

SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION

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LEARNING OUTCOME



By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:



Apply the sociological imagination to connect personal experiences to broader social structures.

LECTURE OUTLINE

The Trend of
Unemployment
in Ghana

C. Wright Mills'
concept

Apply it
together

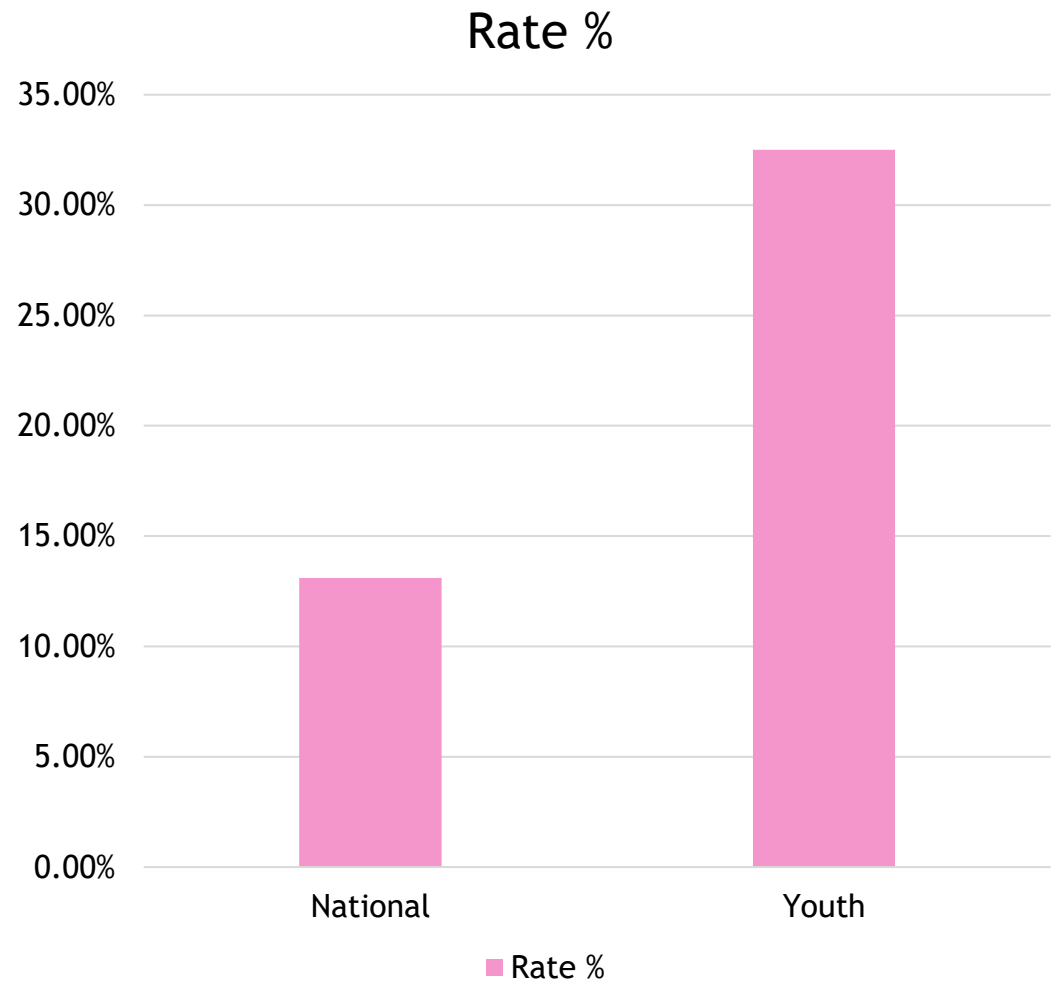
The Trend of Unemployment in Ghana

Personal
blame

Shift in
blame



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN GHANA (2024)



C. WRIGHT MILLS (1916–1962)

- ▶ American sociologist
- ▶ The Sociological Imagination (1959)
- ▶ Mills says the sociological imagination is the ability to link **your personal story** (your biography) with **what's happening in society** (history).
- ▶ Your life is influenced by social forces you didn't choose—for example, economic trends, political decisions, cultural norms, or patterns of inequality

DIFFERENCES — PERSONAL TROUBLE VS PUBLIC ISSUES

▶ PERSONAL(PRIVATE) TROUBLES

- ▶ These are challenges that affect individuals and their immediate relationships, often blamed on a person's own choices.
- ▶ EXAMPLE: student with test anxiety

▶ PUBLIC ISSUES

These affect large numbers of people and are rooted in society's structure,

EXAMPLE. educational inequality

DISCUSSION QUESTION

- ▶ What explanations do we hear for unemployment.



DISCUSSION QUESTION

- ▶ If more women work full-time today, why does housework remain unequal?

LECTURE SUMMARY

- ▶ The sociological imagination helps us move from blame to understanding.
- ▶ Understanding the sociological imagination matters because it changes how we respond to social problems. Instead of blaming individuals, we begin to ask critical questions about systems, policies, and institutions

REFERENCES

Ghana Statistical Service (2024).

Mills, C. Wright (2000). The sociological imagination. Oxford [England] New York: Oxford University Press. p. 224. ISBN 978-0195133738