

GLOBALIZATION AND NIGERIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the relationship between globalization and Nigeria's environmental issues. Through literature methodology, it was revealed that globalization is the integration of political, economic and socio-cultural systems of the world economies and the free movement of factors of production from one nation to another. This is made possible through international marketing and trade liberalization. Globalization comes with some attendant advantages; free trade, foreign exchange earnings, employment, GDP growth and improvement of living standard. Others are bilateral and multilateral improvement of relationships among nations etc. The drawbacks of globalization include, Nigeria weak global competitiveness as she depends on primary commodities for exchanges at the global market. Nigeria as heaven for e-waste dumping and environmental challenges. Environmental issues are challenges facing the Nigerian ecological system. These challenges range from pollution, desertification, flowing, warming and ozone depletion. Globalization has given opportunities for multinational companies operating in the oil and gas industry, importers of finished goods, forest processing companies etc to take advantage of the natural resources of our land. While they milk the resources of Nigeria, they expose the community and the environment to a deplorable state. Thus, globalization causes serious environmental pollution, warming, ozone layer depletion and flooding to Nigeria. It is recommended that, the Nigerian government should put policies in place. Environmental protection laws, policies and regulation should be made to control the MNC's strict legislation should be made to ban importation of hazardous e-waste to protect the environment and our natural resources.

Keywords: Globalization, Nigeria, environmental issues

INTRODUCTION

The world is made up of several nations with citizens populated around the world. These nations have relative institutions, corporations and industries providing goods and services for the common good of the citizenry and the development of the nations (Nwenzwa&Waeru, 2016). However, for the provision of value (goods and services) for the national markets, no nation is self-sufficient in addressing the needs and wants of its people. Hence, globalization is like a sovereign political and economic system which manages the world economic and human resources for common humanity in the global village (Nnadi, 2014). Globalization is the integration of the political, economic, technological and social systems of the world economies and the free movement of factors of production from one nation to another (Sandu, 2012; Castells, 2001; Frank, 2002). Thus, globalization is the rapid global interconnection of people from different nations due to trade liberalization. It helps to shrink the world, closing distances and allow the interaction of any person on one part of the world to another found on the other side of the world for international trade or exchanges (Nnadi, 2014; Adesina, 2012).

Integration of the global economy is laudable as nations of the world have relative comparative advantages in the production of goods and services. Nations now benefit from merchandise they can produce and those they cannot through the liberalization of international marketing and trade (Kotler & Keller, 2012; Kotler & Armstrong 2012; Kotler & Armstrong, 2008). Hence, globalization over the last 20-30 years had contributed significantly by the transformation of human activities in the areas of transportation, information and communication technology, healthcare, defence technologies, automobile, home electronics, software development, commodities and primary products (Nnadi, 2014). Thus, no single nation can produce all the evolving goods and services. This crop up global specialization or division of labour which presents opportunities for exchanges on a global market place. While the industrialized nations compete for the production of finished goods, developing nations like Nigeria concentrate on commodities and export of primary products whose world prices are always in volatility making the income of Nigeria unstable (International Forum on Globalization 2009, Nnadi, 2014).

Globalization comes with attendant advantages and limitations. Irrespective of the merits of globalization enumerated above, developing nations like Nigeria lacks global competitiveness strength due to the near absence of the real sector, the country is highly exposed as waste commodities are shipped into the country, including e-waste, making the nation a dumping ground. Again, activities of oil multinational the Niger Delta region and the mining activities in the north calls for environmental concern and its attendant climate change (Ejovi, Sunday & Akpokighe, 2014; Obi, 1999). Hence, environmental issues in Nigeria is a serious challenge to the government and the communities as the economy is open to multinational operations as a result of globalization. Companies doing oil and gas business, manufacturing firms pay lip service to the ecosystem as their activities causes pollution which affects the natural environment and humans (Adesina, 2012; Nnadi, 2014; Ejovi, Sunday & Akpokighe, 2014). Thus, multinational operations in the Niger Delta of Nigeria, affects farm lands and negatively impacts agricultural yields, aquatic lives, human health and sustainability. It is also pertinent to note that, the influence of information and communication technologies such as the telecommunication mass, phones etc, emits electromagnetic radiation to the environment which negatively impacts human lives (Adesina, 2012; Panayotou, 1999; Sunylevin Institute).

Today, there are so many multinational companies operating in different sectors of the Nigerian economy due to globalization and international trade liberalization. The activities of these firms comes with positive and negative consequences. Environmental issues is one of the challenges the nation is battling with; ranging from pollution, desertification, flooding etc. These consequences affects the natural environment and its constituents; aquatic lives, human health, agricultural lands etc (Obi, 1999; Ejovi, Sunday & Akpokighe, 2014; Adesina, 2012). Hence, while the nation enjoy the benefits of globalization such as trade and employment, foreign exchange and GDP growth, expansion of foreign reserve etc. The Nigerian environment should be effectively managed by the joint cooperation of the government and the multinational corporations. The nation should not be a dumping ground for production or product waste, international oil companies should invest in green technologies and reduce gas flaring, furniture production firms should combat desertification by planting trees etc. This will go a long way in controlling negative effect on the Nigerian environment and climate change due to globalization.

The Concept of Globalization

Nations are geographically dispersed with different development views with contrast religions and cultures, differences in ideologies and governance system. Globalization as a process comes in as a world order of closing gaps between nations (Cuterela, 2012). Thus, benefiting the nations

through international marketing liberalization, "globalization is the emerging of an international network, belonging to an economical and social system". It is the integration of the political, economic technological and social systems of the world economies in order to allow the free movement of factors of production from one nation to another (Sandu, 2012; Castells, 2001; Frank, 2002). Hence, it is the process by which the people of the world are integrated into a single world society through international exchanges and trade liberalization (Cuterela, 2012; Castells, 2001).

Globalization can refer to those spatial temporal processes of change, which constitutes the transformation of human concerns in an organization, linking together and expanding human activity across regions and continents. It is the process of shrinking the world and drive the interaction of any individual on one part of the world to someone found on the other side of the world for mutual benefit through transportation, information and communication technologies (Sen, 2022; Cuterela, 2012). Thus, ensuring the integration and interdependence among nations of the world.

Most importantly, no nation of the world is an island. Individual nation is not self sufficient, nations need one another for mutual benefits, bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation in the areas of politics and governance, economy and trade, technology, social and cultural factors etc (Nnadi, 2014; Mwendaw&Waweru, 2016). Hence, globalization exists for the purpose of trade and commerce and is designated as the sovereign political entity of the whole world (Nnadi, 2014). Thus, globalization has different dimensions; economic globalization, political globalization and socio-cultural globalization. Each of these dimensions provides relative benefits and drawbacks in relationship among nations.

Economic Globalization

The construct economic globalization is the mechanisms of increasing economic integration between two or more nation's leading to the emergence of a global market place. This crops up a truly global division of labour which presents market opportunities for specialization due to nations comparative advantages (Nnadi, 2014). Thus, multinational companies produce goods and services in many nations and sell to clients or consumer around the world. Economic globalization is a robust world order that is reshaping the entire world into a global village. This makes the developing nations to depend on the developed or industrialized countries of the world. Nation like Nigeria is struggling to benefit highly from globalization in the form of increased international trade, foreign direct investment and external borrowing (Bieto, Parada&Planellas, 2004). Thus, Nigeria and other developing nations depend on primary commodities for exports which prices are volatile in the world markets, causing fluctuations in the revenue profile of Nigeria (Nnadi, 2014).

Economic globalization has created transformation in human activities through improvement in transportation, information and communication technology which has created a highly integrated global economy with vast potential to produce greater wealth and improved living standard around the world. However, globalization is most beneficial to a small consortium of developed nations or economies. Many sectors today, leading competitors come from around the developed nations. Industries like automobile, home electronics, information technology, telecommunications, medical equipment, software development, pharmaceuticals and defence technologies have the same industry players or competitors from around the industrialized or developed nations (Kienson, 2009; Riley, 2005; Nnadi, 2014). However, the global economic model is driven through institutions such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) including International Investment Agencies (IIA) etc giving global financial advisory and lending services to nations.

Political Globalization

Political globalization is the integration of political and governance systems among the nations of the world by fostering bilateral or multilateral cooperation, creating friendship among nations, recognizing and expecting international law treaties (Bhandari&Heshmanti, 2005). Hence, political globalization helps nations work in mutual cooperation to improve quality of life and achieve world harmony. Political tension is gradually being reduced as the sovereignty of nations are being respected. Political globalization helps nations to replicate best global practices such as corporate governance and ethics of other nations.

Socio-Cultural Globalization

Socio-cultural dimension of globalization is the integration of social and cultures of nations. This is driven by the expansion of communication networks across the globe. The increasing spread and cost reduction in communication has virtually eliminated traditional concept of distance among people domiciled in different nations or geographic locations (Esty&Ivanova, 2004). Hence, through communication and information exchange, people from different cultures have knowledge and understanding of nations relative cultural diversities. Western life style off education and dress code is diffused to Africa through socio-cultural globalization and vice versa (Wofford, 2000; Esty&Ivanova, 2014). Thus, African languages and cultures and western languages and way of life are thought in African and western educational institutions respectively. It is information and communication technology that drives modern day globalization be it economic, political or socio-cultural dimensions.

Nigeria's Environmental Issues

Nigeria is a country located in the sub-saharam African region, the nation is rich in both natural and human resources. As a resource rich country, most multinational organizations operates in the nation to exploit the natural resources due to globalization. Again, because of trade liberalization and the attendant big size of the Nigerian market, most industrialized nations exports finished products to the Nigerian space. These activities have both positive and negative consequences (Adesina, 2012; Obi, 1999; Ejoyi, Sunday &Akpokighe, 2014). Hence, because of the mismanagement of the environmentalresources such as earth minerals, forest resources, aquatic lives etc, the negative issues of the environment such as pollution, desertification, global warming, ozone layer depletion, desertification of farm lands and flooding are what is facing host communities and the nation (Ejovi, Sunday &Akpokighe, 2014).

Today, the Niger Delta region of Nigeria is faced with the issue of pollution and environmental degradation due to oil and gas exploration and exploitation by international oil companies (Ejovi, Sunday &Akpokighe, 2014). Hence, the IOC's and the government generates enough revenue from the region but gives dismal attention to the oil bearing communities and the environment, the activities of the companies have caused pollution which has destroyed aquatic lives, farm land, and the negative influence on human health (Adesina, 2012). Thus, the Niger Delta region has had cases of pollution from pipeline leaks, blow outs, flaring, drilling floods and refinery effluents as well as land alienation and widespread disruption of the ecosystem through the construction of oil field installations. Oil bearing communities in Rivers, Delta, Bayelsa, Akwa-Ibom and Cross River States are most impacted. The exploratory and extractive activities of international oil companies, Shell, Mobil, Agip, Chevron, Texaco, Total etc has significantly affected the environment of the Niger Delta (Otukong, 2002; Osuagwu&Ikerionwu, 2010).

The Nigerian environment is also polluted through the burning of fossil fuels to run industries, gas flaring by the oil companies and the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG), this has contributed

enormous greenhouse gases to the earth's atmosphere. According to the News Magazine of 18th April 2011, the NNPC in its May 2010 report that of the 192 billion standard cubic feet of gas produced during the period over 145 was flared. This impact negatively on the environment. causing global warming and its attendant ozone depletion (Adesina, 2012; Obi, 1999).

Deforestation and cutting of forest resources by multinational companies for the production of furniture for industries and household has overtime destroyed the natural forest, causing desertification. This has made forest resources; plant and animals to extinct due to loss of forest and the depletion of the ozone layer (Otukong, 2002). Hence, deforestation reduces the content of water in the soil and groundwater as well as atmospheric moisture. Deforestation reduces soil cohesion, so that erosion, flooding and landslides occur. This is mostly prevalent in the northern part of Nigeria (Adesina, 2012; Nnadi, 2014; Obi, 1999).

The Nigerian environmental issues also encompass the importation of finished products to the Nigerian markets. The importation of secondary computers, mobile phones, television set, electronics known as e-waste (electronic waste) causes serious environmental problems due to toxicity of materials used in many electronic products. Globalization is driving a massive rise in e-waste in Asia and Africa. It was revealed that not less than 100,000 computers arrive Nigeria Lagos ports every month (Steiner, 2007). Again, a United Kingdom based organization donated 10,000 computers to a non governmental organization in Nigeria, it was a paltry 2,000 of the computers were found to be usable, the remaining 8,000 were defective and ended in dumping sites (PARC, 2009; Steiner, 2007). Hence e-waste constitute a serious environmental threat which hazardous contents always leak into our environment causing toxins into the soil, air and groundwater consequently affecting crops in farmlands, animals and human resulting contamination and pollution (Osuagwu&Ikeroinwu, 2010; Adesina, 2012).

Another major threat to the Nigeria environment due to international marketing liberalization is the importation of generators and used cars to the Nigerian market (Adesina, 2012). Due to dismal supply of electricity in Nigeria by the power holding company of Nigeria, most companies and household make use of generating sets. This constitutes noise and air pollution. The carbon IV oxide emitted to the environment affects the health of human. Nigeria is a dumping ground for used cars, when these cars are dysfunctional, they are found in dumping sites as scrabs, this poses serious environmental issues to the land and human. Notable example are the Aba sites in Abia State and Nnewi in Rivers State.

Globalization and Nigeria's Environmental Issues

Globalization which is the integration of economies of nations and allowing the free movement of factors of production from one region to another comes with attendant positive and negative consequences (Adesina, 2012). Hence, one of the negative consequences of globalization in Nigeria is the environmental challenges and issues. There is a causal connection between globalization and Nigerian's environmental challenges. This is empirically validated by the works of (Adesina, 2012), who studied the negative impact of globalization on Nigeria. It was revealed that globalization crops up environmental challenges in Nigeria such as pollution of the environment of the Niger Delta communities, desertification and destruction of forest resources of the northern Nigeria, drought, flooding and erosion of the earth. Again, it was also discovered that trade liberalization and importation of electronic materials, generating sets and used cars pollutes our environments by releasing toxins to crops, animals and humans (Osuagwu&Ikerionwu, 2010).

Nnadi (2014), in investigating the impact of globalization on corporate entrepreneurship in Nigeria discovered that, pollution and its long neglect of the Niger Delta environment results in the absence of critical human development infrastructure and restiveness in the Niger Delta. This empirical evidence supports the theoretical proposition of globalization and Nigeria's environmental issues and challenges (Adesina, 2012; Nnadi, 2014). However, Obi (1999) investigated the nexus between globalization and environmental conflict in Africa. This study used the interface between global capital and the intensification of environmental conflicts in Nigeria's oil producing states in the Niger Delta region as a case study. It was revealed that environmental conflicts in the Niger Delta results due to pollution and neglect of the oil bearing communities and the environment.

Globalization which opens up opportunities and multinational operators has created serious concern for the Nigerian environment, the activities of Oil multinational companies operating in the Niger Delta region causes pollution which affects farmlands, aquatic lives, human health etc. This is supported with the works of Ejovi, Sunday and Akpokighe (2014), this study examined globalization impacts the environment of the Niger Delta. Thus, behind the economic prospect of globalization lie the challenges of more environmental hazards.

CONCLUSION

Globalization is the integration of the political, economic and socio-cultural system of the world economies and the free movement of factors of production from one nation to another, this foregoing construct has enhanced the development of both developed and developing nations through transaction exchanges. This has helped nations to expand their GDP, employment improvement, foreign exchange earnings, improvement of living standard etc.

Irrespective of the foregoing merits of the globalization debate, developing nations including Nigeria, experiences negatives of globalization. Apart from being less globally competitive as she exports primary products which involves high volatility in pricing, the nation experience serious environmental issues, pollution, desertification, flooding, warming and ozone layer depletion etc. These environmental issues are caused by the activities of oil multinational companies in the Niger Delta companies importing e-waste to the nation, importation of generating sets, companies cultivating forest trees for furniture production etc. Globalization has fueled free trade and economic growth but harms the Nigerian environment by driving more pollution and elimination of natural resources. While the Nigerian nations encourage trade liberalization, she must put policies in place to control the activities of multinationals on environmental protection laws, policies and regulation. Again, the Nigerian government should pass legislation and ban the importation of hazardous e-waste to the nation. Thus, globalization should be guided to protect the Nigerian ecosystem.

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