

# Youth in Governance and Development in Bo City

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Submitted: 01-03-2022

Revised: 07-03-2022

Accepted: 10-03-2022

## ABSTRACT

Contemporary democracies are faced with the mounting challenge of non-participation of citizens in the politics of the state. In most cases the reasons for non-participation primarily stem from the state's incapacity to create sufficient platforms to encourage the meaningful participation of the citizens in policy making.

In developing countries this trend has been more conspicuous amongst young people. This is largely due to the fact that the global trend of the 'youth bulge' is more prominent in developing countries. But it should be noted that the need for the participation of young people in the politics of state is even more critical in developing countries; and this is so because if the trend of the youth bulge continues, the youth will in time, constitute the majority of the population in most of these countries. The main argument of this work is that the inclusion of the youth in political decision making is vital in creating a sense of belonging in the state. The most unfortunate consequence of the youth feeling alienated from the state is that the youth is often lured into participating in violent activities against the state. These include, among many, terrorism and violent protest against the state.

In Sierra Leone where youth voter turnout has been declining and where the youth are often involved in violent protest, the successful inclusion of the youth in decision making should be a state priority. Notably, the state has since passed various legislations which attempt to empower and include the youth. This dissertation is a qualitative study of this legislation. The main aim is to assess whether the legislation has achieved its goal of empowering and including the youth in state affairs., the study further assesses to what extent has the legislation been able to offer the Sierra Leone youth's genuine opportunities to participate in the politics of the country.

**KEYWORDS:** Youth, Governance, Development, Youth participation, Participation in politics, Empowerment.

## I. INTRODUCTION

In today's global arena we are experiencing lack of trust of youth in governing institutions and political leaders. The modern youth who are well equipped with modern technological knowhow and skills have lot of dreams to make a difference but hardly are they getting any big chance and opportunity in mainstream development and governance in Sierra Leone and Africa in particular. There are plethora of macro and micro issues which are unfolded, for instance no higher education for youth, no scholarships, unemployment, insecurity, no major political representation in the main stream development and governance of the nation and no proper health systems and rampant corruption. These are some of the major constraints which make youth alienated. The major macro cause is that there is no reward for youth in Africa they are facing numerous challenges which make them disinterested to take active part in the development and governance of the nation. Moreover, the perception is that the issue of programmed development and policy design is for experts and youth do not have the expertise, skills and the drive power still prevails.

In Africa, youth are often counted as a lost generation, marginalized, frustrated and suffered from decision making bodies and policy making institutions. African youth make up more than half of the continent's population, yet for generations governments had been ignoring them and silencing their voices. There is no one who can push them ahead. Politicians and political institutions have failed to fulfill the basic needs and aspirations of youth which is the main cause of alienation. These are some of macro and micro causes which makes youth marginalized in developing countries and Sierra Leone (Bo city) is not different case. Not

only is this but there no fixed quota for youth in governance and mainstream development. These are the direct causes which make some youth involved in criminal activities when they don't find any opportunity and place in the mainstream development and governance of their nations. Engaging and participating in decision making and governance is beginning to reshape the way youth in Africa are perceiving and exercising their citizenship in a powerful manner. In the words of McGee and Green half:

"If policies, plans and budgets are to be relevant to youth, they also need to be informed by their realities, priorities and perspectives."

Kofi Anan the Former Secretary General of the United Nations says "No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts itself off from its youth severs its lifeline; it is condemned to bleed to death." In the light of Enhancing Youth Political Participation Report of UNDP, 2012 which says "The young people from 15 to 25 age group constitute a fifth of world's population yet the actual realities are clear that they still remain underprivileged and having less opportunities and influence in political institutions." The constraints and hindrances of youth engagement make it very clear that no democratic institutions can have claim to be legitimate and proper if youth is marginalized and disengaged from democratic processes. This research also shows that youth in Africa are still under represented within the institutions of democracies.' Kingsley Y. Amoako, a Ghanaian-born diplomat who led the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in 1995-2005 at the rank of UN Under Secretary General, has suggested the real solution for youth development in Africa in these words "When our children are assured of survival and health, provided with a good education, protected from war and violence, and when youth participate in the democracy and development of their countries, then Africa will be set to claim the 21st century." Thus, in world in general and Africa in particular the nation states need to give equal opportunities and entitlements and other means of survival to young youth. The youth need to have better and quality education and job security. And above all the youth need to have active participation privileges in the governance system and overall developmental spheres. They should not look like sufferers and frustrated youth rather they must have high recognition and identity cult in their own countries in Africa. And I believe based on the above research analysis that

the recognition, survival, and dignified life of youth can be achieved when they will be given equal chances of participation in governance, politics and overall developmental projects in side their own nations as well as in global arena. The better advantages will always motivate young people in Africa and elsewhere and they will use their efforts for the cause of nation building and national survival.

## 1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The present trend in Sierra Leone presents a worrying picture as about 65% of the population of Sierra Leone is below the age of 35 years, and over 35% population is between the ages of 15 and 35 years. (Census Sierra Leone). In 2011 study done by Afro Barometer on the issue of political participation of African Youth is consistent with as compared to the other research findings in the other parts of the world and confirms that despite their overwhelming numerical importance in electoral districts in Africa, African youth tends to vote less than those in other regions and their levels of political participation is lower as compared to other parts of the world. It has been found in research reports done by many scholars on engagement of youth in Africa. Such as Eguavoen believes African region is facing a growing "Youth Bulge" the idea of youth bulge is separate part in this paper and I have clearly elucidated it. The actual reality in Africa is that youth is not creating any hindrance or challenge rather these youth are disproportionately burdened by underemployment, capturing the votes of this very significant demographic group is becoming more important than ever in the context of Africa. Still they don't show any kind of major backlash like youth of other countries in Asia, Europe and America are showing against the existing regimes about their burning problems. In African context the vibrant civil society is lacking that is one of the reason the institutions are not effective, credible and accountable.

However, it is becoming true by present conditions in Africa that youth are now raising their genuine issues and demands. Therefore, eruptions of youth may occur soon to highlight their demands in front to the policy making institutions in Africa. Because these youth want change now they do not want to be dependent on the false promise which their leaders have been doing with them and in actual practice nothing changed on the ground. The recent election of Nigeria is the proof of that where youth stood up for change and did not give the power again to the President Jonathan who contested election second

time but lost because of his previous past where there was prevailing insecurity, unemployed youth, and rampant corruption that was the reason the people of Nigeria and youth in particular fed up by the previous regime and they give power to Mohammedu Buhari in 2015 general elections. In these 2015 elections the majority of credit goes to Nigerian who wanted for change. Dr. Azeez says: People believe that the victory of Gen. Buhari was actually driven by the youth in Nigeria. In Accordance to African barometer II report which says that despite of the reason of youth bulge in Africa, majority of the regions in Africa president are more than 60 years old. This could be the one the reason which prevents youth to be the part of political arena.

### **1.2conceptualizing The Significance Of Youth Participation In Sierra Leone**

The idea of determining which age group is the correct one for constituting the 'youth' is not an easy task. Phaswane (2009) points out that "The term 'youth' carries a myriad of meanings in different cultures and societies" (2009). The African Youth Charter "refers to the youth as every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years of age" (African Youth Charter. 2006). For Sierra Leone 'National Youth Policy' the youth is constituted by individuals between the ages of 14 and 35 years. They recognize the fact that the age group of 14-35 is far too broad for policy considerations. The youth needs different assistance and different services at different phases of their youth. For an example, a 25 year old might be more interested in the equality of opportunity when it comes to being appointed for jobs, while a 14 year old might be more interested in the quality of schooling they are receiving accompanied by the availability of quality teachers. Thus "the National Youth Policy of 2018 supplements this age range by segmenting the youth population in age cohorts and target groups in recognition of significant differences that exist in these youth groupings in terms of their unique situations and needs"

The definition of youth is narrow and inadequate of encapsulating the youth in different contexts.

There are other ways of conceptualizing youth that do not exclusively focus on the biological and the chronological age cut method. An example of this is the 'Social Constructivists' view. Instead of the biological age cut, this perspective uses a cultural context to define youth. The view draws on the historical cultural meaning of the youth as well as the contemporary cultural connotations that are attached to the meaning of 'youth'. The 'Social Constructivist' view defines

the youth as follows: Youth and 'adulthood' are socially constructed, earned, ritualized statuses which are not necessarily determined by age. In many traditional African societies, adulthood was reserved for men with relative wealth and social status, while everybody else retained the status of perpetual minors, no matter how old they were. In contemporary African societies, youth is intrinsically linked with well-defined rites of passage and symbolic steps (Mutisi 2010).

In Sierra Leone the 'social constructivist's' definition is more suited as it is able to incorporate the political, social and economic cleavages into the definition of 'youth'. It is particularly important to incorporate these three dynamics when defining the youth in Sierra Leone. This argument stems from the fact that in the Sierra Leone there is a high rate of unemployment, which makes it more difficult for young people to move out of the youthful stage in economic context. This is mainly because the youth is not able to find jobs which would allow them to support their families. The ability to provide for one's family cannot be excluded in considering youth in the Sierra Leone context as well as African context in general. Thus upward mobility also becomes an important aspect when considering who constitutes the youth in Sierra Leone. The inability to attain upward mobility and provide for their families means that a lot of people are often stuck in the youth phase as they are still dependent on their families for support. In this light Mutisi's (2010) argument that in African societies adulthood was reserved for men with relative wealth and social status while everyone else remained as minors is extremely relevant in the modern day context of Sierra Leone. The inability of young people to provide for their families has an adverse effect on their confidence and willingness to participate in political matters. They increasingly grow disillusioned and alienated from the state and the government.

An additional consequence is that young people have a violent approach towards the state and its apparatuses. When protests occur the youth are often at the vanguard of such protests, choosing to vent out their frustrations through vandalism. This often works against the objectives that the youth intend to achieve through such protests.

### **1.3 PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS**

The term 'participation' can mean a lot of different things. This means that it can cause confusion amongst stakeholders with regard to the expectations and roles that they have to play in order to achieve meaningful participation. Verba

(2006) defines Political participation as “the mechanism by which citizens can communicate information about their interests, preferences, and needs and generate pressure to respond.” Verba’s definition captures important features regarding participation in that it recognizes that the citizens must be able to express to the leadership important matters which are relevant to them and have the opportunity to hold the leaders accountable.

This definition of political participation is not adequate because it is broad and therefore does not capture the essence of ‘meaningful participation’. The main goal of the dissertation is to try and assess the opportunities that the youth has for ‘meaningful participation’. Meaningful participation additionally requires that the parties that are involved should have a chance to influence the decisions made on the policies. This is especially significant in those policies which have a direct impact on their day to day lives. The World Bank provides a definition that captures the essence of ‘meaningful participation’. The World Bank defines meaningful participation as “a process through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives, the decisions and the resources which affect them” (World Bank 1996). Therefore a characteristic that cannot be left out in the definition of ‘meaningful participation’ is that power must be given the people so that they are able to sway decision making on policies affecting them.

There are several types of participation that can help fulfill the requirements for ‘meaningful participation’. This dissertation looks at five types or mechanisms that could be used to achieve or to recognize ‘meaningful participation’. These mechanisms, if applied correctly, ensure that the public views decisions as legitimate and inclusive. The understanding of these mechanisms also assists the general public to be aware of the factors surrounding the decisions affecting them such as financial constraints. These mechanisms also help policy makers to strive to make quality decisions as the mechanisms foster a sense of accountability and transparency. The five mechanisms outlined by Brinkerhoff and Crosby 2006 are discussed below.

### 1.3.1 mechanisms And Types Of Meaningful Participation

**2.3.1 Information- Sharing:** This “mainly consists of one way information flows, information sharing serves to the keep the relevant actors informed, to provide transparency and to build legitimacy” (Brinkerhoff and Crosby 2006). Flowing from the direction of government to the public, examples are dissemination of written material through official documents, newspaper or

magazines, distribution of documents from local government offices; press conferences; radio or television broadcasts or establishment of websites. The examples that flow from the public to the government, include responding to questionnaires and surveys, accessing toll-free telephone ‘hot lines’ and providing various kinds of data, opinion surveys or data analysis (ibid).

The main challenge that confronts Information-Sharing is that the process of communicating information can get complex for policy makers because of diverse cultural backgrounds of the targeted audience. Diane (2006) argues that different cultures communicate messages in different ways. The choice of words, physical gestures that are used can be interpreted in different ways by different cultures. This point is particularly relevant in the Sierra Leone context where there are lots of different cultures and communities divided along religious, racial and class lines. The youth itself in this context does not consist of a group with a homogenous cultural or class background. Thus, the difficult task of sharing information is compounded in Sierra Leone by the sheer diversity of the youth population

**1.3.2 CONSULTATION:** This involves “two-way information flows and exchange of views. Consultation consists of sharing information and gathering feedback and reaction, beneficiary assessments, participatory poverty assessments, town hall meeting, focus groups, national conferences, round tables, and parliamentary hearings” (Brinkerhoff and Crosby 2006). The critique of consultation as a mechanism of participation is that it can be expensive to accomplish. This is because for participation to be meaningful, people with different cultural orientations, as well as education levels have all to be brought to a level where they understand what is presented in the deliberations. “In order for consultation to be substantive it has to be meaningful to those who are consulted and the content must be presented in a readily understandable format, the techniques used must be culturally appropriate” (Stakeholder Participation 2001). In most cases this means that there has to be capacity building exercises undertaken to help both the community and the policy makers understand the purpose of consultation. This can make the consultation process expensive as experts have to be hired to educate stakeholders.

However the benefits of consultation make it an essential part of participation process. The costs of leaving it out of the participation process are immense. When consultation of community is absent it could lead to the creation of

“a sense of indifference, resentment, or deliberate obstruction on the part of intended beneficiaries” (ibid). This means that the community might feel as if they were excluded from the policy process. The facilities’ and resources intended to benefit them can be rejected or vandalized due to the anger resulting from a sense of being ignored and not consulted in a decision making process. Therefore sufficient consultation with the people is a critical step in realizing a meaningful, fair and legitimate participation by the public.

**1.3.3 COLLABORATION:** For Brinkerhoff and Crosby (2006) collaboration includes Joint activities in which the initiator invites other groups to be involved but retains the decision making authority and control. Collaboration moves beyond collecting feedback to involving external actors in problem-solving policy design, monitoring and so forth. Examples include public reviews of draft legislation evaluation of draft legislation, government led working groups, and government convened planning sessions. The criticism of the Collaborative technique is similar to the criticism leveled against the Consultative technique. The collaborative method is economically inefficient as it requires a lot of resources and time to bring in different stakeholders who might be affected by the policy Appelstrand (2012). However to counter this Appelstrand (2012) argues that “participation may well foster economic efficiency, by promoting rational and shorter processes through (in fact) less obstruction and mutual understanding, and by promoting more environmentally sound decisions gaining sustainable use of natural resources. Participation may also be time-saving as a means ‘to meet the conflict.’” Appelstrand (2012) also suggests that collaborating with the beneficiaries of the policy helps to create a sense of inclusion. Collaboration also helps to prevent policy makers from acquiring services and facilities which do not match the needs of the community.

**1.3.4. JOINT DECISION MAKING:** With regard to joint decision making, Brinkerhoff and Crosby (2006) suggest that it is “collaboration where there is shared control over decisions made. Shared decision making is useful when the external actor’s knowledge, capacity and experience is critical for achieving policy objectives. Examples are joint committees, public private partnerships, advisory councils and blue ribbon commissions or task force.”

**1.3.5 EMPOWERMENT:** Brinkerhoff and Crosby (2006) define empowerment as “transfer of control

over decision making, resources and activities from the initiator to other stakeholders. Empowerment takes place when external actors acting autonomously and in their own interests, can carry out policy mandates without significant government involvement or oversight. Examples are local natural resources management committees, community empowerment zones, water associations, some forms of partnerships and civil society seed grants.”

The difficulty with this mechanism is that it has an ambiguous meaning. There is confusion on whether ‘Empowerment’ refers to a process or an outcome (Mathieson 2012). The confusion arises as policy makers try to understand whether on one hand ‘Empowerment’ means that people affected by the policy should be educated to be able to affect the decision, which is a process. Or on the other hand, if it means that the decision made should reflect the will of the people, which is an outcome.

#### **1.4 the Emergent Global Youth Bulge**

The concern about the non-participation of youth has gathered more attention in recent literature due to the aspect which scholars have labeled ‘global youth bulge’. Ortiz and Cummins (2012) define the youth bulge as “a demographic trend where the proportion of persons aged 15-24 in the population increases significantly compared to other age groups.” This means that the participation of young people becomes even more important in democracies because if the trend of the youth bulge continues, the youth will in time constitute the majority of the population in most countries. In this sense the non-participation of the youth, who constitutes a significant percentage of the population, leaves political processes vulnerable to manipulation by a few political elites. This is because those making decisions for the country are not an accurate demographic representation of the population, and are therefore most likely to not understand and carry out the interests of the population on policy decisions.

Agbor, Tawio and Smith (2012) argue that there is a sense of urgency to include the youth in the decision making process of developing African countries in which the demographic trend of the youth bulge is comparatively higher than in other countries. The authors note that “this concern is certainly valid in the case of Africa’s youth population (15–24 year olds) which has been increasing faster than in any other part of the world” (2012). Scholars studying the phenomenon of the youth bulge, such as Ortiz and Cummings (2012), have focused on the implications of the

youth bulge on the economy and have argued that the global market does not have enough jobs to employ the youth. Urdal's study reveals that "generally, it has been observed that young males are often the main protagonists of criminal as well as political violence" (2012).

There is a strong suggestion by Urdal (2012) that education is the key to preventing the youth from acting out their frustrations through violence. The position of this dissertation is that education along with factors mentioned by Urdal though significant, are not sufficient in curbing youth delinquency and their likelihood of being used as tools for political violence. The argument is that in addition to being educated, the youth needs to be successfully incorporated into the policy making bodies in order to engender a sense of inclusion. The feeling that the youth are being excluded by the older generation in the state affairs may necessarily result in a situation in which the youth decide to rebel against the state. This study then posits that the inclusion of the youth through meaningful participation can generate a sense of responsibility amongst young people for the wellbeing of the state. In this sense young people have a sense of responsibility where they become the protectors of the state and take a role in activities that are in favor of its advancement.

### 1.5 YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Some scholars studying youth participation argue that society's perception of youth involvement in politics is filled with different and often contradicting views. On the one hand, the low participation of the youth has gathered a lot of criticism and has been labeled as a 'crisis to the legitimacy of democracy'. Farthing (2010) points out that youth "are often chastised as the apolitical harbingers of an incipient crisis of democracy." On the other hand, the ability of youth to organize themselves using new forms of media technology has been welcomed as forming new methods of political engagement. The use of social media in the Arab spring illustrates this view. Hoffman and Jamal (2012) argue that "the use of social media allowed the youth in Arab countries to overcome and by pass political repression." Most literature on the topic reveals that society leans towards problematizing the youth rather than viewing the youth as a solution to the states' problems. For Phaswane (2005:4) this negative perspective "emerged as many societies struggled with costs associated with problem behaviors such as juvenile delinquency, early pregnancy, substance abuse and sexual infections among youth."

Other scholars such as Dorfman and Woodruff (1998) have argued that in America the media has contributed in conveying the negative perception of youth. "When researchers examine how youth are depicted in the news media, young people seldom get the chance to speak for themselves, they are rarely depicted in positive circumstances, and few stories include their accomplishments" (Dorfman & Woodruff, 1998; Figueroa, 2000 in Wong). This view is justified considering the fact that, the media plays an important role in determining how a certain group in society is perceived. When the media does not give young people an opportunity to voice their views, it creates a dangerous sense of alienation from the state amongst youth. This consequently sets up a climate where the youth tends to seek for inclusion and responsibility from criminal, rebel, and terrorist groups. These dangerous groups have the art of playing the patrimonial role for young people who are alienated from state affairs. Recruiting young people into these harmful groups becomes easy when young people develop a sense of being politically excluded and not included in the decision making process of the society.

Moreover, Dorfman and Schriladi (2001) pick up that media perpetuates racial stigmas about the youth, they argue that the media in America has contributed to creating the perception that youth of color or African American's in particular are more violent than youths of other racial groups. Dorfman and Schriladi's study found that crimes committed by African Americans were over reported by the media while crimes that were committed by white youth were under reported. In the South African context the media has contributed to portraying the youth negatively. Malila (2013) argues that the media has focused on four issues pertaining the youth, these are Education, Crime, Unemployment and Health. For Jobson (2012), the main reason why the youth is problematized is due to the high rate of unemployment within the youth. Unemployment leads to many more social ills including crime and violent protest. The involvement of the youth in decision making structures can create a sense of inclusion and can empower them with the ability to pass policies which keep them in a progressive state that benefits the country. For Biedrzyekzki and Lawless (2008) "successful youth participation is not only beneficial to those young people who are participating, but also to other youth who are recipients of improved services, policies, information and advocacy. Furthermore, broader society benefits when the youth voice is heard as

the needs of young people are better addressed, and young people are more likely to become active participants in society.

This study will then argue that young people in Sierra Leone are and should be seen as the solution (not just the cause) of some of the problems mentioned above.

### 1.6 SIERRA LEONE YOUTH POLICY

Defining the Youth in Sierra Leone the National Youth Policy and the National Youth Commission Act 2010 define youth as those between 15 and 35 years of age. The group constitutes about 34 percent of Sierra Leoneans or around 2 million of the estimated 7 million people. The total number of the population below the age of 35 years is about 73 percent, the majority of which are under 15 years. The Youth may be categorized as follows (classifications to be reviewed):

- i. Rural and Urban
- ii. Formally employed and informally employed (for example, ghetto youth, bike riders);
- iii. Organized and Unorganized
- iv. Educated and Uneducated, more affluent and less affluent
- v. In-School and Out-of-School, (including drop-outs)
- vi. Skilled, Semi-skilled and Unskilled
- vii. Male and female (ages 15 – 19; 20 – 29; 30 – 35); (Adolescents under 15 years are classified under children);
- viii. Physically challenged (disabled) and able-bodied

1.2 Challenges Facing the Youth – Across Sectors the major challenges facing young people that the National Youth Policy seeks to address are:

- i. Unemployment and under-employment resulting from inadequate and inappropriate training for the job market; (mismatches between demand and supply of labor);
- ii. Lack of access to quality education for the youth in the educational sector with attendant inadequate or inappropriate preparation and training for the formal job market;

GoSL/Statistics Sierra Leone, Population Projections, 2012.

Youth in Sierra Leone are legally defined as young women and men aged 15 – 35 years; the United Nations considers as youth those in the age bracket 15 – 24 years.

- iii. Low investment in technical vocational education (TVET), resulting in high mismatch with labor market demands. Lack of policy coherence on TVET is also an aggravating factor;

iv. A large proportion of youth is in crowded cities, like Freetown, which also has a huge informal sector, largely survivalist and marked by low returns. A large percentage of youth is engaged in petty trading;

v. High incidence of drug and substance abuse amongst youth; and

vi. Failure to address gender issues amongst the youth, for example, sexual and reproductive issues facing young girls and women. Key issues that are specific to female youth are as follows:

a. Teenage pregnancies: With 68 percent of girls have their first pregnancy between the ages of 12-20 for girls, teenage pregnancy is a major national challenge?

b. High level of transactional sex amongst young girls, partly as a coping strategy against poverty;

c. Growing risk of contracting HIV and AIDS by youth, in particular young girls, and;

d. High vulnerability to sexually transmitted infections (STIs/STDs), in particular, risk of contracting the HIV virus.

1.3 Youth Participation in National Development Key issues linked to youth participation in development includes the following:

i. Weak structures to support youth participation in development. Heavy investment required in terms of training, resource mobilization to build capacities of youth serving decentralized structures.

ii. Growing incidence of youth involved in violent conflicts (politically instigated)

iii. Largely due to rural-urban migration accelerated during the war, increasing poverty and attendant socio-economic challenges, there has been an erosion of traditional social support systems for youth with weakened role of the family leading to moral decay, reduced integrity and low self-esteem.

iv. Inadequate recreational, sporting and counseling facilities

v. Inadequate opportunities to nurture diverse youth talent from tender age, from primary, junior and senior secondary, through to higher education institutions.

vi. Inadequate mentoring opportunities which lead to weak moral, social, cultural and religious values in the youth.

### THE YOUTH POLICY VISION

The Vision of the National Youth Policy is:

Nationally conscious and patriotic youth empowered to contribute positively to the development of Sierra Leone.

Goal The main goal of the Youth Policy is to contribute to creating a more conducive

environment in which youth development and empowerment interventions can sustainably achieve their desired objectives and realize its long term outcomes.

#### **IN PURSUIT OF THE GOAL:**

□ The GoSL and development partners recognize that a vibrant youth sector is a prerequisite for achieving sustainable social, economic and political security amongst all the categories of the Sierra Leonean people.

□ To that effect, the GoSL and stakeholders shall support the integration of youth into the mainstream of national, regional and international development initiatives.

□ The GoSL and development partners shall maintain a level playing field for youth, where feasible breaking all barriers that have kept youth historically marginalized. The aim will be to develop and maintain an environment in which sustainable youth programmes can thrive and be engineered to enable the youth realize their full potential.

To realize the vision the following objectives will be pursued:

- i. Empower and actively involve the Sierra Leonean youth in a variety of redesigned or re-organized productive activities, in both rural and urban areas;
- ii. Enable Sierra Leonean youth of all categories develop their full potential and self-esteem through approaches that enhance innovation and youth talent;
- iii. Institutionalize youth participation at all levels of the decision making process, from central to decentralized level, to ensure the nurturing of democratic and productive culture;
- iv. Enable the youth share, acquire and transfer knowledge, expertise, and experience through national, regional and international networks and peer learning as well as through improved use of information communication technology (ICT);
- v. Nurture the development of a new breed of youth, which is ready to serve through volunteerism, through to community level; and
- vi. Inculcate in the youth a new identity based on self-reliance, patriotism, nationalism.

#### **Key Strategies And Areas Of Intervention**

Generating Decent Employment for the Youth Observing that stabilization of macroeconomic indicators by itself is insufficient to promote and address the growing challenge of youth unemployment; the GoSL will put in place other practical measures to boost the creation of decent employment for young women and men.

As part of broader employment generation plan, priority will be given towards implementation of the National Employment Policy and National Youth Employment Action Plan (NYEAP), already developed. As a follow-up to the development of the National Employment Policy and the NYEAP, the GoSL and other stakeholders will support formulation of comprehensive, inclusive and engendered pro-employment job-rich growth targets for the country.

The GoSL and development partners will provide practical forms of support to the Sierra Leone National Youth Employment Action Plan, ensuring that youth employment issues are mainstreamed in all key sectors.

In this regard, the GoSL will also promote the deepening of establishment of public private partnerships, ensuring that adequate measures are taken to implement the NYEAP.

Design and Adoption of Youth Sensitive Policies Youth sensitive policies will be designed and implemented at sector and sub-sector levels, including an enabling legal and regulatory environment. The GoSL and development partners will support review of existing sector, sub-sector and national policies and strategies, as well as development of new sector policies with a view to enabling youth issues to become adequately mainstreamed within the sector plans and national development plans. Innovative public private partnerships (PPPs), backed up by a substantial resource mobilization strategy, will be formed in support of this priority national agenda. There shall be regular review of labor market realities and the legislative environment of the country as these affect employment of young women and men in both the formal and informal sector.

Enabling Micro and Small Enterprises Development Policy Support to designing and implementation of a youth-oriented micro, small enterprises (MSE) policy: As part of a broad based strategy to support youth empowerment, the GoSL and development partners will support the development of a youth focused MSE policy, targeted at strengthening the capabilities of micro, small enterprises, in both the informal and formal sectors. Through new forms of public private partners, mechanisms of fast-tracking transition of large numbers of young women, men and children, from informal sector based survivalist low remunerating activities, which include, petty trading, and other welfares activities, to higher return and more viable activities. The approach will also involve establishment of new entry points for youth to access viable business opportunities within various sectors and on the basis of priorities



set in the NYEAP and the National Employment Policy. The GoSL and development partners will, in the process, Endeavour to strengthen the technological capabilities<sup>3</sup> of micro and small businesses in the country, in particular where large numbers of youth are engaged.

Support to the Agricultural Sector/Agribusiness Value Chains The agricultural sector has been identified in the National Action Plan on Youth Employment and the National Development Plan as a high potential area. Agro based value chains are pivotal to economic empowerment of the Sierra Leonean youth, in terms of ability of the sector to absorb large numbers of young people, especially in rural areas. The agricultural sector is an engine for growth of employment in Sierra Leone, providing the main source of employment and income for approximately 65 percent of the population in Sierra Leone. It contributes 46 percent of GDP. The performance of the agricultural sector is pivotal to the rate of socio-economic development and poverty reduction. Given the large numbers of Sierra Leoneans depending on agriculture, a variety of investment opportunities exist in downstream agro-based activities in agribusiness and processing of food and livestock products. Strategies that seek to increase productivity and returns to labor in agriculture are central to increasing productive employment for young people.

Being the main driver of poverty reduction in the short and medium term, the agricultural sector and agro-business sector has the potential to absorb large numbers of unskilled and semi skilled youth. In order to fully take advantage of and utilize that youth potential, the GoSL will take practical measures to promote youth involvement in agro-based value chains as these relate to available opportunities within various sub-sectors. This will be done in collaboration with the GoSL supported Smallholder Commercialization Programme (SCP) currently being implemented through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS), in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), with the support of various development partners.

### **Education Sector Development And Youth Empowerment**

Addressing the challenge of out-school youth With poverty identified as one of the major underlying causes of children dropping out-of-school, the GoSL and development partners will provide transparent, equitable, efficient and accountable resource allocation systems to address the issue. National and international development

partners will be mobilized to provide material, technical and financial support to education programmes for vulnerable.

Technological capabilities (TCs) are defined as the knowledge, skills and efforts required for firms to bring about an indigenous process of technological development. This can occur by increasing efficiency in the management of the enterprise value chain and improving the innovation capabilities of MSEs.

Children and support national programmes set out by Government. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and other stakeholders working in education, child protection and social protection will be facilitated to develop joint criteria and guidelines, for the identification of out-of-school children and the provision of holistic programmes addressing the out-of-school challenge. To address the issue of youth dropping out of school, a two-pronged intervention that provides short, medium and long-term assistance in supporting marginalized families to improve their socio-economic status to ensure that their children continue with school would be adopted. A holistic approach that involves various sectors and key stakeholders will be employed to tackle the complex and overlapping issues of out-of-school children. Basic education programmes will be repositioned to target improving access to schools by the disadvantaged out-of-school children, including dealing with challenges of over- aged children.

In view of large numbers of children completing primary education remaining unable to access Junior Secondary School, the GoSL will give priority to construction of more Secondary Schools, training and recruitment of qualified teachers, as well finding ways of improving the quality of education generally and at all levels. Increasing the number of appropriately qualified teachers and the provision of textbooks and other teaching learning materials for increased access at Junior Secondary School level will be a priority for government.

In view of high failure rates for the Basic Education Certificate Examinations (BECE) and the West African Senior School Certificate Examinations (WASSCE) being repeated in recent years, the GoSL will focus on measures to designed to improve performance in the BECE and WSSCE, ensuring that a mechanism established to monitor the extent to which the recommendations of the Education Commission are being implemented fully.

Effort to tackle high illiteracy levels The GoSL and development partners will develop programmes to strengthen literacy levels of young people, taking note issues of gender, marginalization factors and socio-economic status of different groups of youth. Practical support will be given to youth from basic education and training, primary and secondary education, through to more advanced training, such as higher education learning, universities, TVET and apprenticeship training.

Gender mainstreaming in adult literacy and access to education Particular attention will be made towards ensuring a level playing field for the illiterate young women and men, strengthening programmes designed to meet the needs of marginalized young women and men, for example, in the area of vocational education and training and raising literacy levels generally.

Renewed effort to support improvement in pass rates for both girls and boys at both junior and senior secondary schools will be sustained, together with other qualitative aspects of education for girls, including entry into higher learning institutions such as universities. Ensuing improved enrolment for both girls and boys at JSS and SSS levels will continue to be a priority for government and its development partners in the education sector.

Higher/tertiary education Governance structures and laws governing Higher Education Institutions will be reviewed to assess how they hinder or facilitate the institutions to perform their missions and objectives; ensure that appropriate legislation is put in place to encourage innovation and improvement of quality of higher education learning.

Financing education sector development: Government must continue to prioritize Education and Health sectors, in addition to forging strategic innovative public and private partnerships and other sustainable approaches: Given the low public financial base from which the GoSL draws its budget for the education sector and the limited number of development partners involved in education, a new strategy needs to be employed. Relating to Higher/Tertiary Education Institutions, the GoSL is encouraged to consider other innovative avenues of complementing the government's student grant scheme.

Stronger public and private partnerships will be nurtured, mobilizing large mining and other private companies to invest a significant share of their profits in developing Higher/Tertiary Education Institutions and other priority areas within Education, Science, Technology and Innovation sectors. This could be deemed as part of

the acknowledged community obligations of companies benefiting from the country's national resources, for example, access to agricultural land and mining rights.

Equal opportunities for all; gender mainstreaming and disability mainstreaming: The GoSL will ensure equity in access to higher education through its affirmative gender policy on female students in the sciences and engineering disciplines and continue to support entry into HEIs by students with disabilities.

Technical vocation education training (TVET) and the youth in Sierra Leone

i. The GoSL will facilitate the redesign of TVET to ensure a new development approach for Sierra Leone which balances investment in infrastructure and relevant projects, with more significant investment in human resources development and upgrading. A two-pronged approach which focuses on deepening the national technological capabilities, including human resources, both in terms of quality and quantity, organizational and management skills will be adopted. The GoSL will have a strategic shift, with emphasis on developing a dynamic TVET system capable of meeting the challenges of a country in transition, to transformation and a more self-sustaining development phase. TVET development priorities would be in the following:

ii. Finalization of the TVET policy, with implementation in place, accompanied by a comprehensive resources mobilization strategy to support prioritized interventions.

iii. Focus on a Youth focused National Human Resources Development Plan, on the basis of a new TVET Policy, and within the framework of the Education Sector Strategic Plan, incorporating development of a new-look TVET system and labor market-oriented education, skills and capacity development system. Human resources development support networks, focusing on effective public and private partnerships and forging of stronger linkages between TVET demand and supply in the labor market. A framework could be developed to establish a way in which private companies can invest in certain training programmes, focusing on areas for which there is definite demand, and where there is mutual benefits. Examples include, mining technology, technicians, engineers, middle level management programmes, business and marketing capacity development.

#### **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

This study has the following objectives which are:

- To Interrogate the causes of youth disengagement in the main stream development and governance in Sierra Leone
- To exploring changing dynamics of Sierra Leone development and governance
- To analyzing youth participation and engagement and their voluntarism for taking active participation in overall decision making process and development projects.
- To find possible solution and law for youth into governance and development

#### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Sierra Leone is one of the countries in the world where youth are marginalised and involved less in governance and development. It is associated with poor quality of life for the youth because they are always pushed aside in developmental project and only be used when election season approaches

Hence this study sought out to determine the burden of youth in governance and development in Bo city. This information should allow for intervention measures to be formulated and also how to address the problem.

- The study has exposed other gaps that exist within the field and prompt more investigations by other scholars.
- The study contributes to the literature on youth and governance in Bo city
- This study is important in many ways because it will provide theoretical frameworks for understanding the relationship between youth in governance and development.
- More specifically, the research provides anthropological analytical insights into issues surrounding the less participation of youth in governance and development.

Besides its theoretical significance, this research will serves practical purposes such as:

- By revealing the root-causes and harmful consequences of the marginalisation of youth in governance and development and suggest locally appropriate strategies for challenging the harmful effects of the practice.
- The idea of promoting youth in governance and development particularly in Bo should be prominent on the agenda of policy makers
- In this regard, this study informs policy makers and planners about key socio-cultural effects of youth in the marginalisation in governance and development.
- More specifically, as an applied scholarly research, it could serve as an authentic and reliable reference material to policy makers and government and nongovernmental

organizations involved in designing and implementing programs centred on youth

- Finally, this research also paves the way for further action or practical research in the field.

## **II. RESEARCH METHODS**

### **2.1 Introduction**

Methodological approach of this study is inspired by Silverman's (2005) observation: "methodology refers to the choices we make about cases to study, forms of data analysis, methods of data gathering, etc. in planning and executing a research study." But it is not possible to simply choose a method and adhere to it in research study because of some limitations of a particular method. Therefore, this study discusses the relationship between the various parts of the research project, the implication of the choices made and the limitations of the methods chosen.

This study outlines the methods that were used and the following structures were adopted

- Study area and descriptions
- Sample population and/sample size
- Sample selection technique
- Research instruments/methods/strategy
- Research design
- Data analysis/techniques
- Scope limitations and constraints of the study

### **2.2 STUDY AREA AND DESCRIPTIONS**

The study area for this research is in Bo city (Bo District), this area is found in Sierra Leone in western part of Africa. Bo city is one of the largest towns in Sierra Leone both in terms of its geographical area and its population size. According to the Sierra Leone national census, the population of Bo is approximately 1.5 million people

The population of Bo is ethnically diverse, although Mende and the Temne and fullah form the largest ethnic groups but the Mendes dominate. The population of Bo is predominantly Muslim, with a large Christian minority. Like the rest of people living in Sierra Leone, the main economic activities of the people are petty trading and also employ in private and public sectors.

The town has lot of primary, secondary and tertiary institutions; they also have local and super markets, and health care centers.

The city is head by the mayor, paramount chief, section chiefs which are tasked with different t duties and responsibilities.

### **2.3 SAMPLE POPULATION/SAMPLE SIZE**

The number of population of the study area during field study was infinite because of different reasons. Therefore, the minimum required sample size was estimated at 80 (Male-50, female

30) assuming 95% confidence interval as suggested by Fink (2003), Lwanga and Lemeshow (1991) and Sufian (1998). Apart from this, to avoid some difficulties such as missing of some information, overwriting of responses, and unwillingness to provide information, a sample size was determined with 10% over sample so that the responses from the minimum required number of sample could be ensured. Therefore, the total number of sample of this study was determined at 80 and the equal number of respondents was selected from each sex.

#### **2.4 SAMPLING SELECTION TECHNIQUE**

Because of geographical proximity, the researcher chose Bo city (Bo Districts) as the study area.

The respondents were selected by using mixed method sampling procedure suggested by Teddlie and Yu (2007). At first majority of the youth in the city were targeted.

And also people in governance and developmental project were selected in the different governmental department and developmental agencies.

Apart from this, elders were considered as key informants and data were also collected from them to understand youth in governance and development. Moreover, members of the Bo education committee, government agencies and NGO representatives were considered as key informants

#### **2.5 Research Instruments/Methods/Strategies**

The choice of any research strategy or approach used by the researcher is often contingent upon certain variables which include the nature, orientation of the researcher and the social context of the research subjects and the research objectives. To reach at any logical conclusions in ascertaining the youth in governance and development requires the use of multiple sources of evidence. Thus mixed method approach is followed to pursue the research work. The reasons behind using this approach lay in merits and demerits of qualitative and quantitative approaches. Basically, quantitative approach is such an approach in which the investigator primarily uses post-positivist claims for developing knowledge, employs strategies of inquiry such as experiments and survey, and collects data on predetermined instruments that yield statistical data (Creswell, 2003). It is also concerned with correlation between dependent and independent variables, but could not go into the inner aspects of social phenomena. On the other hand, qualitative approach is one in which the inquirer often makes knowledge claims based on mainly constructivist perspectives i.e. the multiple meaning of individual experiences and meanings

that are socially and historically constructed. It also uses strategies of inquiry such as narrative, phenomenology etc. The researcher collects open-ended and emerging data (ibid). "It provides a 'deeper' understanding of social phenomena than would be obtained from purely quantitative data," (Silverman, 2001 & 2005). But it could not make correlation or causal relationship between independent and dependent variables. Considering the advantages and limitations of both quantitative and qualitative approaches, the mixed method approach was employed in this study with using concurrent triangulation procedures as research strategy (Creswell, 2003:16) and social survey as strategy of inquiry.

Moreover, quantitative approach provides the frequencies of any observation but neglects interrelationship of verbal and non-verbal behavior and obscures the contingent nature of interaction (Mehan, 1979 cited in Silverman, 2001). But in exploring people's life histories or everyday behavior, qualitative methods may be favored. In the matter of flexibility, it encourages qualitative researchers to be innovative as events get unfolded.

But in quantitative approach it is less likely since it is predefined. In addition, any research that follows a purely quantitative logic would simply exclude the study of many interesting phenomena related to what people actually do in their daily lives, whether at homes, offices or other public and private places (Silverman, 2001). In quantitative approach, researchers administer interview schedules or questionnaires to random samples of the population. 'Fixed-choice' questions, e.g. yes or no, are usually preferred because the answers they yield lend themselves to simple tabulation (ibid) that could not be able to explain experiences of everyday life. Therefore, the above-mentioned limitations and advantages encouraged the researcher to choose the mixed-method approach.

Nonetheless, both the quantitative and qualitative methods will be integrated in this study to overcome the limitations that lie in using merely single method – whether it is quantitative or qualitative. Quantitative data such as age, gender, occupation etc. will be collected through structured interview with closed-ended predetermined questions.

In addition, quantitative approach employs survey method as strategy of inquiry that include the questions such as who, what, where, how many, how much etc. (Yin, 2003) in exploring social issues.

Concurrent triangulation strategy was used as an attempt to corroborate the findings of

qualitative and quantitative data. This strategy was also used as a means to offset the weaknesses inherent within one method with the strengths of others (Creswell, 2003).

Both qualitative and quantitative data was collected concurrently by administering questionnaire composed of both closed-ended and open-ended questions where the respondents provided their oral statement describing their everyday life experiences. Although data was collected concurrently, field visits and informal discussion with the affected people and key informants (KIs) were made along with literature review before designing the questionnaire. Although both qualitative and quantitative data are very important in a study that follows mixed-method approach, priority was given to qualitative data considering the nature of the study.

It also allows the researcher to collect large amounts of data in a relatively short amount of time (Gay, Mills & Airasian, 1999). The questionnaires enabled the study to collect data on youth governance and development in Bo city.

## 2.6 RESEARCH DESIGN

A research design by definition refers to the programmed of events that directs the research process; it is the plan of the research which the researcher uses as a blue print to remind him of the various tasks that lie ahead in effecting the research process. Thus the research design includes the research strategy or approach, the research subjects, population and sampling procedures, research instrumentation, pilot study, data collection procedures, data cleaning and data analysis (Bernard, 2000; Punch, 1998).

The main purpose of this study is to understand why youth are marginalized and less involved in governance and development and will analyze the effect on youth and the Nation at large.

## 2.7 RESEARCH ANALYSIS/TECHNIQUES

To analyze the largely and bulky quantitative data obtained from the structured questionnaires, computer assisted programmed was used such as Microsoft Access, Microsoft Excel and SPSS was employed. Therefore descriptive statistics was followed in coding, editing and processing numeric data. Techniques of descriptive statistics (percentage and frequency) were used in analyzing data.

However, qualitative data analysis approach was also followed in analyzing qualitative data. It has been mentioned earlier that the concurrent triangulation strategy was used in

this study from data collection to interpretation phase. Therefore, data transformation process was followed to analyze the data. At first, data was organized into categories on the basis of themes, concepts or similar features (Neumann & Kreuger, 2003: 176) and codes was created to qualitative data to quantify (Creswell, 2003: 221) in order to count their frequency.

In addition, other approaches to qualitative data analysis such as narrative description and explanation was been presented. Some long extracts of data as well as verbatim quotations from the respondents' oral statements was also presented.

## III. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 3.0 Introduction

This study summarizes the findings of the research and also gives the study conclusion and recommendations

### 3.1 SUMMARY

This study has investigates about youth in governance and development in Bo city. However, looking at youth in governance and development has gained attention in recent years considering the fact that youth are always left behind or marginalized in governance are development, they are only consider when election season approaches.

The study used the case in Bo city in Bo district southern Sierra Leone because they are eligible sample population to study issues of youth in governance and development and therefore, draw a representing findings as to other likely community in the district, where, men and women alike (male 63 percent and 37 percent female) were presented.

#### 3.1.1 PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

From the findings, it was indicated that the majority (63%) were male. Even though the Sierra Leone population and housing census proves that the women population surpasses the men population this study proves otherwise. Majority of the respondents (44%) fall between the ages of (26-30 years).

According to the study, majority (75%) were single. The reason for most of the respondents to be single it was because of the harsh economy in the country and also lack of job opportunities.

From the findings of the study, it was indicated that the majority (31%) has university education, followed by another (28%) who had secondary education, while some other (23%) had college certificate or diploma, another (19%) had vocational education, and this indicates that the

respondents in the study have various forms of educational qualifications.

From the findings of the study, it was also revealed by the majority (44%) were civil servant, followed by another (38%) who were traders, while another (18%) were skilled men.

### **3.1.2 Interrogating Causes Of Youth Disengagement From Themainstream Development And Governance**

From the findings, it was find out that majority (69%) said that their understandings about youth are people between the ages of 15-35, while the other respondents (31%) said that youth are young people in the society.

The study indicated that, majority (60%) agreed that the youth are active in development programs, while (40%) said that the youth are not active in development programs.

More so, majority (44%) why the youth are not active in development programs said that it is because they stakeholders marginalize the youth, followed by (38%) said that the elders consider the youth as trouble makers, and also (18%) said that the elders also see the youth as inferior people.

### **3.1.3 EXPLORING CHANGING DYNAMICS OF SIERRA LEONE DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE**

From the findings, all the respondents (100%) said that the youth are capable of making useful decision making in governance.

It also indicate that, majority (44%) on why they think that the youth are capable of making useful decision making in governance said that because the youth know what they are going through in the society, followed by (31%) who also said because the youth are in majority in the society, and (25%) said that because the youth are active in the society. From the findings also, the respondents were asked on how the inclusion of youth in governance and development affect the state, majority (88%) said it affect the state positively, while (12%) said that it affect the state negatively.

Also on the positive side, majority (45%) it is because the youth have modern days idea, followed by (30%) who said because the youth know how to bring development, and also (25%) who said because of their activeness.

### **3.1.4 ANALYZING YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT AND THEIR VOLUNTARISM FOR TAKING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN OVERALL DECISION MAKING PROCESS AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.**

From the findings, the respondents (100%) said yes that the youth have participated voluntarily in developmental process.

More so, on activities they engage in for developmental process, majority (38%) said that they engaged on seminars on youth's development programs, followed by (35%) said that the youth coordinate activities in the community, and (27%) said they also help in the cleaning of the community.

More so, on the impact of such partnership in participating voluntarily in developmental process, majority (48%) said that it make the youth to be useful in the society, followed by (35%) who said it help to bring development in the society, and (17%) said it bring youth together.

The study also indicates that if such partnership is viable in society, the respondents (100%) said yes.

### **3.1.5 TO FIND POSSIBLE SOLUTION AND LAW FOR YOUTH INTO GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT**

From the findings, the respondents were asked on how the youth should perceived themselves so that they can be involved in governance and development programs, majority (50%) said that the youth need to be educated, through education they can be able to make useful decisions on governance and development, followed by (38%) said that the youth should look more responsible in society, and (12%) said that the youth should be free from all troubles since they are consider as trouble makers.

More so, on the expectations of the stakeholders to involve youth in governance and development, majority (38%) said that the stakeholders should provide scholarship for youths for them to get education and empowered themselves, followed by (25%) who said that they should involve them in governance programs, and also (20%) said that the stakeholders should stop marginalizing the youth, and (17%) said that the stakeholders should change their negative mindset about the youths.

More so, from the findings, the respondents were asked on how the youths should be active in governance and development. From the findings majority (38%) said that stakeholders should open ways for the youth to be useful in the society, followed by (35%) said that the youth should be developmentally oriented, and (27%) said that the stakeholders should stop despising the youth through this the youth can be useful and active in governance and development.

## **3.2 CONCLUSION**

Social science plays a major role in trying to change behavioral patterns of both the youth and the elders in the society. This study demonstrates youth in governance and development and it effect

on national development, the youth who are in majority in the country, most of them are jobless, seen as inferior and greatly marginalized for governance and developmental issues, and this has a contributing risk factor to thugs and trouble makers in the society, and this is mostly cause by elders and stakeholders for their continues neglect and despise of the youth in the society.

Stakeholders or people in governance only see the youth as important people when election season approaches, because they need their vote, they need them as political thugs to cause more havoc before during and after elections, and when election season is over they consider as trouble makers there by leaving them behind in governance and development issues, and they don't even provide jobs for them.

This study illustrates the importance of youth in governance and development, first of all the youth population is the highest in the study area, so in their majority they know what they are going, how they are been neglected and left behind, if they get involved in governance and development they can be able to tackle this numerous problems face by them, there will be policies to elevate the youth from where they are now to another level.

Sierra Leone in general should copy from other countries, where the youth are involved in governance and development, such countries are high in development, because due to the youthfulness of the youth, their active nature and has a modern days idea they can be able to foster development in the society.

### 3.3 RECOMMENDATION

The following are recommended:

- The youth should look more responsible in the society, by so doing the elders or stakeholders should stop labeling them as trouble makers.
- The youth should be useful in the society by getting good education and empowered themselves so that they will be competent to be involved in governance and development in the society.
- Stakeholders should provide scholarship for the youth to be educated and empowered themselves.
- The politicians should stop despising and marginalizing the youth.
- Stakeholders should involve the youth in developmental processes.
- The youth should not allow themselves to be use and misused by politicians.
- The youth should create ways in order for them to be useful in society.

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