PERCEPTIONS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN SELECT AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Though Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa are among the biggest economies in sub-Saharan Africa, they also struggle with high unemployment, a challenge that may continue to grow as more and more of the youth begin to enter the workforce. Indeed, according to a Pew survey (2016), over 80 percent of respondents in these countries view the lack of employment opportunities “a very big problem.” Interestingly, the perception of on-the-ground challenges to getting a job differs somewhat among the countries.

FIGURE 2.2.

PERCEPTIONS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN SELECT AFRICAN COUNTRIES

What are reasons why many people in our country do not have jobs?

Schools don’t teach the necessary skills.

Some people are unmotivated or lazy.

Many jobs only go to people with connections.

Some people are discriminated against because of their ethnicity/race.*

Some people have health problems that prevent them from working.

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*Note: In Kenya and Nigeria, the question asked about “ethnicity.” In South Africa, the question asked about “race.”