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The Effects of Globalization on National Development Policy Implementation in Nigeria

¹GARUBA, Rasheed Obasekore

²AMEEN, Abdullateef

Abstract

Globalization has become a major issue in measuring development policy implementation across the globe. It is a concept that expands the nation's investments through multilateral trading system and it possesses ability of having higher comparative advantage in terms of a wider market and patronage in relation to non-globalized states. Nigeria as one of a sovereign state in the world has formulated series of development policies towards repositioning her economy since independence. Unfortunately, the policy did not achieve its target objective due to its mono-economic policy adopted since discovery of crude oil for external consumption occasioned from globalized politics with her European partners. This decision has brought unfavorable balance of trade relations with her global partners and this has limited her financial capacity to successfully implement any sustainable policy years after its independence. Relying on secondary data, theoretical mode of analysis was adopted in order to argue that globalization trend has not effectively impacted in Nigeria's national development drive as experienced among Asian Tigers recently. The paper therefore recommends the need for government in power to re-appraise its economic policy towards promoting economic diversification in order to correct unfavourable balance of payment that has incapacitated the country financially towards implementing sustainable development plan policy in Nigeria.

Keywords: Globalization, Challenges, Policy Implementation, National Development Plan

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Introduction

Globalization is a term that promotes many benefits to the nations-state globally. Its benefits are visible in terms of creating competitiveness and access to factors of production as well as improved national development occasioned through concerted efforts put in place by the government towards attaining a new global status. According to Anya (2009), globalization expands the nation's investments through multilateral trading system. It possesses ability of having higher comparative advantage in terms of a wider market and patronage in relation to non-globalized states. Globalization has transcended to all spheres of human engagements. It is a multidimensional and multifaceted process that captures politics, economy, social and cultural dimensions of the society.

As observed by Fukuyama (1992), globalization is a universalization of western values that proposes celebration of globalized world and the unabashed victory of political and economic liberalism that is evidenced in the triumph of western ideology which can be viewed as a new paradigm in international economic relations that signals the principles of capitalism in a globalized scale. Globalization may be regarded as beneficial from economic and business point of view. However, it cannot perceive the ditto when examined from the social sciences and humanities side of it.

As averred by Obadan (2001), globalization can be seen as a tool for economic growth, advancement and prosperity through co-operation between developed and developing countries. The pro-globalization school argues that its benefits to developing nations have surpassed the negative impacts and it is the only source of hope for developing nations like Nigeria to prosper and stand out among its peer. Nigeria as a sovereign state and as one of the leading countries in Africa was largely blessed with abundant resources and this has promoted its relationship with other countries globally since its independence in 1960.

For instance, Nigeria was once regarded as one of the largest producers and exporters of agricultural products to Europe shortly after its independence. The exportation of raw materials to global market constituted the sole foreign exchange income of Nigeria as at then and the bulk of revenue realized through the transactions were used to develop the nation's infrastructural facility across the regions (Samuel, 2012). This progressive move was later neglected on the pretence of oil discovery in early 1970s. The oil boom led to total

neglect of agriculture as a source of revenue to Nigeria and this has made the country become a mono-economic nation instead of economic diversification approach associated with globalization.

However, the neglect of agriculture for crude oil exportation as averred by Utuk (2015) was as a result of the decision of the government to meet up with the latest trend in global economy which globalization policy of Bretton Woods Institutions has been advocated for some decades ago with Nigeria and other developing countries across the globe. This has however impeded the needed economic expansion for Nigeria and has limited its financial base towards implementation of sustainable national development policy in the country.

But in spite of the positivity associated with globalization, its effect on economy has led to enormous economic challenges to Nigeria and other developing countries across the globe. In view of the apparent shortcoming, this paper attempts to examine the extent at which globalization has impacted on implementation of national development policy in Nigeria. The paper later suggests some possible ways of maximizing the available benefits of globalization towards implementation of realizable strategic development plans in the country.

Conceptualizing Globalization and Its Impact on Developing Countries

Over the past decades, globalization has become a new world order, which virtually influences everything that comes to the mind of the people. Globalization has made it possible for developing countries with vulnerable geo-political locations and weak economies to re-strategize their steps towards repositioning their global relations. As observed by Chrisman (2005), globalization is a unique concept in political analysis, it is the process through which business or other organizations developed international influence. It is a system of interactions among the people, organizations and government of different states.

Globalization entails universalization through which the objects, practices and values transcend geo-political boundaries. It is element of a widespread perception that speeding up of worldwide interconnectedness in all aspects of life driven by international trade and investment through Information and Communication Technology (ICT). As posited by Aina (1996), globalization is part of movement that showcase practical evidence in certain forces that appear to push for increasing integration of human activities that

emphasis more on economy and integration of states' policies with the rest of the world.

Akinbobola (1999) believed that globalization has increase global relationship of culture, people and economic activities of the nations globally. It has brought both positive and negative effects to African culture and its environment generally. However, despite some of its negative impacts, globalization brought improvement in the area of production of sophisticated machineries for industrial uses and greatly improving technologies of the societies in some respects.

According to Abubakar (2001), globalization has brought about great technologies and sophisticated machineries that make life easy for the people. The fact of doing things from the comfort of one's room is trilling and can best be as positive impact of globalization. The pro-globalizers argued that globalization brings education to developing countries thereby exposed them to the best way of doing things at large.

The benefits that globalization brings to developing nations surpasses the negative impacts. Globalization has shown a rather steady and rapid progress in the recent times and has become an international dynamic which, due to technological advancements, has increased in speed and scale of doing things and this has enable developing nations to be fully integrated to new trend and has enable them to engage with another for the benefits of their states.

Understanding National Development Policy

The term national development policy is a comprehensive policy that includes a framework for the implementation of sustainable developmental programme. It is holistic in approach towards the process of reconstructing and developing various dimensions of state and individuals in the country. National development policy includes a designed programme for the full-growth and expansion of industries cum socio-economic base of the state.

As posited by Nwoka and Adiele (2015), national development policy implies a developed programe of action for all-round and balanced development of different aspects and facets of the nation and it is a policy that has to do with general ability of a nation to improve the lives of its citizens. Nabudere (2000) posited that national development policy is a way of planning about overall development or a collective socio-economic, political as well as religious advancement of the state.

It can however be best achieved through development planning and can be described as a strategy mapped out for effective policy implementation. Therefore, national development framework is a process of measuring improvement materially through assessment of general increment in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or social responsibility of the government, such as literacy rates and availability of healthcare services in order to measure the areas of adjustment to the global needs (Nabudere, 2000).

National developmental policy is a policy that focuses on a particular government's idea towards improving the general conditions of the people and their material well being in a sustainable way. The concept called for eradication of poverty and inequality of access to the good things in the society. As observed by Mahmud (2016), the policy embraces process of national advancement where improvement in the wellbeing of the people can be generated through strong partnership of all sectors, corporate bodies and other group members of the state.

Therefore, national development policy is a policy introduced purposively by the government with the objective of achieving socio-economic growth and sustainable development in the state. Onwuka and Iguavoen (2007) observed that national development policy is purposively designed to enhance peoples' welfare. It is a vision document framework that makes provision for the broader national vision and development for national growth. The policy is always designed to identify economic reforms and development strategies towards putting socio-development agenda on the right track.

From these views, it is reasonable to conclude that national development policy process is not only for domestic affairs only, it involves effective collaboration between one country and another towards maximization of the benefits of comparative cost advantage of foreign transactions and to enhance national development policy implementation strategies of the state.

Theoretical Framework

Inter-dependency vs Imperialism Schools of Globalization

There are many theories that explained the globalization and its general implication on national development in recent time. The most common among them are Inter-dependency and Imperialism schools. The two schools shares divergent views about how globalization affects the national development policy implementation across the

globe. According to Scholte (2000), globalization as inter-dependency advocates argued for adequate promotion of bilateral trade among states globally.

Scholte (2000) maintained further that this at long run will facilitates mutual understanding and economic benefits to the participating states. The inter-dependencies between the states can definitely open up the world in to global village thereby reduces the level of social and economic injustice between developed and underdeveloped countries. The school concluded that inter-dependency is the reality of globalization and it constitutes a positive development process in world affairs.

However, the imperialist scholars on the other hand are mainly of the radical side, they believed that globalization is a transformation of capitalist projects that aimed to serve and impoverished underdeveloped nations. The leading scholars of this school include Ake (1995) who was of the opinion that globalization is a capitalist project that was structured to promote underdevelopment of third world countries. Ake (1995) maintained further that this agenda was designed by the European capitalists with the aim of profit making and expansion of multinational corporations' presence in peripheral communities in Asia, Latin America and Africa towards the economic advancement of metropolitan cities in Europe and America. Ake (1995) concluded that the objective of globalization framework proposed by Europe was only for the full attainment of incorporating African economy into capitalist world in order to actualize their post-colonialism agenda.

Evolution of National Development Programme in Nigeria

The first national development plan can be traceable to 1946 when the then colonial government introduced ten year development and welfare programme for Nigeria. According to Mahmud (2016), the 1946 development plan was established by colonial government for a period of ten years for proper actualization. The focus of the plan was for infrastructural development especially on transportation and communication aspect of infrastructure while little provision was made for industrial development in Nigeria.

It was mainly formulated to achieve infrastructural growth that would enhance prompt movement of agricultural products from Nigeria to Europe for industrial use that meant to serve economic interests of colonial power. The post independence national development programmes that took place between 1960 to 1985 were

tagged first; second, third and fourth national development plan programmes. They were established for the articulation of far-reaching effects on the national development aspirations of Nigeria.

According to Mahmud (2016), those plans were more comprehensive than the one proposed during colonialism. The post independence national development policy was so comprehensive in the cause of making. They were conceived and formulated within the framework of improved system of national accounts. They covered operations of both public and private sectors of the economy and more importantly, they had their projects related to a number of well-articulated overall economic targets of the country.

However, series of military coups experienced in 1966, 1975, 1983, 1985 and 1993 including the civil war of 1967-1970 in Nigeria contributed greatly to difficulty encountered in the cause of effective implementation of those programmes in the country. Also, the over reliance on mono-economic policy and post colonial dictates on socio, political and economic policy of Nigeria made it difficult to have a successful national development policy implementation in the post-independence in Nigeria. Although, national development policies were always planned by the government to focus on social and economic development of the country, but either of these policies archived the target objectives before the country returned to democratic rule in 1999. It is however imperative to note that since democratic rule, series of bold socio-economic reforms policies of the government towards putting the country back on a sound economic and political footing for global patronage are yet to yield positive results.

Effects of Globalization on National Development Policy Formulation

Empirically, globalization has impacted positively on development drives of governments across the globe. The transformation and industrialization of Asian Tigers within a shortest period of times can be best regarded as one of the impact of globalization to national development programme of the state. As posited by different scholars, globalization has contributed to nation-building through the following ways:

- i. **Advancement in Information and Communication Technology (ICT):** As posited by Danja (2012), globalization and ICT have thrown up some formidable challenges for national development by reducing the world into global

village. It has provided enormous information through wide range of inter-connectivity that has facilitated an effective interaction in the global world. The development has increased the necessary capacity for new and efficient responses to some issues that may hamper the needed growth and development globally.

- ii. **Economic Value:** The trend of globalization has increased integration of nation's economy with the rest of the world. It has created a more coherent global economy through a global system of productions and distributions of goods and services. As averred by Orunmoluyi (2000), the elimination of trade barriers in the global market through unified integration of global capital and labour consequently led to unhindered exchange of goods and services across the borders, thereby improved the nation's balance of trade with global community.
- iii. **Wealth Creation:** Globalization offers developing countries the opportunities of creating wealth through export led growth to expand international trading in goods and services. The global wealth creation benefit of globalization has assisted the countries to gain more access to new ideas, technologies and institutional designed which in the opinion of Brigs (2007) can effectively improve all aspects of national development with a formidable economic policy.
- iv. **Democratic Governance:** According to Utuk (2015), globalization agenda has underscored the failure of various authoritarian regimes in many part of the world. The manner of rejecting non-democratic regimes globally attested to the fact that globalization has provided a formidable and acceptable system of governance that can promote national development agenda globally.
- v. **Trade and Investment:** Globalization no doubt has increased the volume of trades and investments across the globe. Onwuka and Iguavoen (2007) posited that trades and investments flow has assisted developing countries to grow and develop more in their economy and this has assisted them in generating more income which enable them to increase their stocks of productive capital without compromising their level of consumptions, thereby improved their access to international best practices in terms of managerial, marketing

and technical know-how that can assist their countries towards promotion of a well structured national development policy.

Assesement of the Impact of Globalization on National Development Policy Implementation in Nigeria

The decision of Nigerian government since independence to formulate acceptable policy towards national development has become a major issue in the public domain. As observed by Obadan (2001), globalization benefits would have impacted more on national development policy implementation in Nigeria but unfortunately, the in balance trade relationship with her global partners and polarization in trade benefits has contributed to lesser impacts of globalization towards sustainable development policy implementation in Nigeria.

As advanced further by Morten and Desmond (2014), the position of Nigeria in globalized world can be regarded as unhealthy economic relations with its global partners due to inadequate domestic economy capacity and social infrastructural deficit left behind by the imperialist which failed to complement the nation's productivity capacity and trading competitiveness with the rest of the world.

According to Onwuka and Iguavoen (2007), the positive impact of globalization has eluded Nigeria because of the inability of the government to develop a policy framework towards national development policy implementation in the country. They argued that liberalization of Nigerian economy as dictated by Bretton Wood Institutions established by Europeans to help in rebuilding their shattered postwar economy and to promote international economy cooperation among the countries of the world suggested the adoption of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in 1985 and this policy later compounded economic challenges facing Nigeria.

The policy as advanced by some literature is a form of post-colonial globalization policy that made other sectors of Nigerian economy function under unstable conditions thereby made it difficult for the country to have a sound development policy formulation towards improving its economy. Onwuka and Iguavoen (2007) also maintained that the effect of globalized market dominated by Europeans has frustrated Nigeria efforts to successfully implement a sustainable developmental planning policy and this has retarded its full capacity to develop its local industries technologically and strengthening its productive capacity for external consumption of

her locally made goods.

Danja (2012) was of the opinion that the trend of globalization impacted on the revenue drive of Nigeria especially with the oil boom experienced in early 70s but because of her foreign exposure, the government failed to diversify the gain derived from it to other sectors of economy and effect of this decision manifested against full implementation of sustainable development policy in Nigeria. Although, Mahmud (2016) averred that non implementation of national development policy in Nigeria cannot be solely attributed to the effect of globalization and colonialism experienced in the country.

But rather to level of the inconsistencies of successive leaders to take advantage of globalization benefits in expanding the nation's technological strength for industrialization as witnessed in Asian countries of Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam which are all regarded as the Asian 'Tigers'. Mahmud (2016) maintained that the Asian 'Tigers' successfully represents developing world that have positive stories of how globalization influenced their nations' economic development planned.

Conclusion

This article has examined the extent at which globalization affected effective national development policy implementation in Nigeria. From this work however, it has been observed that globalization is an opportunity for developing nations to develop a policy framework for their sustainable development programmes. The article has been able to establish that globalization would have been more beneficiary to Nigeria when looking at its impacts on communication technology in the day-to-day activities of the people.

But unfortunately, the inability of the government to diversify its economic from mono-economy system that relied on only crude oil exportation has limited the capacity of the country to copy the Asian 'Tigers'. The non dynamic economic system adopted since independence has impeded the nation's economic value extension's tendency at the global market thereby stimulates non effective policy implementation in the country.

As argued by Mahmud (2016), all the likely efforts to achieve proactive development plan policy implementation during colonial regime was targeted to serve the colonial interests and the

post colonial development plans of 1962-1985 in Nigeria recorded no success because of the dictate of the globalized partners towards adoption of Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) in 1985 as alternative strategy of revamping the nation's shattered economy. As observed by AbdulRaheem (2003), globalization impacted negatively not only in Nigeria, but across the Africa states because, it has successfully promoted cultural transmission pattern of developed countries to the Nigerians and the citizens have been culturally colonized and this has led to homogenization of the nation's economy value and has decreased it to a minimal level that cannot influence the government decision towards effective development policy implementation.

It is in the light of utilizing the benefits associated with globalization that this article recommends that the government at the centre should formulate a policy that will assist in embracing all the positive aspect of globalization in its programme especially, those that has to do with technological advancement, economic diversification and human capacity development.

The government also needs to put in place appropriate modalities towards strengthening the nation's democratic institution in order to enhance effective policy process towards determining the extent at which the trend of globalization can be impacted positively on national development plans policy implementation in Nigeria.

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