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SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF UNEMPLOYED POPULATION IN JUBA COUNTY: A STUDY IN SOUTH SUDAN

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ABSTRACT

South Sudan as a nation has experienced several forms of economic, political and social unrest due to unemployment situation in the country. The South Sudan Government has realized problem of unemployment especially the urban youth, and mitigate it through specific policy interventions. This paper attempts to support policy making in identifying the unemployed persons and knowing their profile. Information were obtained through a primary survey of 100 households with population size of 690 across five payam (sub-county) in Juba County. The results show that the unemployed members among the sample households are those with fairly large families with high dependency ratio and low literacy rate especially among the girls and women.

KEY TERMS: *Unemployment, socio-economic profile, literacy, community, dependents, economic status, primary and secondary occupation, household assets, amenities, standard of living, Sudan*

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INTRODUCTION

Globally, the number of young graduates is about to become the largest in history relative to the adult population. At present, more than 50 percent of the population is under the age of 25, or just over three billion individuals are youth or children (UNFP, 2000). In terms of youth alone there are over 1.3 billion youth in the world today. South Sudan as a nation has experienced several forms of economic, political and social unrest. In recent times, unemployment which is caused by government forces had joined the list of the social evils we experience in Juba today. The issue of unemployment has become a major phenomenon for South Sudanese demanding for increased attention. The problem of unemployment in South Sudan now has attracted of great concern is the South Sudan economists, policy makers, economic managers, individuals, government and many others. The Government realized that there was a need to deal with urban youth unemployment through specific Policy interventions. The development policy and the National Employment policy were published. Low investment and low economic growth rates are the issues that have contributed to unemployment. Juba is not able to attract the investment levels required and government is not investing enough in the areas of education, health, provision of water, electricity, security, and judicial services partly because of the constraints imposed by its development partners who impose restrictions on public expenditure as a condition for accessing financial support. The overall objective is to explore the unemployment situation across the different sections of the society in South Sudan. The specific objective is to highlight the socio- economic profile of unemployed population in Juba County and suggest measures to overcome unemployment.

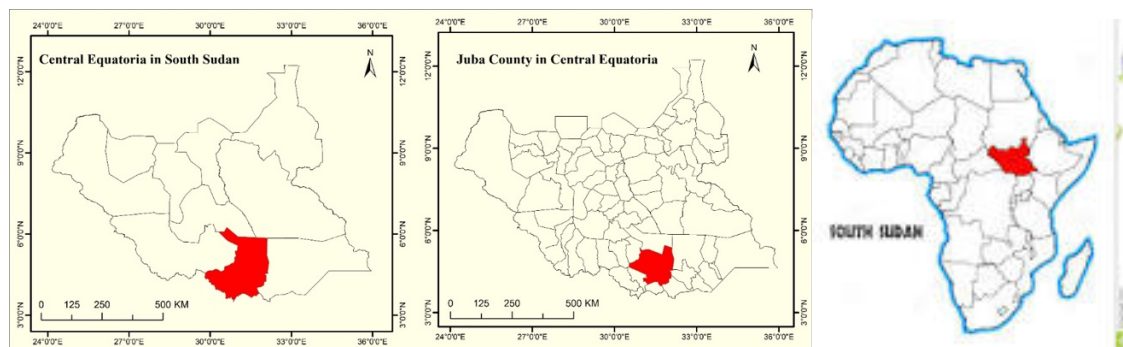
BRIEF BACKGROUND

According to Bello (2003), the subject of unemployment has always been an issue of concern to the economists, policy makers and economic managers given the devastating on individuals, the society and the economy at large. The Keynesian revolution of the 1930's, which commandeered the explosive attack on economic orthodoxy apparently, treated unemployment as a central issue of great concern. The International Labor Organization defined unemployment as the people who are out of work, want a job, have actively sought for work in the previous four weeks and are available to start work within the next fortnight (ILO, 2005). According to Juan Ramón (2011), graduate unemployment is an evidence of serious shortcomings in educational system and labor market in developing economy, which explains the country's relative high rate of youth unemployment and the imbalance between job supply and demand at the different educational levels attained. The gap that exists between the demand for and supply of university graduates in the South Sudan labor market is a serious issue due to prevailing high level of graduate unemployment. This has serious adverse social and economic consequences on the South Sudan economy (Atan et al, 2012). The demand for labor is derived from production and distribution activities in the goods and service sectors (Dabalen et al., 2000). The demand for labor in South Sudan economy has been poor and volatile Dabalen et al. (2010). According to Olufemi and Adebola (2011), both government and policy makers in South Sudan are increasingly finding it difficult to deal successfully with graduate unemployment.

METHODOLOGY

The analysis is based on primary source of data based on a household survey conducted in five selected payams (sub-county) namely Juba, Kator, Munuki, Rajaf, Gudele, belonging to Juba county in Central Equatoria state of South Sudan (refer Maps indicating the study area). The total sample size is 100 households with 20 sample households in each payam¹. The total population of the sampled house hold is 690. The socio-economic profile of the sample households is analysed by categorizing the indicators into demographic profile, economic profile, social profile, and household assets & amenities. This research is a part of the project report submitted for the partial fulfilment of master's degree. The data was collected by visiting the selected sample households and conducting personal interview with household heads. The data was obtained through the structured questionnaire, initially explaining the purpose of the study to the head of the household and obtaining their consent. The data from the primary survey was used for the purpose of this study only and not shared with any other individual or organization.

Figure 1: Map of the Study Area



Demographic Profile

In South Sudan, the society consists of small size families as well as large size families. There are both social and economic reasons that motivate to have large size families in under developed and developing countries. In the sample there are small size families with one to three members to a maximum of 16 members, though low in proportion. The total population size across the 100 households is 690 members, shown in Table 1 and graph 1, giving an average family size of seven persons. At the aggregate, 37 per cent of the sample households have smaller families with one to five members. A significantly higher proportion accounting for 56 per cent of total sample, the sample households have a family size of six to 10 members. Only a smaller proportion accounting for seven percent have large families with 11 to 16 members.

Table 1: Total Number of Family Members in Sample Households

Payam / Taluk	1-5	6-10	11-16	Grand Total
Gudele	1	19	0	20
Juba	5	15	0	20
Kator	20	0	0	20
Munuki	2	13	5	20
Rajaf	9	9	2	20
Grand Total	37	56	7	100

The sample household members were in the age group of less than one year to 79 years (refer Table 2). Across the various age groups, children of less than 10 years account for 18.7 per cent. The adolescent group account for 15.2 per cent. The youth account for 48.4 per cent and the peak working group account for 14.8 per cent. The senior citizens account for 2.9 per cent. Thus, the youth account for maximum and significant proportion and the aged population is comparatively insignificant. Across gender, at the aggregate, there is a significant disproportion in the ratio with 60 per cent male and 40 per cent female population. This disparity is maximum in the age group of 19-35 years with 66 per cent male and 34 per cent female. In case of the adolescent group, the sex ratio is fairly better with 54 and 46 per cent. Among children of less than 10 years, the sex ratio is 55 per cent of female and 45 per cent male. It is a point to ponder as to how the sex ratio reverses over a period of time. It is inferred that there is a sizable proportion of population with high scope for employment.

Table 2. Distribution of Sample Household Members by Age Group and Gender

Age Group	Female	Male	Grand Total
Upt o 10	71	58	129
%	55.04	44.96	100.00
11-18	48	57	105
%	45.71	54.29	100.00
19-35	114	220	334
%	34.13	65.87	100.00
36-60	43	59	102

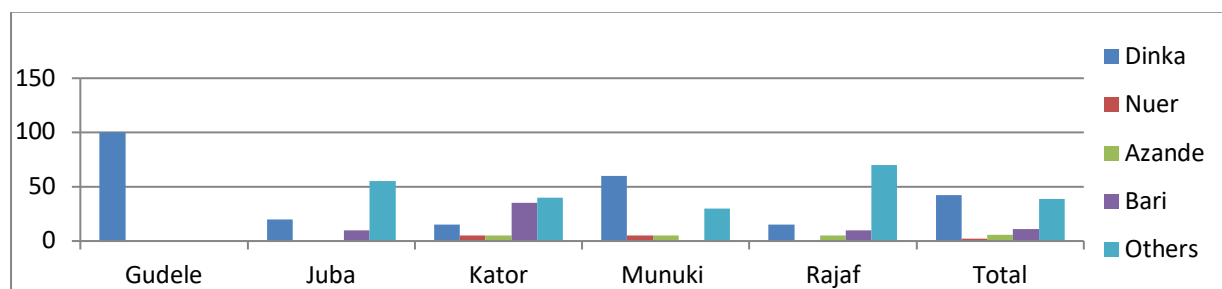
%	42.16	57.84	100.00
61-80	6	14	20
%	30.00	70.00	100.00
Grand Total	282	408	690
%	40.87	59.13	100.00

Dependency ratio, which can be defined as the ratio of number of non-workers to the total members, reflects to an extent the well-being of a family. It is inversely proportion, i.e. lower the dependency ratio higher would be the wellbeing, though there are other factors that determine. According to the World Bank sources, the dependency ratio of South Sudan is 83 per cent as compared to the world aggregate of 54 per cent. The World Bank categorizes countries with high dependency ratio of around 85 per cent as low-income countries and heavily indebted poor countriesⁱⁱ. Similarly, 29 families have five to six dependents, followed by 17 families and 14 families with three to four members and seven to eight members respectively. Only one household had one to two dependents. There are about 62 types of communities in South Sudan. Of them, the sample households belong to mainly four communities namely Dinka, Nuer, Azande and Bari that account for 60 per cent of total households. Remaining 40 per cent of them belong to other communities. Table 3 and graph 2 shows payam wise details of the communities to which they belong to.

Table 3: Distribution of the Sample Households by Community

Payam / Taluka	Dinka	Nuer	Azande	Bari	Others	Grand Total
Gudele	20	0	0	0	0	20
Juba	4	0	0	2	11	20
Kator	3	1	1	7	8	20
Munuki	12	1	1	0	6	20
Rajaf	3	0	1	2	14	20
Grand Total	42	2	6	11	39	100

Figure 2: Community profile



The sample households belong to mainly two religions i.e. Islam and Christianity, accounting for eight per cent and 92 per cent respectively. The households belonging to Islam religion were in two payam namely Kator and Rajaf.

Social Profile

The primary data in Table 3, shows that at aggregate, 64 per cent of the household members are literate. Across gender, male literacy is higher accounting for around 70 per cent compared to 30 per cent of female literacy (refer graph 3). Thus, we observe that there is a very high disparity of over two and half times, in the literacy level across the gender. The gender disparity in illiteracy is however, comparatively lesser. Among the literates, comparatively higher proportions of the sample household members are school students and college graduation students (refer Table 4). As per the Table there is a very high gender disparity in the educational status with more male students as compared to the female students in the middle school, high school and university education. The disparity is fairly lesser in primary school education.

We infer that there is a significantly high gender disparity in the literacy rates with more male students as compared to female students at all levels except the primary school level. thus showing that there is a drop out of girl children from schooling from primary level to high school and higher education also. However, across the gender, the proportion in higher education is fairly low. Similarly, number of persons in vocational studies is also negligible. These have direct impact and consequences on their employability in particular and overall employment situation in the country, in general.

Table 4: Distribution of Sample Household Members by Status of Literacy

Status	Female	Male	Grand Total
Illiterate	147	99	246
%	59.76	40.24	100.00
Literate	135	309	444
%	30.41	69.59	100.00
Grand Total	282	408	690
%	40.87	59.13	100.00

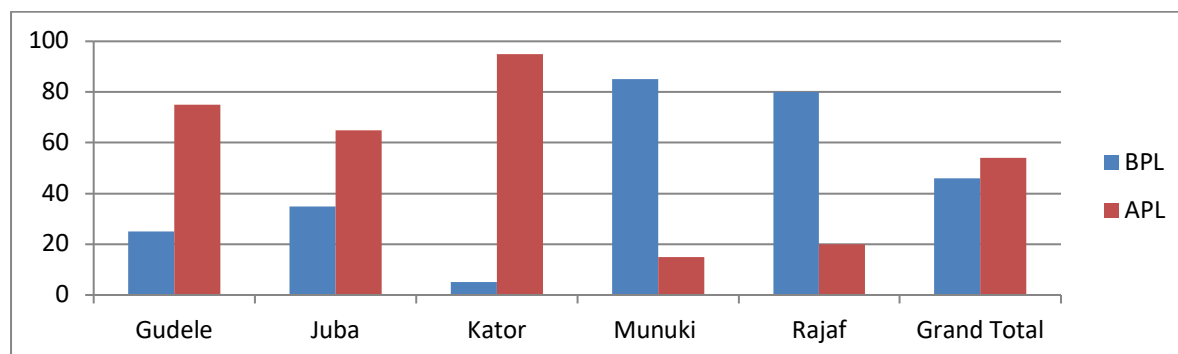
Economic Profile

The economic profile of the households is analysed with income represented by APL/BPL status; and employment represented by engagement in primary and secondary occupation. Table 5 provides the economic status of sample households. At the aggregate, 46 per cent households have BPL status and remaining 54 per cent have APL status. Across the sample payam, the BPL households are concentrated in Munuki and Rajaf payam. Whereas, the APL households are in Kator, Gudele and Juba payam. In Munuki and Rajaf payam, the BPL status of households are also those with unemployment of more than 25 per cent in the family. We infer that there is no significant correlation between economic status of the family.

Table 5. Distribution of Sample Households by Economic Status

Payam / Taluka	BPL	APL	Grand Total
Gudele	5	15	20
Juba	7	13	20
Kator	1	19	20
Munuki	17	3	20
Rajaf	16	4	20
Grand Total	46	54	100

Figure 3: Economic status



The employment pattern of the sample household members shown in Table 6 that at the aggregate is around 20 percent of the sample household members had gainful primary occupation and 10 per cent of them had secondary occupation. As per the demographic profile, around 37 per cent are below age of 18 years and above 60 years. Hence in all 63 per cent of the sample households are in the working age group. Hence there is a very significant

gap of 44 per cent, between the number of persons employable and those who are employed. Among the members with primary occupation, 36 per cent were civil servants, followed by casual workers (24%) and farming (17%). There were also other professions such as teachers, traders and craftsmen, but, account for small proportion. About 10 per cent were occupied in various other trades. Similarly, in the secondary occupation, among the active workers, 32 per cent were into farming. 19 per cent were civil servants, 16 per cent livestock breeders. This shows that there is sufficient scope for people to be employed in several other trades and obtain incomes.

Table 6: Distribution of Sample Household Members by Primary Occupation and Gender

Occupation	Female	%	Male	%	Grand Total	%
Farmer	10	43.48	13	56.52	23	3.33
Livestock breeder	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	0.14
Retired	0	0.00	2	100.00	2	0.29
Craftsman	0	0.00	5	100.00	5	0.72
Merchant	1	25.00	3	75.00	4	0.58
Civil Servant	9	18.37	40	81.63	49	7.10
Worker	13	40.63	19	59.38	32	4.64
Teacher	1	20.00	4	80.00	5	0.72
Doctor	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	0.14
Other	4	28.57	10	71.43	14	2.03
Not Applicable	237	44.13	300	55.87	537	77.83
I do not Know	8	47.06	9	52.94	17	2.46
Motor	0	0.00	1	100.00	1	0.14
Grand Total	283	41.01	407	58.99	690	100.00

Household Assets and Amenities

The household profile of sample households includes the type of house, ownership status, size of the house in terms of number of rooms and type of construction of the house. As described in Table 7, house is categorised into five types namely hut, semi-pucca, pucca, apartment and bungalow. At the aggregate, 22 per cent live in hut, 37 per cent in semi-pucca houses, 16 per cent in pucca houses and 24 per cent live in independent houses. Information on the ownership status shows that at aggregate, 66 per cent live in own houses and 28 per cent households live in rented houses. The sample households, accounting for three per cent of total, who are living in houses provided by their employer. Similarly, very few households accounting for two per cent of total are living in houses where it has been provided rent free to them.

Analysing the ownership status by type of house in Table 8, shows that in Gudele payam 80 per cent of the households living in own houses are independent bungalows. In other four payam, the households with own or rented houses are living either in huts or semi-pucca houses (refer graph 5). Overall, we may infer that the sample households with APL status live in pucca and independent houses. Similarly, the households with BPL status live in huts and semi-pucca houses. Hence there is a correlation between economic status of the household and the type of house they live.

Table 7: Distribution of Sample Households by Type of House

Payam	Hut	Semi Pucca	Pucca	Apartment	Independent House	Grand Total
Gudele	0	1	2	1	16	20
Juba	8	5	7	0	0	20
Kator	2	16	2	0	0	20
Munuki	8	5	1	0	6	20
Rajaf	4	10	4	0	2	20
Grand Total	22	37	16	1	24	100

Table 8: Distribution of Sample Households by Status of Ownership of Present Residence

Payam	Own	Rented	Given by Employer	Not Paying Rent	Others	Grand Total
Gudele	20	0	0	0	0	20
Juba	12	7	1	0	0	20
Kator	6	11	1	2	0	20
Munuki	15	4	0	0	1	20
Rajaf	13	6	0	1	0	20
Grand Total	66	28	2	3	1	100

The sources of domestic water supply found during survey were water pump, well water and water tank as shown in Table 9. The household's data reveals that at the aggregate 94 per cent of the households obtain water from water tank, five per cent of them from water pump and one per cent from well water. None of the sample houses had tap water connections inside their house or even outside their house.

Table 8: Distribution of Households by Source of Domestic Water Supply in the House

Payam	Plumbing inside the house	Water pump	Well water	Water tank	Grand Total
Gudele	0	1	1	18	20
Juba	0	1	0	19	20
Kator	0	1	0	19	20
Munuki	0	2	0	18	20
Rajaf	0	0	0	20	20
Grand Total	0	5	1	94	100

Standard of Living

The standard of living of the sample households has also been considered in the study through indicators including type of fuel used for cooking, movable assets such as television set, use of cable / dish antenna, radio, access to newspaper and magazines, and internet connection. Among the sample households, 77 per cent use firewood for cooking and 21 per cent use other sources of fuel that include charcoal and electric stove (refer Table 10). Across the sample payam, only one per cent household use LPG in Kator payam and one per cent in Gudele use kerosene as fuel for cooking. There is no bio-fuel used in any of the sample households. Thus, it is inferred that households use firewood as fuel for cooking irrespective of economic status.

Table 9. Distribution of Sample Households by Type of Cooking Fuel Used

Payam	LPG	Kerosene	Firewood	Bio-Fuel	Others	Grand Total
Gudele	0	1	19	0	0	20
Juba	0	0	16	0	4	20
Kator	1	0	17	0	2	20
Munuki	0	0	5	0	15	20
Rajaf	0	0	20	0	0	20
Grand Total	1	1	77	0	21	100

CONCLUSIONS

The article is an attempt to highlight the high levels of unemployment in South Sudan in general and Central Equatoria state in particular. The focus of the article is to identify the segment of the society who are unemployed

and highlight their socio-economic profile. The socio-economic profile of the sample households is analysed by categorizing the indicators into demographic profile, economic profile, social profile, and household assets & amenities. The analysis is based on primary source of data based on a household survey in five selected payams with 20 households in each payam, with total sample of 100 households.

The analysis reveals that in the demographic profile, the family size varies from single person to 16 person per family with an average of 6.90 i.e. seven persons per family for the total sample. Though large family size is preferable to have a greater number of persons who are employable. However, in this case we have not observed such phenomena. The gender profile shows high disparity in sex ratio especially in age groups above 19 years. It is comparatively lower in adolescent group and young children of less than 10 years. The dependency ratio of in sample family varied from 26 per cent to over 75 per cent. There is a positive relation of dependency ratio with proportion of unemployed in the family.

The sample households belong to mainly four communities namely Dinka, Nuer, Azande And Bari. 92 per cent of them are Christians and eight per cent are Muslims. Literacy profile shows that there are 64 per cent literates, but male literacy is more than twice the female literacy. The literacy status of the sample household members shows that the members have completed / currently enrolled in schooling and graduation. The proportion of persons in vocational training and post-graduation is negligible. Hence there is scope for enrollment in higher education and vocational training as it increases employability.

The economic profile of the sample household members shows that 46 per cent belong to below poverty line status and 54 per cent belong to above poverty line status. There is no significant correlation between economic status and unemployment status of the family. The occupation of the household members shows that out of total 690 members only 20 per cent had primary source of employment and nine per cent had secondary sources of employment. From the Table on demographic profile, we observe that the proportion of children below 18 years account for 37 per cent of total household members. So, the percentage of persons who can be actively employed is around 63 per cent as compared to 20 per cent in primary activity and 10 per cent in secondary activity. Hence there is high level of employment among household members. The high unemployed proportion is mainly due to low levels of literacy i.e. graduates, schooling and vocational training. There is also a significant incidence of drop out of girl children from education at all levels.

The household assets and amenities profile of households shows that 60 per cent live in huts and semi-pucca houses. 94 per cent obtain water from water tanks and only five percent from water pumps. No households have piped water connections as most of them live in huts and semi-pucca houses. Thus, due to low incomes arising out of high level of unemployment in the family (with both APL and BPL status) is resulting in the housing to be in very poor condition.

On the standard of living, 77 per cent use firewood as fuel for cooking and use of LPG is negligible and bio-fuel is non-existent. Hence it is inferred that households are not in a position to afford LPG for cooking. Only 12 per cent purchase newspaper and nine per cent purchase magazines. 52 per cent of the sample households possess a television set of which 27 per cent is colour set and 25 per cent have black & white TV sets. Only 34 per cent of them have access to DTH connection. This could be partially due to economic status and infrastructure too. Hence there is ample scope for employment in providing these services. Though there is a radio at home among 73 per cent of the sample, only five per cent of them have access to internet connection which calls for employment opportunity. Similar to the housing condition, the people both with APL and BPL status are not in a position to afford items such as LPG for cooking, purchase of newspaper and possession of TV sets and access to internet connection. In all, the socio-economic condition of families in Juba county is very poor, irrespective of the community they belong to or the economic status as observed through indicators of economic profile, social profile, and household assets & amenities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the analysis carried out on the socio-economic indicators we would like to make suggestions for the improvement of the lives of the people in Juba county and for the whole of Central Equatoria in general. Government must facilitate more enrollment in university for level master degree education. Government and civil society must promote education of girl child in high school, graduation, and master degree levels. Government and philanthropic organisations must initiate to provide stipend to graduates and post graduate students as it will not be hindrance for them from not studying due to high tuition fees. Business sector and University must jointly promote earn while you learn schemes, where students can earn and pay for their education. This will improve their responsibility. Government must promote vocational training such as industrial training institutes and polytechnic institutes in several trades, amongst youth to make them employable.

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