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RURAL INDUSTRIALIZATION IN NIGERIA: THE JOURNEY SO FAR

By

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Introduction

Rural industrialization has been identified as a potent ingredient for sustainable nation building and this is particularly relevant in Nigeria, given its high unemployment rate and prevailing crisis in its oil sector (Komolafe, Oladokun and Iruobe, 2017). According to Lavanga, Hemalatha and Indumathi (2014), the rural regions of developing economies serve as the stronghold for wealth creation. This observation holds true because a considerable portion of primary activities which form the basis of many other economic activities stem from this segment for most countries. For this reason, rural areas have severally been identified as the lifeline of a sustainable national development, especially in the developing economies. This also indicates the fact that rural development has a pivotal role to play in sustainable national development. But rural development in Nigeria has spanned over 10 decades from pre-independence to the current decade.

However, Nigeria's internal disparity between rural and urban area still remains very high even after several national and regional development efforts (Onokerhoraye, 1978; Udeh, 1989, Olayiwola and Adedoye, 2005 as cited in Akpan, (2012). The realization of a successful rural development has been linked to industrialization and entrepreneurship in literature (Foster and Rosenweig, 2004; Saxena, 2012; Patel and Chavda, 2013). Industrialization has been regarded as a strategic development intervention that could accelerate rural development. It remains the vehicle to improve the quality of life for individuals, families and communities and to sustain a healthy economy and environment (Naude, 2008). Studies have also shown that industrial expansion in the rural areas reduces rural poverty and leads to sustainable livelihoods of villagers which impacts on sustainable national development (Sundar and Sirmivsan, 2009; Sharma, Chaudhary, Bola and Chauhan, 2013).

Rural industrialization according to Komolafe et al (2017) is a dynamic and quintessential concept, and the developmental index of an entire nation. This implies that success with rural industrialization is a yardstick for measuring the wellbeing of an economy. But according to Das (2014), rural industrialization is generally defined as entrepreneurship emerging at village level which can take place in a variety of fields of endeavour such as business, industry, agriculture, and arts as a potent factor for aggregating economic development. This means that establishing industrial and business units in the rural areas in a manner that spurs economic growth for both the rural population in question as well as the urban centres it supplies raw materials is what is referred to as rural industrialization. Sometimes, the term is interchangeably used with rural entrepreneurship.

Perhaps one major problem facing Nigeria today that has little or no attention remains her low industrial base. Indeed, apart from South Africa and Egypt, both of which are outside tropical Africa, the contribution of manufacturing to the economy of Nigeria, places Nigeria far behind the Newly Industrializing Countries (NICs) of the South East Asia. There is the general low level of inter-industry linkages-failure on the part of industries to utilize the products/by-products of other industries, especially in the production process.

Rural industrialization remains a strategy that reduces rural poverty using industrial development from the perspective of rural economy and national economy (Li and Artz, 2009; Muhammed, Adamu and Alege, 2014). It is important to note that the revitalization of the rural economy can be achieved by establishing entrepreneurial ventures in the rural areas. Perhaps one of the major reasons for rural developmental initiatives relates to the egalitarian policy of the Federal government which has sought to achieve a balance in the development of the different sectors of the economy and the various geographical areas of the country. Muoghalu (1992) maintained that rural development has also attracted more attention due to the growing emphasis on self-reliance, especially in the face of dwindling foreign exchange receipts to service the import sector. Nigeria's independence, will mean nothing if we have to depend on external sources to sustain the nation in basic food items and industrial raw materials. There is therefore the compelling need to integrate the rural areas of the country into the mainstream of national development politically, socially and economically and for this mobilization, rural industrialization becomes a potent factor in the circumstance.

There is a crucial need for rural industrialization, particularly in Nigeria because of the unprecedented decline in industrial, manufacturing and agriculture sector. For instance, we have the relocation of Dunlop to Ghana as well as other industries that have not been able to cope with challenges of decline power supply and infrastructural base. Nigeria is left to grapple with the twin problem of unemployment and poverty and attendant social problems magnified by the recent insecurity in some parts of the country as rightly observed by the National Union of Textile Garment and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria (2011). Poverty level remains very high as over 100 million Nigerians are reported to live below the poverty line (Nwabughio, 2016).

Given Nigeria's endowment with vast human and material resources, these developments are obnoxious. The country must therefore compliment growth with employment creation. Komolafe et al (2012), observed that as at 2010, manufacturing contribution to GDP in Nigeria, stood at 4.1 percent while in other middle income countries like India, Singapore and Indonesia, manufacturing's share of GDP is as high as between 30 and 40 percent. In China, manufacturing share of GDP is as high as 80 percent. These figures portend a defect on Nigeria's rural industrialization drive 59 years after independence, whereas the real path to mass job creation and sustainable development is through industrial development and Nigeria must focus on industrial development to propel growth in the agro-allied sector. There is a measured internal disparity between rural and urban areas in terms of quality of living, social opportunities, physical facilities, human development and standard of living and the overall score for rural areas still stands very low in comparison with its urban counterparts.

Rural populations in Nigeria over the years have variously responded to rapid urban expansion and accompanying rural-urban migration. What is today known as Nigeria was historically, dominantly a rural settlement, though, some semblance of city-type settlements existed in parts of the Muslim North and Yoruba. In order to industrialize the rural communities of Nigeria, there is need to harness the untapped potentials inherent in the rural communities. This would help the country resolve existing protracted unemployment and poverty crisis and will further aid the country in achieving self-reliance through usage of high content of local raw materials in all sectors of the economy. It is in view of the above introductory remarks and observations that this chapter on rural industrialization in Nigeria: the journey so far is apt and timely. The study x-rays rural industrialization in perspectives: pre-colonial era, post colonial era, industrialization

from the mid-1980s as well as the challenges of rural industrialization in Nigeria.

2.1 The Pre-colonial Era of Industrialization in Nigeria

The pre-colonial era which is defined by the pre-1900 economy of Nigeria featured considerable craft industries in various clans and kingdoms; modern factory activity was then hardly known (Onyemelukwe, 1978). Prominent among these craft industries that featured in local and inter-regional trade, were artifacts of wood, brass and bronze, leather, hand woven textiles and bags, iron works and fire burnt pottery from local clay. The various zones specialized in different crafts which were closely linked with the available raw materials.

The crafts industrialization has however, declined considerably following the superior competition from modern industrial activities through globalization, particularly manufacturing. Onyemelukwe (1978) notes that Nigeria has embraced the factory type industrialization as the main panacea to her underdevelopment. The coming of the Europeans, especially in the wake of formal trade contact, brought about the first widely organized forms of modern industrialization. Flint (1960) asserted that slave trade yielded priority of place to legitimate trade in industrial raw materials obtainable in this part of West Africa. Considerable finishing operations including printing and publishing, baking and furniture workers also featured from the beginning. Whereas processing was geared towards the rapidly expanding export trade on a relatively large scale, the finishing operations served only to meet domestic demand, which was then relatively small and geographically localized. However, the Nigerian industrial scene changed after the end of the second world War, in at least two respects (Adegbola, 1983).

The traditional demand from Europe for industrial raw materials following the post war reconstruction needs and global resumption of full-scale activity in trade and industry, and the post war economic boom in raw material export and a sharp rise in the general purchasing power and investment potential of indigenous businessmen brought about growth in the number of manufacturing establishments (Ajayi, 2011). The transformation in the Nigerian economy during the post war years was faced with low level of technology and the small size of the available indigenous manpower thus industrial development involved the assembly-type pattern of import substitution.

Full scale industrialization involving the production of basic capital goods could not be embarked upon. This type of industrialization

was alien to the rural communities of Nigeria. The gradual assumption of political decisions during the 1950s enhanced the substitution of capital goods import or raw material imports for consumers goods. Onyemclukwe notes that of the 47 industrial establishments in the country in the pre-1947 period, 21 (44.71 percent) were engaged in processing activities. The remaining 26 (55.3 percent) establishments were engaged in the finishing aspects of manufacturing. Out of the 26, as many as 15 (13.9 percent) establishments were small printing works and bakeries. All these had the bulk of their patronage among the few foreign administrators, missionaries and merchants. This development or pattern of industrialization took a radical departure from the existence of craft industry that featured considerably in the local and inter-regional trade where artifacts of wood, brass and bronze, leather, hand woven textiles and bags and other crafts were differently linked with available raw materials.

3. Industrialization from the Mid-1980s

The post-colonial era was characterized by vigorous import substitution and the beginning of decline for the export-oriented processing of raw materials. The policy of import substitution, which was meant to reduce dependence on foreign trade and save foreign exchange however, led in the direction of assemblage of foreign, produced items rather than manufacturing pursue. The manufacture of agricultural and special industrial machinery and equipment, household apparatus and transport equipment share of the value added was quite low according to Teriba, Edosien and Kayode (1981). This growth in manufacturing however witnessed a period of lull following the political crisis, which culminated in the civil war until the early 1970s. The second National Development plan 1970-74 was part of the reconstruction efforts of government with set objectives to overturn the industrial development capacity of Nigeria. In order to achieve the set objectives, the government laid down priorities and initiated measures to achieve them such as reconstructing damaged industrial capacities, the promotion of expansion of intermediate and capital good industries in order to raise contribution of value added in the manufacturing sector, and the promotion of rapid industrial development etc. The situation continued in this manner to the mid-1980s. From the 1980s the manufacturing sector has witnessed considerable decline. For example, table 1 shows that the percentage share of manufacturing in Nigeria's gross value added decreased from about 17 percent in the early 1980s to 13 percent in 1987 and 10.7 percent in 1993 and 12.1 percent in 1994. The share of manufacturing in the GDP decreased from 9.2 percent in 1981 to 6.8 percent in 1987, 5.5 percent in 1993 and covered around 6.0

percent in the years between 1994 and 2002.

The number of industrial establishments which increased from 4,21 in 1964 to 1,293 in 1975 and 2,360 in 1989, decreased to 1,891 in 1993. According to Schatz (1973) the number of industrial employees which witnessed an increase from 64,965 in 1964 to 93, 270 in 1996 (excluding eastern region) decreased to 27,102 in 1989 but increased to gain to 244, 243 in 1985. Nigeria's manufacturing consists largely of assembly plants with little or no backward linkage in the economy as a result of the bulk of imported inputs. The few industries that have any form of backward linkage are rooted industries such as tin smelting in Jos, timber and ply wood factories at Sapele, and cement factories at Ewekoro and Sagamu. Most industrial activities were linked to industries in foreign countries both the final consumption goods and intermediate products (Nwafor, 1982; Adegbola, 1983). This type of industrialization has no bearing whatsoever with the rural communities which also accounted for why the rural Nigeria were not industrialized.

Table 1: Some aspects of Nigeria's manufacturing, 1981-2002 (at current prices)

Year	% of total value added	% of GDP	Year	% of total value added	% of GDP
1981	17.0	9.2	1992	10.0	4.8
1982	17.3	9.6	1993	10.7	5.5
1983	71.1	10.0	1994	12.1	6.6
1984	14.8	7.8	1995	N/A	6.6
1985	16.4	8.7	1996	N/A	N/A
1986	16.2	8.7	1997	N/A	N/A
1987	13.0	6.8	1998	N/A	5.9
1988	14.3	7.5	1999	N/A	6.0
1989	10.5	5.3	2000	N/A	6.0
1990	10.9	5.5	2001	N/A	6.2
1991	11.9	5.9	2002	N/A	6.0

Source: Federal office of statistics, National Accounts of Nigeria, 1981-1994 CBN-Annual Report and Statement of Account, 2003 as adapted by Ajayi, (2011).

According to Ukwu (1994) the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) was in part adopted in July 1986 to redress the prevailing industrial scenario which apparently pushed capacity

utilization up from 30 percent at the end of 1986, to 36.7 percent by Mid-1987 (MAN, 1983), 40.3 percent in 1990, 42.0 percent in 1991 and 41.8 percent in 1992 but witnessed a decreased to 29.3 percent in 1995 and 32.5 percent in 1996 (Nigeria, 1990). Again, the situation deteriorated for some highly import dependent industries like electrical/electronics, basic metal, iron and steel, and vehicle assembly where capacity utilization has fallen below 10percent (Ajayi, 1998). A survey by the Central Bank of Nigeria of manufacturing industries shows that the capacity utilization rate increased in Lagos area, Enugu and Bauchi zones to 59.1 51.1 and 35.5 percent respectively (CBN, 2003) but declined in Kano and Ibadan zones to 42.6 and 43.0 percent respectively. Some industries now obtain raw materials locally within Nigeria. These indices show that Nigeria remains a major industrial country in the West African sub-region and African South of the Sahara.

4. The Challenges of Rural Industrialization in Nigeria

In order to attain success and the industrialization of rural areas, there is need to examine the series of factors that will likely constitute bottlenecks to its implementation. Banerjee (2011) identified some of those bottlenecks to be government policies (licensing, taxes and tariff) management (in many small firms same individual is responsible for production and management) finance information (lack of information on prices, technology etc), technology and marketing. Figueroa (1999) points out that rural-urban migration is a major factor affecting rural industrialization as it leads to social Exclusion having economic, cultural and political elements which leads to economic exclusion from labour participation and from credit and insurance markets for the rural people.

However, it is not migration alone that hinders, rural industrialization. In Desai (2007) Govinaappa and Geetha (2011), Ibiloye (2013) and Lavanya, Hemalatha and Indumathi (2014) the challenges indentified, especially in developing economies include poor infrastructural facilities, finance, lack of skilled labour, problem of standardization, problem of storage and were housing Empirical studies on the challenges for rural industrialization is sparse in literature, where there are such, they have been based more on case studies (Li and Artz, 2009; Govindappa and Geetha, 2011). In Nigeria, particularly, most existing related studies were carried out on non-rural areas (Ogaboh and Odu, 2013; Ibiloye, 2013; Muhammad et al, 2014). But there is need for empirical studies on rural industrialization in Nigeria (e.g Komolafe et al, 2017) as this will help in envisaging likely problems on industrializing the rural areas and in projecting planning

activities that will encapsulate solutions to these challenges.

According to Komofale et al (2017) so many challenges face rural industrialization in Nigeria, particularly the Ebelle Community in Edo State of Nigeria. The study revealed a catalogue of challenges in the order of their high mean values to include but not limited to inadequate finance as most industrial activities were without high investment in terms of capital especially in the area of study. Other challenges have to do with inadequate supply of equipment, in adequate supply of fertilizer, lack of use of improved seed, lack of mechanization, lack of control of pest and diseases, inadequate knowledge about preservation techniques, lack of storage facilities, lack of manpower training and others.

5. Some consequences of rural industrialization in Nigeria

Consequences of rural industrialization abound in a few rural communities in Nigeria where industrial transformation took place. A typical example is the Igbomina in Kwara State of Nigeria. The industrial transformation that took place in Igbomina should be viewed within the context of the nation's economy and therefore subject to its ups and downs. As a result, the general poor performance and ultimate closure of these industries at the time the nation was witnessing a negative growth was a function of the state of Nigeria's economy.

However, even within the short period of their existence the industrial outfits made so great an impact on the community of location that the socio-political and economic life and outlook of the people never remained the same. As the locations of their industries by the migrants who moved out of their community in Kwara State to Lagos put at over 60% of the entire population in some cases (Ibiloye, 2013) were both Lagos and home based, the consequences on both regions would be considered separately and briefly too. The city of Lagos was the hub of industrial activities in the country attracting as it were, over 40% of all industrial establishments at every given time. Igbomina contributions can only be meaningful within the context of the entire nation's economy. However, one distinct impact of industrialization it would seem was the psychological, rather than physical effect of industrialization on the social status of the Igboma in Lagos society. No longer were the Igbomina regarded as a typical servant race (Olowu, 1990), they had offset the social strata that they could rub shoulders with their former masters. Industrial undertaking in Lagos created job opportunity for the otherwise jobless people in Lagos.

As for the region of Igbomina, the establishment of industries engendered certain economies of location including the concentration of labour force and auxiliary services. It localized the consumer and industrial markets which attracted other industries and services and unleashed a process of circular economic activities (Green, 1971). At Otun-oro, Ido-oro, Ijomu-oro, Buhari and other Igbomina villages where industries were located, a considerable number of industrial workers emerged swelling the dwindling local population. The local market became greatly enriched with non farm produce but also manufactured items brought from distant places in circle of five days market (Ibiloye, 2013). The establishment of industries was a way of prompting high level of development over a much wider area (Auguda, 1991). The generation of employment opportunities in the industrial centres in Igbomina as well as its surrounding regions invariably led to a reduction to a considerable degree incidence of out-migration from the rural areas. Some youths who could not find work in the industrial sector found no need moving to Lagos. Therefore, the daily turn out of new migrants from home land to Lagos in the 1970s dropped from an average of about ten to eight per village and community around Oro axis. The demand for industrial raw materials, the stimulation of food production in Igbomina, and the gradual improvement in social and infrastructural facilities of the home region were some of the positive consequences of industrialization of Igbomina community.

6. Conclusion

It is the conclusion of this study that Nigeria has over the year engaged several industrial policies in order to engender industrialization in the country. It is also apparent from the study that not much attention is focused on rural industrialization in Nigeria given the fact that rural areas have severally been identified as the lifeline for a sustainable national development. Again, the study revealed that industrial activities in the rural community have been hampered by inadequate finance, lack of manpower training, inadequate support of equipment, inadequate supply of fertilize, lack of improved seed, lack of mechanization, inadequate knowledge about preservation techniques etc. Thus, there is need for financial empowerment of rural industrialists. This may be in the form of granting long term loans, grants and subsidies. Focus on encouragement of manpower training could therefore boost training industrial activities in the rural areas. There is also the need for research and development especially to study the peculiarity of rural areas and the challenges they face on industrialization. This will certainly help in devising appropriate strategies to tackling challenges such as lack of use of improved seed,

lack of control of pest and diseases and challenges related to product storage and preservation of produce. Given the potential contribution of rural industrialization to sustainable nation building, it is crucial to pay attention to the challenges inhibiting its success in order to overcome them. For industrialization in Nigeria to succeed, it should be multi-faceted and not an aspect of industrial development.

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