Incompetent governance leads to inadequate provision of public services, including healthcare, education, and infrastructure. A significant number of young individuals encounter a scarcity of prospects for receiving a high-quality education and securing job, resulting in feelings of dissatisfaction and disappointment (Okoye, 2020).

Respondent 5: The Lack of sufficient infrastructural development especially in rural areas, hinders economic prospects and worsens poverty. The absence of fundamental facilities and infrastructure, such as transportation routes, electrical power, and potable water, plays a role in the general discontentment experienced by the younger generation (Olukoshi, 2022).

Personal Experiences of Youths on Governance Deficits and Youth Restiveness.

Youth One “Many of us get frustrated and angry when we see the government waste money and neglect to create chances for financial development. Bad leadership and policy mistakes directly cause the daily financial difficulty we go through. The young people start to become desperate since they see the acts (or inactions) of those in charge compromising their futures.”

Youth two: “Unquestionably, youth restiveness in Nigeria is related to governance shortcomings, especially considering the nation's economic woes. Bad government has resulted in general economic instability marked by high unemployment rates, inflation, and inadequate basic infrastructure. Young people, who typically find themselves battling to make ends meet despite their best efforts, are disproportionately affected by these problems.”

Youth three: “Personally, the financial struggles brought on by political shortcomings have profoundly changed my attitude to life and behaviour. Whether it's the difficulty of obtaining a job, the growing expense of living, or the uncertainty of the future, many of us have had to negotiate the hard reality of a failing economy. These encounters have bred mistrust and disappointment towards the government.”

Youth four: “For instance, several of my friends and I have discovered it almost tough to land work in our chosen industries even after completing an education. Lack of chances has caused dissatisfaction and feelings of worthlessness. Some young people, unable to handle the financial demands, have turned to bad activities as a survival strategy, including criminal activity or participation in illicit schemes.”

Youth five: “Moreover, many of us have been driven to get more politically involved by the government's seeming indifference for our welfare. Protests like the #EndBadGovernance movement are more likely to be attended by us to voice our discontent and advocate the much-needed reforms. The financial crisis makes it quite evident that our predicament will only get worse if we remain silent and demand improved government.”

Youth Six: “Youth restiveness results from many feeling that nonviolent requests for change are either disregarded or treated with repression. The #EndBadGovernance demonstrations turned into a forum for us to express our dissatisfaction and demand responsibility from authorities who have regularly neglected to handle the economic problems we confront.”

Thematic Data Analysis of Major Themes Economic Hardship and Youth Restiveness

The presence of economic hardship significantly contributes to the emergence of youth restiveness in Nigeria (Okoro, and Nwamara, 2021). This underscores the profound economic difficulties encountered by young people, such as soaring levels of joblessness, inflation, and the escalating expenses of daily life. The economic challenges are a direct result of inadequate governance and policy shortcomings, which have fostered a hostile climate for the survival of young individuals. According to Frankham et al., (2020), financial adversity acts as both a factor and an accelerant for the agitation and unrest among young people. When the government fails to ensure economic stability and possibilities for growth, the frustration and desperation of young people escalate. This discontent frequently materialises as restiveness, with young people seeking alternate methods to articulate their problems, such as engaging in protests and other types of activism. The #EndBadGovernance protests are a direct reaction to the economic hardships experienced by several Nigerians, especially the younger generation, who believe that their prospects are being endangered due to inadequate governance (Vanguard 2024).

Governance Failures and Mistrust in Authority

The responses revealed a deep distrust in those in power because of failures in governing (Ogunnubi,

2022). The youth are widely disillusioned due to corruption, resource mismanagement, and unfulfilled promises. This lack of trust is not merely a passive feeling, but actively influences the actions and beliefs of young individuals towards the government. The subject of distrust in authority is crucial for comprehending the correlation between governance flaws and juvenile conduct. When the government continually fails to fulfil its commitments, it undermines the confidence that citizens, especially young individuals, have in their leaders (Ukachukwu, and Naetor, 2020; Anyanwu, and Busayo, 2022). The absence of trust leads to a more confrontational and antagonistic attitude to governance, wherein young people are more inclined to participate in rallies and other types of activism to insist on transparency and responsibility. The responses indicate that this lack of trust is a direct consequence of personally witnessing deficiencies in governance, especially in the economic domain.

Youth Activism and Demand for Accountability

Youth restiveness is a notable reaction to the lack of effective governance in Nigeria. The comments underscored the tendency of young individuals, who perceive themselves as being excluded and disregarded (Vite et al., 2020), to engage in protests and other types of activism to demand change and ensure that leaders are held responsible. The #EndBadGovernance protests exemplify the increasing prevalence of youth-led activism. According to Shah and Khan, (2023), youth activism arises as a reaction to and a means of managing governance deficiencies. The absence of efficient governance has compelled some young individuals to engage in heightened political activism, employing protests to express their grievances and champion transformative reforms. The theme highlights the active role that young people are playing in questioning the existing situation and striving to shape the course of governance in Nigeria. The #EndBadGovernance movement is a collaborative endeavour by young people to ensure that leaders are held responsible and to advocate for changes that tackle the economic and social difficulties they encounter.

The Role of Education and Unemployment

The responses highlighted the difficulties linked to the educational system and unemployment in Nigeria. Despite acquiring education, numerous young individuals have challenges in obtaining employment (Uba, and Okeke, 2023). This has intensified feelings of dissatisfaction and disappointment towards the government among the youths. The themes of education and unemployment are closely connected and serve as indicators of the larger governance challenges in Nigeria. The government's failure to generate employment opportunities or establish a favourable economic climate undermines the significance of education, resulting in a recurring pattern of disappointment and despair among young people (Okoi, and Iwara, 2021). This theme is also connected to the wider problem of economic adversity, when individuals who endeavour to enhance their circumstances through education become ensnared in a system that provides minimal rewards and presents several hurdles.

CONCLUSION

The key themes identified—economic hardship, governance failures and mistrust in authority, youth activism and demand for accountability, and the role of education and unemployment—collectively illustrate the complex and multifaceted relationship between governance deficiencies and youth restiveness in Nigeria. These themes not only explain the rise of youth restiveness but also provide insight into the behaviours and attitudes of young people in response to the governance challenges they face. The #EndBadGovernance protests are a manifestation of these underlying issues, highlighting the urgent need for reforms that address both the economic and social dimensions of governance in Nigeria.

Also, perspectives from the Social Contract Theory assert that there is a dissolution of the social contract between the government and its citizens which then results in youth restiveness. When the government neglects its duty to provide essential services and fulfill its obligations, citizens, particularly the younger generation, believe they have valid reasons to question the authority of the state (Rousseau, 1762). The presence of governance shortcomings in Nigeria directly and significantly contributes to the increase in

youth restiveness. The youth are widely frustrated and disillusioned due to corruption, lack of transparency, poor service delivery, and inadequate infrastructural development. It is essential to tackle these governance challenges to reduce youth unrest and foster stability and growth in Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Improve Economic Opportunities for Youth**
Suggestion: The government should adopt strategies centred on generating employment, offering assistance for young entrepreneurs, and facilitating the acquisition of relevant skills targeted primarily at the youth population. Possible measures might encompass tax incentives for enterprises that hire young individuals, funding for vocational training initiatives, and the creation of youth innovation centers to foster entrepreneurial skills. By tackling unemployment and creating economic prospects, we can reduce the economic difficulties that lead to youth unrest and offer young individuals a practical route to stability and achievement.
- **Enhance Anti-Corruption Measures and Promote Accountability in Governance:** Enhance the anti-corruption frameworks and provide enhanced transparency in government activities. This may entail the use of digital governance tools, more rigorous enforcement of anti-corruption legislation, and enhanced public supervision through autonomous entities. With decrease in corruption and enhancement of transparency, it is possible to restore confidence in governmental organisations, so lowering the feeling of disappointment and distrust that contributes to the unrest among young people.
- **Encourage young Involvement in Governance**
Recommendation: Establish additional channels for young participation in governance and decision-making procedures. One possible solution is to create youth advisory councils at different levels of government, and guarantee that the opinions of young people are considered when making and carrying out policies. Engaging young people in government would not only give them power, but also guarantee that

their worries and suggestions are included in policy, resulting in more responsive and efficient governance.

- **Allocate resources towards education and ensure that it is tailored to meet the demands of the market:** Revise the educational system to more closely correspond with the demands of the job market, with a particular emphasis on developing practical skills and enhancing employability. This may entail forming alliances with industry to guarantee that curriculum is pertinent and that graduates possess the skills demanded by employers. Justifying the need for education to result in employability would assist in mitigating the discontentment experienced by educated young individuals who have difficulties in securing employment, hence diminishing the likelihood of unrest.
- **Establish and execute social support initiatives specifically designed for vulnerable youth,** particularly those who are unemployed or susceptible to participating in harmful coping strategies. These programs may encompass mental health services, substance addiction prevention, rehabilitation initiatives, financial aid, and mentorship. Helping young individuals at-risk would aid in lessening the effects of economic and social difficulties, hence decreasing the probability of engaging in harmful behaviours and promoting general societal stability.

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