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Youth Unemployment in Morata Informal Settlement, Port Moresby



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Outline of Presentation

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Background Information

- Youth Unemployment in urban areas is one of the biggest development challenges faced by PNG (The World Bank, 2019).
- Urban youth unemployment in PNG has increased at an alarming rate affecting many youths (Kanaparo et al.,2014). The study revealed that 32 % were employed while 68 % were unemployed. Out of the total, Only a few engaged in formal jobs.
- Youth unemployment in Port Moresby is a major issue (The World Bank,2019).
- Unemployed youths often turn to criminal activities (Kanaparo et al.,2014).
- Only10% of the 80,000 youths who graduate from recognizes institutions find employment (Timothy, 2021). It is evident that only few youths are engaged in formal jobs.
- Youth unemployment is the main cause of law and order problems in Wewak and other parts of the country says the Catholic bishop Bishop Jozef Roszynski (The National, 2022).

Definition of Youth and unemployment

Youth

The World Bank, defines 'youth', as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years.



The National Youth Development Authority Act 2014 defines youth in PNG as citizens between 12 to 38 years.

Unemployment

- The term unemployment refers to a situation where a person is actively searching for employment but is unable to find work (Adam Hayes, 2022).



Publications by Papua New Guinea National Research Institute

- The presentation is based on the PNG NRI Publication below;
 - ✓ Issues Paper No. 40:(Melpa, J and Odhuno, F. 2022). The situation of young people in Port Moresby's Morata Informal Settlement and what the government could do to keep them from social evils.
 - ✓ Spotlight Volume 15. Issue 13:(Melpa, J. 2022).Factors that restrict the availability of job opportunities for youths in Papua New Guinea
 - ✓ Public Policy blog No.20: (Melpa, J.2022).Youth unemployment in Papua New Guinea: causes, effects, and the way forward.



Objective of the study

- The research was carried out using Morata Informal Settlement as a case study site:
 - ✓ To understand who they are, what they do, and the kind of help they need to keep them off the streets and criminal activities
 - ✓ To investigate the causes of youth unemployment

Morata Informal Settlement

- Morata is the largest and often considered the longest-established squatter settlement in Port Moresby (Goddard, 2005)
- Morata is at a central location where people have easy access to public services to meet their daily needs and wants (Hausples, 2017)
- Morata is now a sprawling with multi-ethnic settlement inhabited by a mix of middle-class, unemployed, and those engaged in informal jobs and roadside economic activities.
- Morata is developing & changes are slowly picking up but the involvement of unemployed youth in criminal activities remains problematic.
- The environment is not safe for visitors, women, and girls because it has a record of high criminal activities (Borrey, 2003).
- Unemployed youths are believed to be involved in illegal activities like robbery, stealing, bag-snatching, murder, prostitution, and other anti-social activities to survive.



Methods

- Using questionnaires
- Face-to-face interview
- Audio records, video, and photographs
- Out of 50 questionnaires, 35 unemployed youths participate in the survey
- Targeted age groups were 12-35

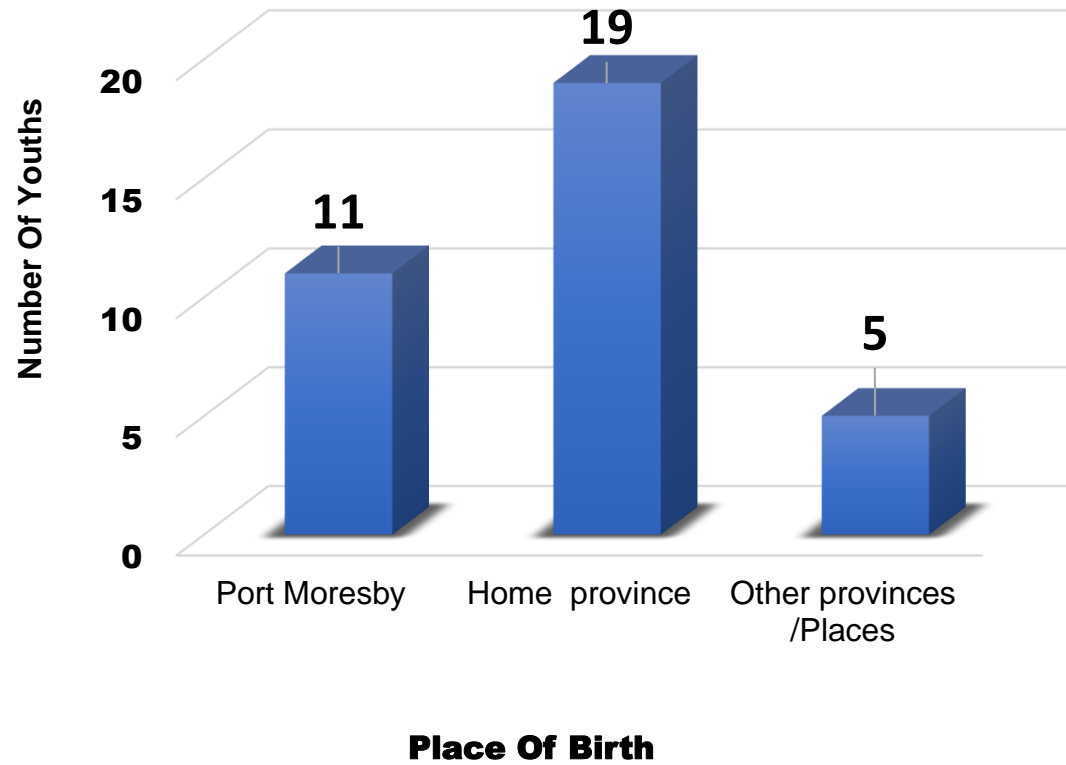


Results

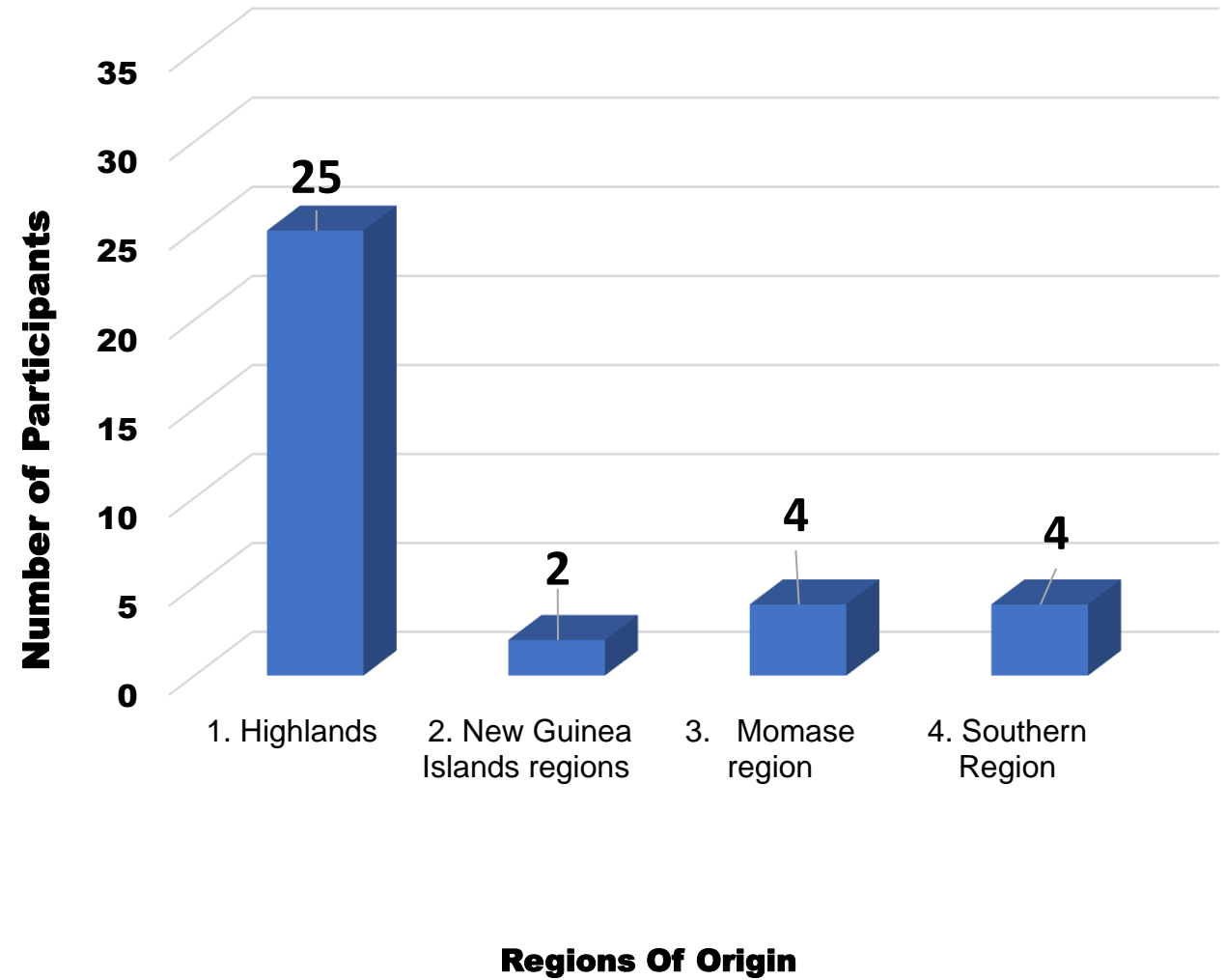
- 25 participants were between the ages of 20 -30
- 10 participants were between the age of 31-35
- 12 – 19 years of age, none of them took part in the survey
- Out of the 35 participants 9 were female, and 26 were male.
- Two (2) groups of unemployed youths were identified, ones involved in informal work (table selling bettle-nut, smoke, drinks, etc) while the others doing nothing.
- Most Unemployed youths who have completed university and college were unemployed.
- Majority of unemployed youths migrate to Port Moresby in search of job search and study
- Out of the 35 participants, 25 were originally from the Highlands.

Results

(1) Participants place of birth

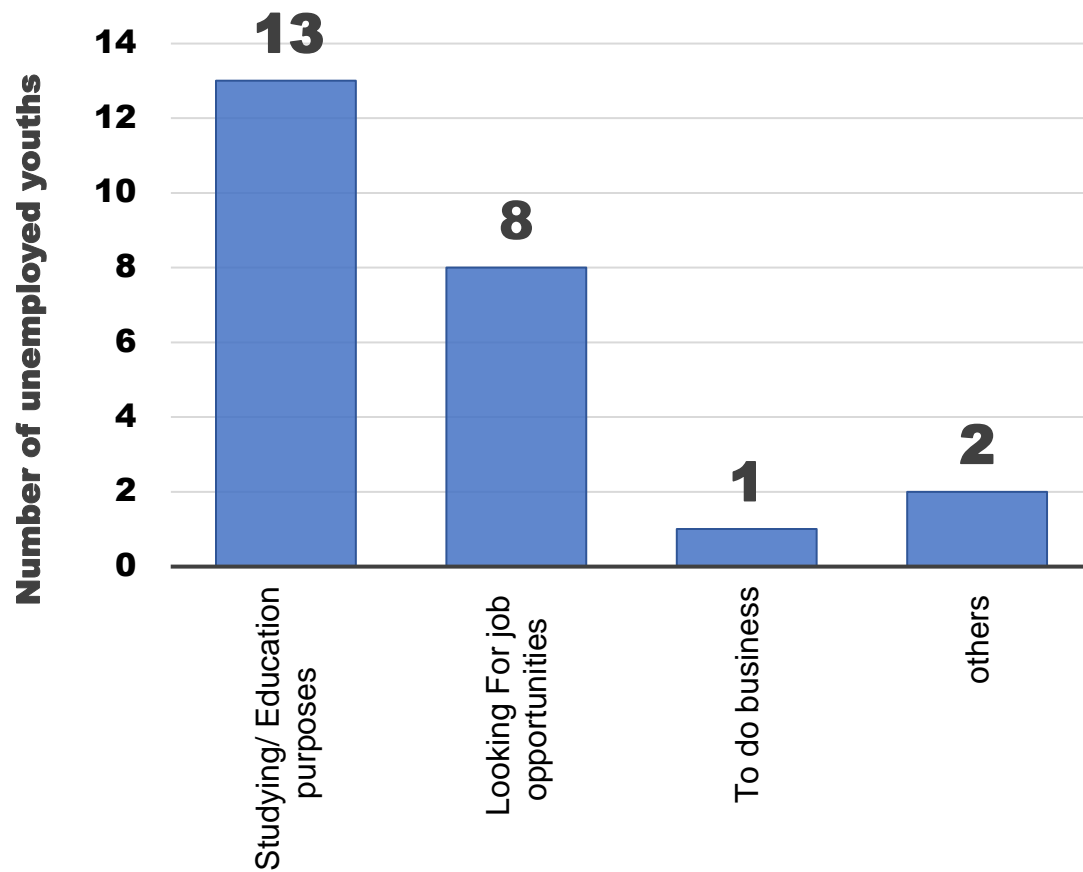


(2) Participants regions of origin

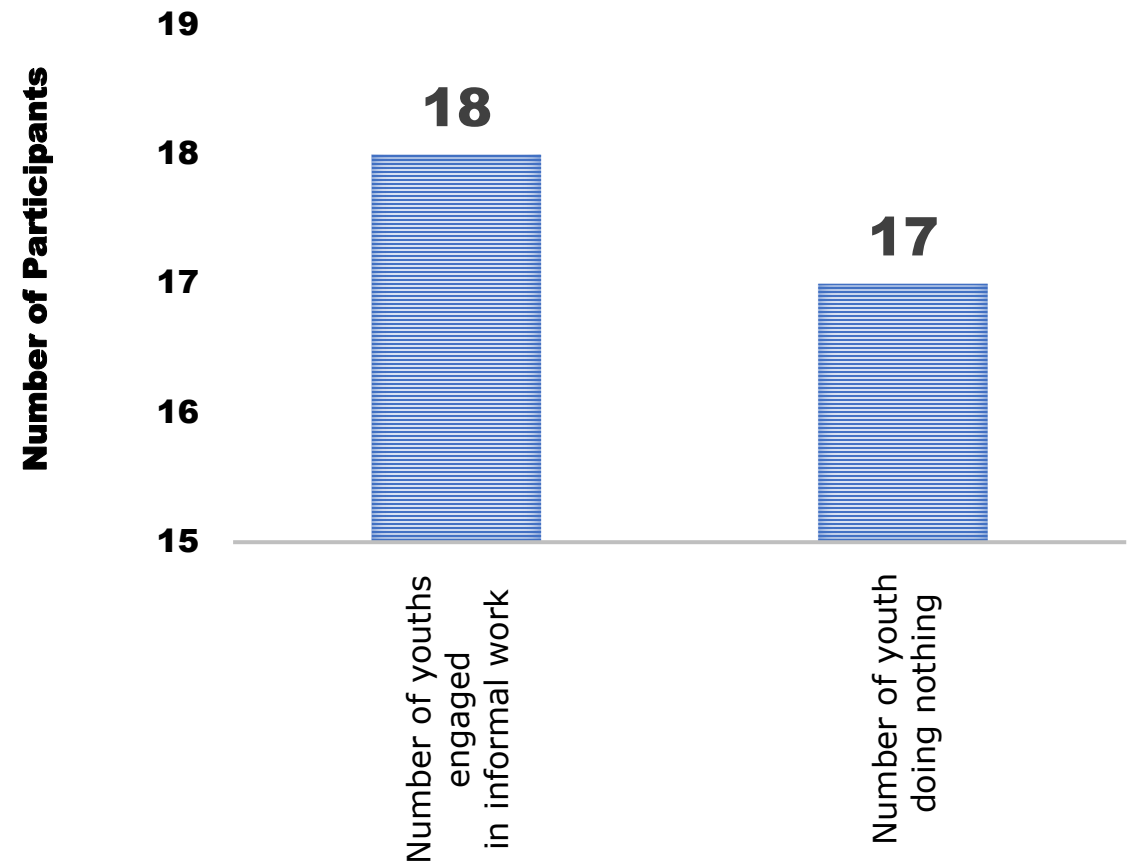




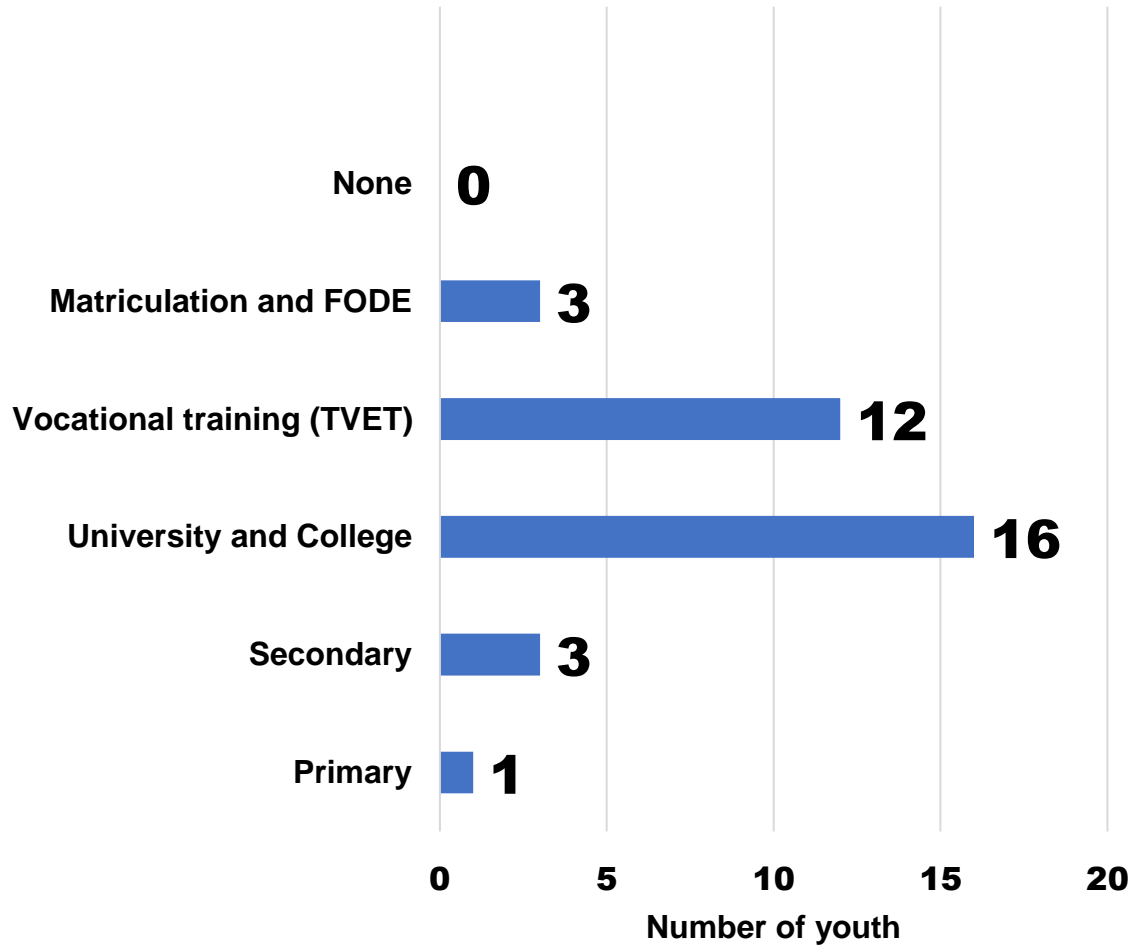
(3) Reasons of migrating to Port Moresby



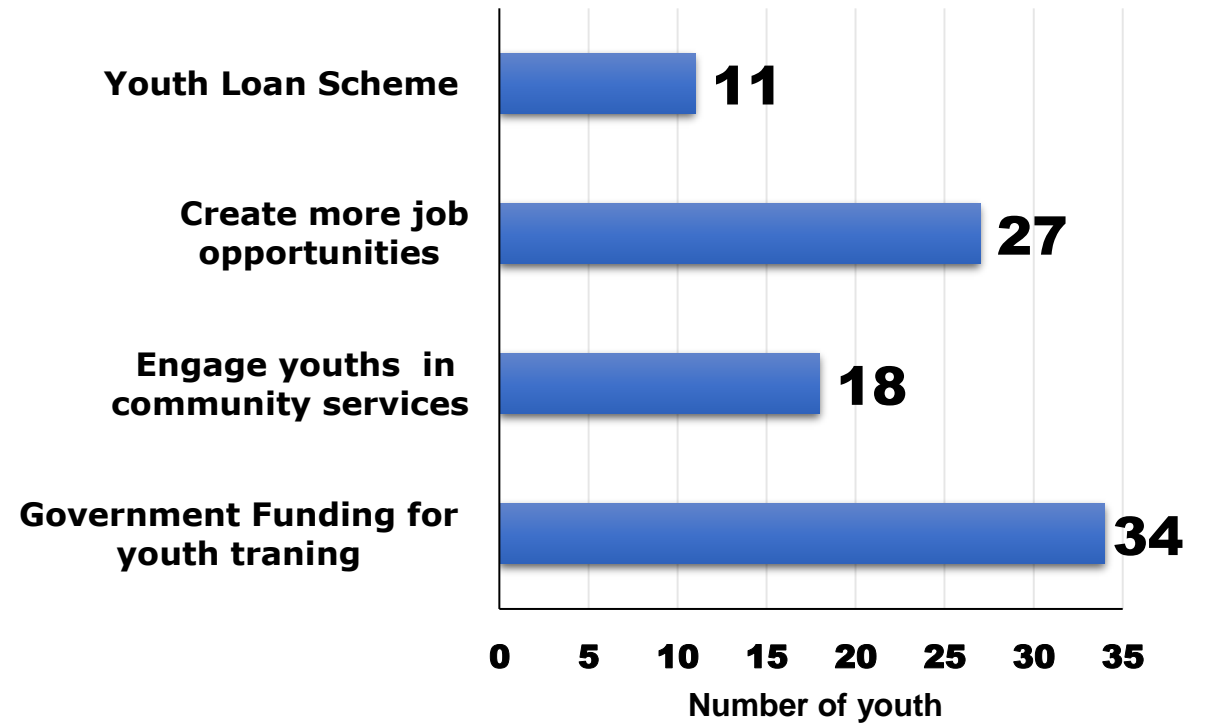
(4) Groups of unemployed youths



(5) Participants levels of education



(6) suggestions of what the government should do to help Unemployed youths



Conclusion

- Lack of job opportunities, poverty, inadequate training & corruption are believed to be the main reasons why youths involve in criminal activities
- The Government should expand opportunities for quality education and training, and rehabilitation centers, and try to expand the base agriculture and downstream processing of the country's raw materials.
- We should support, encourage and impart the skills to young people to be productive.
- Young people are asked to give money in exchange for a job, eventually they lose interest and get involved in criminal activities.
- Only 10% of the 80,000 youths who graduate from recognizes institutions find employment (Timothy, 2021).
- Law and order issues can only be reduced if unemployed youths are engaged in work

Recommendation

- Creating more job opportunities
- Invest in building more factories
- Government funding for more youth training
- Engage unemployed youths in community services to promote a safer community.
- Support youths with Loan Scheme
- Criminal activities perpetrated by young people should be expected to decrease if the suggested interventions are implemented.

Further Research

- There is a great need to carry out research on unemployed youths in all informal settlements in Port Moresby and other settlements in PNG's urban centers.
- To attract investors to create more job opportunities, More research is needed to find the best solutions that can reduce law and order issues in the country.

➤ **Limitations**

- Resources
- Manpower
- Time
- Security

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- World Bank 2019 Papua New Guinea: Giving Urban Youth a Second Chance <https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2019/06/18/papua-new-guinea-giving-urban-youth-a-second-chance>



Acknowledgment

- I would like to take this time to acknowledge unemployed youths at Morata 1 and 2 informal settlements who took part in this survey.



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