

**YAHOOISM AND YAHOO-PLUS, LABOUR SCARCITY, PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES,
RIVERS STATE EXPERIENCE**

Collins Okechukwu Amadi¹ & Amakiri, Chizike²

¹Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria, ²Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Rivers State University, Nkpolu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

Email: otukiri63@gmail.com, Phone number: +234803 549 4593

Email: chizike.amakiri@rsu.edu.ng, Phone number: +234803 477 9932

ABSTRACT

This study undertakes the idol of Yahooism/Yahoo-plus which is hinged on cybercrime touching local skilled and unskilled manpower scarcity in Rivers State, Nigeria. The study unveils the challenges incurred through yahooism/yahoo-plus as it relates to the scarcity of skilled and unskilled manpower in Rivers State. The research applied a qualitative approach. Investigation proves that the trending syndrome of yahooism/yahoo-plus has immensely impacted on the state's security architecture, economic growth, development, moral values, education and family life which involves to a large extent online scamming, fraud and spirituality thereby leading to so much mistrust and loss of confidence among the people of the state, Nigeria, and the world at large. And thus, the yahooism/yahoo-plus has reduced manpower either skilled or unskilled for industrial growth, both in the area of agriculture and manual works and hence, raising cost of business venture or productivity in the state. The study therefore, recommends that government should as a matter of urgency, improve in sheaving and trapping internet fraudsters, met out severe sanctions to offenders, strengthening the existing criminal laws and justice system. Upgrading the educational sectors and setting standards to discipline culprits, invest in vocational training of unskilled young people and encouraging them to set up small business enterprises through non-interest soft loans.

Key Words: Yahooism, Anyahoo-Plus, Labour Scarcity, Prospects and Challenges

INTRODUCTION

Cybercrime, also referred to as "Yahooism," and its more extreme form, "Yahoo-Plus," which comprises ritualistic acts purportedly connected to online fraud, have proliferated in Nigeria's socioeconomic environment in recent years (Adejoh & Fada, 2021). These aberrant behaviors, which are especially common among young people, have sparked serious worries about the degradation of moral principles, the quest for rapid riches, and the exploitation of lawful labor (Ojedokun & Eraye, 2012). The threat has grown to be a major concern in Rivers State due to its intersection with unemployment, labor shortages, and dwindling productivity in important economic sectors.

The diversion of young people from productive participation into fraudulent or ritual-related activities exacerbates the labor shortage, which is frequently attributed to migration, demographic shifts, and inadequate skills development (Olowookere & Adebayo, 2019). This diversion leads to a paradoxical situation: a large percentage of the youth actively disengage from the formal economy, despite the fact that Rivers State's industries and institutions struggle with a lack of skilled and unskilled labor. Reduced agricultural productivity, weaker entrepreneurship, and a greater reliance on illegal revenue sources are some of the repercussions (Uzochukwu, 2020).

Even though some young people in Nigeria and Rivers State have started engaging in legal online business ventures, such as e-trading, it is clear that a sizable portion of both educated and uneducated youth have chosen to pursue careers in internet fraud because they claim that these jobs offer quick money and enormous profits, and because Nigerian society lacks the necessary safeguards to prevent this illegality, punish offenders appropriately, and/or compromise the rule of

law. Due to a lack of confidence from the outside world to conduct business with Nigerians, Yahooism and Yahoo-plus have nearly destroyed the state's and Nigeria's overall economies. This has hampered economic growth and development in all areas of the economy.

The cybercrime abuse emanating from its vulnerability with dire consequences for both individuals, and the society at large (Onyeleye, 2020) which sees poverty, unemployment and the declining moral values stemming from weak traditional norms as gate-way. The activities of this Yahoo boys do not only affect the victims of these scams but destroys the image (reputation) of genuine internet business users as posited, (Ike, 2018).

The study aims to explore the causes of Yahooism, Yahoo-plus, its prospects and challenges they pose on the Rivers State.

THE STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A global village was established with the introduction of internet technology, which improved trade, communication, and cross-cultural interaction (Adeleke, 2020). In addition to providing a wealth of prospects for innovation and business, the internet also contributed to the growth of cybercrime, which is commonly referred to as Yahooism and its ritualistic form, Yahoo-Plus. With 2.2 billion Google searches every month, 2.4 billion users, six trillion web pages, and 12% of global transactions taking place online, internet penetration increased quickly at an average rate of 566.4% worldwide. However, cybercrime caused an estimated \$8.24 billion in losses worldwide (Ibekwe, 2000, 2012). Youths, who make up a large portion of the population in Nigeria, particularly in Rivers State, have taken an active role in this digital ecosystem (Oladipo & Omole, 2021).

Young people's increasing participation in Yahooism and Yahoo-Plus has harmed Nigeria's reputation, reduced confidence from international investors, and raised suspicions about financial transactions. In addition to increasing unemployment and destabilizing the state's economy, this tendency has also resulted in a labor shortage in critical industries like industry, education, and agriculture (Olowookere & Adebayo, 2019). Because many young individuals view cybercrime as a quicker route to money, they quit respectable jobs for fraudulent operations, creating a paradox (Ojedokun & Eraye, 2012). Poor youth development programs, lax enforcement of cybercrime laws, and the decline of moral principles that once encouraged constructive labor all contribute to the problem (Uzochukwu, 2020). Although there are programs to deal with adolescent restlessness and unemployment, the direct connection between Yahooism/Yahoo-Plus and labor scarcity has received little attention in Rivers State. With ongoing issues of unemployment, moral decay, and diminishing productivity, the prospects for sustained socioeconomic development will remain dire unless this relationship is properly examined.

OBJECTIVES

1. To identify factors responsible for Yahooism and Yahoo-plus in Rivers State.
2. To investigate the implications of Yahooism and Yahoo-plus in Rivers State.
3. To investigate the relationship between Yahooism/Yahoo-Plus and labour scarcity in both skilled and unskilled sectors of Rivers State's economy.
4. To explore the workable strategies for addressing the challenges of Yahooism and Yahoo-plus in Rivers State.

HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant relationship between Yahooism-Yahoo-plus and economic stability in Rivers State.
2. There is no significant relationship between Yahooism-Yahoo-plus and scarcity of unskilled and skilled manpower in Rivers State.
3. Job creation and government supporting self-reliance can reduce the prevalence of Yahooism-Yahoo-plus in Rivers State.

LITERATURE REVIEW

CAUSES OF YAHOOISM AND YAHOO-PLUS IN RIVERS STATE.

The causes of Yahooism and Yahoo-Plus in Rivers State is categorize in economic and environmental factors, as they are discussed below:

THE ECONOMIC FACTORS

High rate of poverty stemming from unemployment: Due to the negligence by the government of Nigeria and Rivers State- in particular by not integrating the Youths into manpower development programmes which would have brought about self-reliance and economic growthh individuals and the state, rather than bringing this growth, the youths seeks Yahoo-plus as an alternative means for survival and gainfully employed themselves as they are shut out of economic opportunities via bad leadership of government.

High Cost of Goods & Services: The spread of Yahooism among youths in Rivers State has created serious economic implications, particularly in the availability of cheap labour needed to sustain industries and agriculture. Employers across sectors now struggle to find workers, forcing them to raise wages to retain the few available hands. This wage increase has triggered higher production costs, which in turn raise the prices of goods and services, especially agricultural produce. For instance, bricklayers who once charged ₦4,000 per day now demand ₦12,000, while their labourers charge ₦8,000 instead of ₦2,500, leaving builders and business owners at their mercy.

- a. **THE INFLUENCE OF PEERS:** The Youths watching their mates achieving some financial heights without punitive measures, punishment or being caught by the arms of the Law, and having some sorts of societal support, they are encouraged to join or try such move, hence measures evangelism.
- b. **THE STATE OF INSECURITY:** Borrowing leave from the twist of the rule of law in Nigeria and Rivers State in particular, this scenario demonstrates how the rich have their way with rigors out of crime because they are able to influence the Judiciary while the poor suffers human right deprivation.

C. FAMILY PRESSURE AND PERSONAL RESONSIBILITIES: Persistent poverty, rooted in bad governance and economic instability, has led many Nigerian youths to view poverty as insecurity, driving them toward Yahoo and Yahoo-Plus (Okolie et al., 2019). Insecurity further undermines business activities and limits opportunities (Ozoigbo, 2019; Achumba et al., 2013). Even educated and skilled youths, unable to secure stable jobs or support their families, increasingly abandon legitimate work for cybercrime, which promises quick wealth. Once associated with dropouts, Yahooism is now dominated by educated youths with internet expertise who expand recruitment networks, reinforcing the perception that education itself is less rewarding than fraud.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

- a. **The unrestricted use of modern smartphones** that aid easy accessibility of internet by all who can afford it has created unlimited access into certain private and classical information's across the globe and more especially in the developing countries.
- b. **Weak Legal System:** Nigeria's legal system reflects deep inequality, where the poor face the full weight of punishment while the wealthy often escape justice, sometimes even manipulating the system to punish the innocent in their place. This injustice has fueled the rise of illegal and violent practices across the country. Scholars highlight these systemic flaws: Worluh-Okolie et al. note weak legal and institutional frameworks for human rights protection; Professor Toyin Folola attributes the problem to corruption and ineffective institutions; and Obi (2018) stresses that inefficiency, case backlogs, and corruption in the criminal justice system have undermined the rule of law, leaving individuals to create and enforce their own rules.

c. Non-Sustainability Of Cultural Norms & Values:

- Erosion/Decline in Traditional Values and High Level of Moral Decay: Government interference in traditional institutions, along with the spread of Christianity, Islam, globalization, and social media, has eroded indigenous values and weakened fear of traditional sanctions. This decline in cultural and moral systems has fueled widespread moral decay, as youths increasingly disregard taboos and social boundaries that once preserved order.
- Dying Parenting: In Nigeria, many parents focus more on personal ambitions than moral upbringing, while the growth of private schools without strong moral curricula has further eroded discipline. These schools often prioritize income and academics over character formation, making them breeding grounds for social vices. Scholars like Abaa et al. (2005) stress the importance of counselling strategies to curb these vices, while Haruna (2016) and Ugwu & Ugwueze (2016) call for strengthening moral discipline across all levels of education.

IMPLICATIONS OF YAHOOISM AND YAHOO-PLUS IN RIVERS STATE

Re-Grouping of Cultist/Ritual groups: A continuous drop of water forms an ocean. Before the advent of Yahooism and Yahoo-plus, what was invoked in the society was conflict prone cult groups across the South-South region of Nigeria, which Rivers State and Delta State stood as the headquarters of the deadly cult groups and Niger Delta militancy as adumbrated by Waba & Ukpere (2014). Now the ugly monster called Yahoo-plus is seriously treated with kid gloves by all tiers of government in Nigeria and Rivers State in particular because of the political landscape of Nigeria has given the breeding ground which opens the eyes of the youths to see that the law is only for the poor or indigents in the society, hence the desire to break away from such shackle.

Breeding high level Insecurity: The activities of Yahoo-Plus groups involve ritual killings of innocent victims including young people, women, and even parents—leaving communities in fear and uncertainty about safety and survival. Such acts, whether through direct violence or the destruction of victims' futures, constitute grave violations of humanity and must be condemned. This barbaric practice threatens freedom of movement, social interactions, and relationships, while also undermining business transactions by fostering mistrust and insecurity.

Dying Skilled and Unskilled Labour: Society is experiencing a serious shortage of both skilled and unskilled labour as many youths, who are within the productive age bracket, abandon trades and apprenticeships for quick wealth through Yahoo-Plus and betting activities. Construction sites and workshops are particularly affected by the lack of manpower, while some youths even travel to places like Benin, Edo State, to undergo Yahoo-Plus training involving ritual practices.

Future of Destitute- The unchecked spread of Yahoo-Plus poses a grave threat to Nigeria's future, as it fosters a generation of jobless, uncreative, and dependent youths. By rejecting hard work, training, and long-term investment, such individuals weaken society's productive capacity, turning it into a consumer-driven rather than productive nation. The menace also contributes to rising cases of mental, physical, and spiritual deformities, eroding the human capital needed for progress. Consequently, truancy, disabilities, and insanity may overwhelm communities, leaving society vulnerable, impoverished, and lawless.

PROSPECTS:

1. Government enacting stringent laws and its enforcement on Yahooism and its Like: Although, Nigeria and Rivers State in particular have existing laws on murder cases, and infringement on human rights, but they are neither weak or exist in principles. The highest bidder takes it all as exemplified in 2015 general election matters in Rivers State and Nigeria in general. There should be a reinforcement through the three tiers of government and the punishment of corrupt police officers and members of the judiciary will serve as a wakeup call to strengthen the rule of law in Nigeria.

2. Non-government interference into traditional institutions by politicizing it. The role of government in delving into appointing /choosing of traditional heads in each clan or enthronement and dethronement of traditional rulers de-based cultural norms and values thus desecrating the salved system that governs attitudinal behaviours of individuals in the society. What communities holds in sacredness are made profane, hence the people are loosen from the chain of fear for the deities/customs and began to pose negative attitudes leading to social vices.
3. The government sharpening excessive Western Religious influence on customs and tradition: This is one of the major panacea to curtailing the excess of unruly behaviours in the society. The Western religion has waded much influence on African traditions and culture by bastardising it through cultural integration and assimilation and making what has held our society together barbaric and uncivilized.
4. Weak economy thrives idle minds: in as much as the government of the Nation Nigeria pays only lips services to bring good innovations that can usher in economic empowerment, self-reliance and job creation by individuals, there is every tendency that the idle mind is the devil's work. And if this menace is unchecked, this ugly activity would degenerate to something worse than this facing the public.

PATTERN OF ENGAGING VICTIMS

1. **One chance phenomenon:** Here, the victims are picked along the road as passenger into either Taxi car, bus or keke bike where the clique members of the Yahoo-plus had taken their seats leaving only a seat vacant otherwise called "One chance", by this, the victim is taken away via being hypnotized with either powdered hard drugs inhaled as their handkerchief is splashed across the face of the victim a while they arguing, as soon as the victim opens his / her mouth to say anything, the substance is released which dozes the victim off, and he / she is taken for rituals.
2. **Gifting Ladies/Young Person:** For ladies, they pick them up for a sit out and fun, at the end of the day, they beat price for an affair; during the affair, they infuse into the lady the concoction they have swallowed already into their private either in the form of centipedes, reptiles, madness, vomiting blood, discharge of maggots and going naked immediately after being dropped off on the way. At this time, the victim goes insane totally, while their money multiplies.
3. **Use of girlfriends, wives, mothers, fathers and other close Relatives:** They this by buying gift items either edible or material things. When once their suspecting victim uses such things, he /she began to experience unusual ill-health that turns unabating, and if the spirit of such person is it strong and didn't get other spiritual support on time, the fellow dies from such ill health and hence, their money drum booms.
4. **Using of Under-Wears:** Also, they engage in stealing underwears of ladies to perform money rituals, mostly especially, the menstruation pads of the ladies is a big target.
5. Seeking for men ejaculated sperm during sex with a lady, they go as far as paying some runs girls to at this specimen from men unawares. This creates spiritual impotence in such men whose spermatozoa has been taken, while their money multiplies.
6. **Spraying of Money on the Road:** When they seek many souls at a time, they suddenly appears from nowhere and begin to spray money when they have sighted crowd, mostly children and women. Sometimes, close to markets that buys along the road or close to any school closure time in the day where children move in groups. They do this with so many purposes, either for destiny taking, or virgin's life being targeted.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: This research work adopted social learning theory as to illustrate the speedy development and engagement of our youths into "concept of help yourself" or popularly known as "Man must survive", brewing from economic hardship and the quest to meet up the social learning theory was propounded by Albert Bandura in (1960-61), a psychologist who through his Bobo doll experiment demonstrated how children learn some aggressive behaviours through

observing the adult ones. He sees it as, the younger through imitation and choosing role models can reinforce or influence peers groups not minding the negative or positive consequences thereof. And this is demonstrated today on how attitudinal behaviours are acquired through the social media virtual where alien norms and values system are inculcated into the children unconsciously.

The prevalence of bad governance in Nigeria has fueled unemployment, social inequality, hunger, and poverty, while political office holders flaunt ill-gotten wealth. Religious institutions are not exempt, as corruption and extravagant lifestyles also permeate their leadership. At the same time, the judiciary often favors the rich and elites at the expense of the rights of ordinary citizens. These conditions have provided fertile ground for Yahooism and Yahoo-Plus to thrive, with many youths viewing them as avenues for empowerment, survival, and escape from poverty toward self-reliance. However, the consequences are profound: young people increasingly prefer quick wealth over hard work, leading to a decline in available manpower. This mismatch between labour supply and demand drives up wages and inflates production costs, thereby affecting overall productivity in the state.

Those in the manufacturing, Agriculture and general services in the State are passing very serious challenges of manpower. The boys has taken pleasure in pressing phone and laptops", at the expense of useful engagement for skill or exchange for proper wages. Thus, if this ugly trend continues, the cost of producing even perishable goods will increase by imaginable scale thereby imposing price hike as a result of manpower scarcity.

This scenario is nothing but we called "Bad Governance Theory", by this, we mean to say that the mismanagement of nature given resources which ordinarily would have better the lot of the people are otherwise misused through wrong policies implementation where the concept of "chop-1-chop" otherwise called corruption is the bane of this society. As the government had failed to execute policies that are transparent people oriented and long-term sustainability, wounding of cooperate organizations, both private firms necessitated untold hardship on the teaming population of the youths hence, the alternative means for survived.

Research Methods

Adopting a descriptive survey approach, the study's sample consisted of citizens of Rivers State. Purposive sampling was used to choose 400 respondents from the population, and primary and secondary sources of data were used. Questionnaires and interviews served as the primary source, while published and unpublished materials, journals, newspapers, magazines, and other publications served as the secondary source. SPSS was used to evaluate the quantitative data, and charts, percentages, and frequency were used to display the results.

Data Presentation

A total of 400 questionnaires were distributed but, 386 were returned. This number was used for analysis in this study.

Table 1: Causes of yahooism and yahoo-plus in Rivers State

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
High unemployment and underemployment	45	11.8
Poverty and income inequality	34	8.9
Labour scarcity and low wages	33	8.66
Weak entrepreneurship support	21	5.51
Loss of traditional occupations	20	5.24
Weak Legal System	56	14.69
Businesses fail but Yahoo pays	60	15.7
Harsh economy	65	17
Apprenticeship offers low prospect	47	12.33
Total	381	100

Source: field work, 2025

In table 1, the study tried to know the Causes of yahooism and yahoo-plus in Rivers State. The result shows that hash economy had the highest respondents of 65 which is 17%, showing that hash economy is the major factor responsible for yahooism and yahoo-plus in Rivers State. Meanwhile, loss of traditional occupations appears to be least of among the causes of yahooism and yahoo-plus in Rivers State as only 20 respondents showing 5.51% supported.

Table 2. To measures for adequate mitigation of Yahooism and Yahoo-plus in Rivers State.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Effective policing	49	12.86
Strengthening judicial system	52	13.64
Good governance	80	20.99
Moral rectitude	49	12.86
Effective cyber security management	33	8.6
Effective parenting	44	11.5
Strengthening the SME informal sector	24	6.2
Crackdown on yahoo academies	50	13.12
Total	381	100

Source: field work, 2025

Table 2, shows measures for adequate mitigation of Yahooism and Yahoo-plus in Rivers State. The result proved that good governance had the highest respondents of 80 which is 20.99%, showing that hash good governance is the prime measure for adequate mitigation of Yahooism and Yahoo-plus in Rivers State. Meanwhile, strengthening the SME informal sector is an adequate measure for mitigating yahooism and yahoo-plus in Rivers State as only 24 respondents showing 6.2% accepted.

Table 3. Implications of Yahooism and Yahoo-plus in Rivers State.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Moral Decay and Value Erosion	65	17
Labour Scarcity	89	23.3
Educational Decline	34	8.9
Psychological Trauma for Victims	56	14.6
Escalation of Violent Crimes	22	5.77
Drug Abuse and Social Vices	40	10.4
Stigmatization of Nigerian Youths Abroad	45	11.81
Threat to Sustainable Development	30	7.87
Total	381	100

Source: Field Work, 2025

Table 3, shows results on implications of Yahooism and Yahoo-plus in Rivers State, proving that Labour Scarcity is major implications for Yahooism and Yahoo-plus in Rivers State as it has highest respondents of 89, which is 23.3%. While, only 22 (5.77) respondents accepted that Escalation of Violent Crimes.

Test of Hypotheses

Table 1 Causes of yahooism and yahoo-plus

	N Statistic	Descriptive Statistics					
		Minimum	Maximum	Mean		Std. Deviation	Variance
		Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Statistic
High unemployment	2	11.80	45.00	28.4000	16.60000	23.47595	551.120
Poverty	2	8.90	34.00	21.4500	12.55000	17.74838	315.005
Labour scarcity	2	8.66	33.00	20.8300	12.17000	17.21098	296.218
Weak entrepreneurship	2	5.51	21.00	13.2550	7.74500	10.95308	119.970
Loss of traditional occupation	2	5.24	20.00	12.6200	7.38000	10.43690	108.929
Weak legal system	2	14.69	56.00	35.3450	20.65500	29.21058	853.258
Businesses fail but yahoos pay	2	15.70	60.00	37.8500	22.15000	31.32483	981.245
Harsh economy	2	17.00	65.00	41.0000	24.00000	33.94113	1152.000
Apprenticeship offers	2	12.33	47.00	29.6650	17.33500	24.51539	601.004
Valid N (listwise)	2						

SPSS Version 27

Table 2 Measures for adequate mitigation

		Statistics					
		effective policing	strengthening judicial system	good governance	Moral rectitude	effective cyber security	Effective parenting
N	Valid	2	2	2	2	2	
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0	
Mean		30.9300	32.8200	50.4950	30.9300	20.8000	
Std. Error of Mean		18.07000	19.18000	29.50500	18.07000	12.20000	
Median		30.9300	32.8200	50.4950	30.9300	20.8000	
Mode		12.86 ^a	13.64 ^a	20.99 ^a	12.86 ^a	8.60 ^a	
Std. Deviation		25.55484	27.12462	41.72637	25.55484	17.25341	
Variance		653.050	735.745	1741.090	653.050	297.680	

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

SPSS Version 27

Table 3 Implications of yahooism and yahoo-plus

	N Statistic	Descriptive Statistics					
		Minimum	Maximum	Mean		Std. Deviation	Variance
		Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Statistic
Moral decay	2	17.00	65.00	41.0000	24.00000	33.94113	1152.000
Labour scarcity	2	23.30	89.00	56.1500	32.85000	46.45692	2158.24
Educational decline	2	8.90	34.00	21.4500	12.55000	17.74838	315.005
psychological trauma	2	14.60	56.00	35.3000	20.70000	29.27422	856.980
escalation of violent crimes	2	5.77	22.00	13.8850	8.11500	11.47634	131.706
Drug abuse	2	10.40	40.00	25.2000	14.80000	20.93036	438.080
Stigmatization	2	11.81	45.00	28.4050	16.59500	23.46887	550.788
Threat to sustainable development	2	7.87	30.00	18.9350	11.06500	15.64827	244.868
Valid N (listwise)	2						

SPSS Version 27

Discussion of findings

It was found out that lack of formal sector jobs, and persistent under-employment push youths toward online fraud as a survival strategy and income substitute. Periods of economic downturn (inflation, shrinking public-sector hiring) correlate with spikes in recruitment into online fraud networks. Policy analyses and regional reports note how economic stress widens the pool of potential offenders. At the same time, the search for status and material symbols (cars, gadgets, and lifestyle) becomes more acute under economic hardship; ethnographic studies show how these aspirations make illicit, high-reward routes attractive.

The work also revealed that economic desperation increases willingness to engage in spiritualized practices (amulets, rituals) that practitioners believe will assure success and protection from detection a pattern described in scholarship on the "Yahoo-Plus" phenomenon.

The paper revealed that policies which create formal employment, support SMEs and invest in skill development reduce the incentive structure that fuels cybercrime recruitment. When governance is perceived as fair and responsive (transparent procurement, anti-corruption action), the social normalization of "get-rich-quick" illicit lifestyles weakens reducing reputational incentives to engage in Yahooism. Programs that involve local leaders in ethical reorientation and counselling have proven useful in reducing acceptance of occult rationales for crime. Scholarship on spiritual dimensions of cybercrime recommends culturally-sensitive governance responses.

CONCLUSION

In Nigeria and Rivers State, Yahooism and Yahoo-Plus have grown to be significant social issues due to a lack of moral principles, unemployment, poverty, and corruption. Despite high unemployment rates, this has caused many young people to leave respectable positions, creating a labor shortage in important industries. Although there are opportunities for improvement due to young empowerment, stricter cybercrime laws, skill development, and moral education, problems like corruption, shoddy institutions, and the exaltation of illicit wealth still exist. The state runs the risk of escalating economic instability and moral decay if families, communities, schools, and the government do not act immediately.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The paper recommends the following:

1. The Rivers State government and corporate sector should make investments in youth empowerment through skill centers, ICT hubs, microcredit programs, and job creation in order to reduce the allure of cybercrime motivated by financial hardship. Having good substitutes will make Yahooism and Yahoo-plus less appealing.
2. Restoring public confidence and discouraging illegitimate riches require transparent and responsible governance. An atmosphere where honest work is rewarded will be created by bolstering organizations such as the EFCC, guaranteeing prompt prosecution, encouraging anti-corruption initiatives, and enlisting civil society in awareness efforts.
3. Governments and businesses should implement workforce development programs to address the labor shortages brought on by young people being drawn to cybercrime. Expanded vocational training, apprenticeships, and attractive employment packages will keep young people in respectable industries and maintain growth and productivity.
4. Cybercrime legislation should be strengthened, law enforcement capacities should be enhanced, and prosecutions should be made more effective. The societal glamourization of dishonesty should be countered by campaigns to reorient people toward ethics led by

religious and traditional leaders, as well as the inclusion of moral and civic education in schools.

Contributions to knowledge

1. By directly connecting the emergence of Yahooism/Yahoo-plus with the increasing shortage of trained and unskilled labor in Rivers State, this study advances our understanding. It emphasizes the economic ramifications of cybercrime, especially the loss of young workers in productive industries, in contrast to earlier studies that mostly concentrated on its social and moral repercussions.
2. The study adds to our understanding of how corrupt practices, poor governance, and inefficient legal systems contribute to the rise of Yahooism and reduce worker productivity. It offers proof that weak institutions and lax enforcement of the law indirectly encourage young people to turn to cybercrime rather than gainful work.
3. By analyzing how the decline of traditional values, the predominance of Western religion, and inadequate moral instruction in schools all contribute to the normalization of Yahoo-plus, and this work advances the conversation. By highlighting the cultural aspects of cybercrime, it closes a gap in research that frequently views it as only an economic or legal problem.
4. The study makes a practical contribution by putting up comprehensive remedies that can lessen the detrimental effects of Yahooism, such as employment development policies, youth empowerment initiatives, and moral reorientation. This gives community leaders, educators, and legislators an evidence-based framework for tackling the opportunities and difficulties of preventing Yahooism in Rivers State while maintaining the labor supply.

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