

THE EFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION ON NIGERIAN YOUTHS AND THE ECONOMY

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ABSTRACT: *The style of information dissemination throughout the world this time has made the word globalization a common process of bringing the whole world together. As it stands now the information of any event at any part of the world gets to Nigeria or any other part of the world in a very short time. Therefore globalization has come to improve the process of communication and advancement in technology. The fast movements of goods and services, economic liberalism, scientific inventions and discoveries have reduced the large world to a global village. Nigeria as a developing country cannot shy away from globalization, since the country has been exposed to both the negative and positive effects of globalization. The objective of this article is to identify the effects of globalization on the Nigerian youths and the economy. It recognized the good opportunities of globalization, and suggests ways of eliminating the negative effects of globalization. The author reviewed existing literatures on the concepts of globalization and development.*

KEYWORDS: Globalization, Youth, Economy, Productivity, Technology, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Since the 1970s, many transformations have happened in Nigeria and the world over. It was during this period that the system international unit (S.I.U), World Geodetic System (WGS72) were introduced as universal system for measurement to mention but a few. Globalization has become an every day talk in scientific studies, seminars, conferences and development research. The idea of globalization captures what could be discussed as the essential character of the age.

Globalization involves economic integration; the transfer of policies across borders; the transmission of knowledge; cultural stability; the reproduction, relations, discourse of power; a global process, a concept; a revolution and an establishment of the global market free from sociopolitical control. It has helped to liberalize national economics by creating a global market place in which all the nations must participate directly. The existence of global markets leads to growing activities and international investments in different countries.

The speed at which the effect of globalization is spreading is fast day-by-day and no nation can afford to be behind if such a nation is to maintain acceptance rate of growth and development. It also observed that the growing impact of two major distinct global trends, which has profound implication on the world economy, are rapid growth of information technology and the increased global trade integration (Dani. 1999). At present, information technology has advanced to a level of rendering distance irrelevant because one can stay in Nigeria and communicate to any part of the world, using telephone or Internet services.

The activities in the global economy for over five years show a challenge in the utilization of the opportunities engineered by globalization, while at the same time managing the problem and tension it poses. As some authors support and identify the opportunities of globalization, others express fear about globalization. It was because of fear anticipated by the people of the world that the world Trade organization held a meeting in December, 1999 at Seattle, U.S.A, which was interrupted by riot (Garry, 1998). The demonstrators feared there could be negative effects of globalization on the people and the economic growth. This article concentrates on the examination of the effects of globalization on the Nigerian Youths and the economy. It identified the positive and negative effects of globalization on the public and Youths in particular.

The Goals of Globalization

Globalization has brought about shrinkage of the world into global village, revolution in information technology, the collapse of boundaries between different worlds, expanding connectivity of all forms of interactions. (Scholte, 1997) suggests that a globalization facilitates the removal of barriers among nations of the world, thereby giving social relation unhindered access. The unique characteristics of globalization often includes increased capital mobility, decline in costs of transportation, computing and communications. Other goal of globalization from the economic perspective according to (Mrak, 2000) includes:

Internationalization of production accompanied by changes in the structure of production.

Expansion of International trade and services,

Widening and deepening of international capital flows.

However, the major goal of globalization is the diffusion of the cultures, commerce and communication of countries of the world in order to bring about homogenization. Globalization reveals the interconnectedness within and across regions of the world due to the growing social, economic, political networks, education, information, and communication technology of different groups of people. It suggests the extent to which the action of one group of people exerts either positive or negative impact on others.

Effects of Science and Technology in Nigeria

Science and technology are two of the most effective forces in human society. The existence of man in the society has conditioned him to think of various attempts to transform the natural world. Man had created devices, tools and equipments through which the threats of the society are subdued and brought under control.

Scientific globalization is the medium through which the science research is universally accessible so that the practices of science now has hardly any geographical boundaries, while technological globalization leads to the creation of uniform technical specification and standards in industries. It leads to operational compatibility of equipments from different manufacturers. Since science and technology are meant to transform and improve the quality of life of people as well as help in providing solutions to many of the problems being encountered in the world, Nigeria is faced with a number of challenges.

Presently, scientific globalization has made academic work easier by providing uniform laboratory equipments in secondary and tertiary institutions. There are also technical

machines and equipment provided for other scientific studies in Engineering, Environmental sciences, technical education, medicine etc.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Information and communication technology (ICT) is playing a key role in globalization and integration. It is emerging as an important catalyst for transformation of business, society and government in the globalizing world. Today ICT forms the backbone of several industries such as airlines, banking and research. It is also an important value-adding component of consumer products such as vehicles, camera, television, mobile telephone etc. It has improved the transfer of information from the sender to the receiver at a minimal cost and time. That is a person in Nigeria can communicate with his friend in United Kingdom with less than one hundred Naira and within two minutes.

The Internet has become a key element in the globalization of society, providing technology without boundaries. The Internet has two basic characteristics. The first is that it has the richest, biggest and wide ranging recourse of information in the entire world; the second is that it enable people to obtain an interactive mechanism to instantly communicate with each other. It provides a transparent window through which global experiences and best practices are shared. It enables knowledge-networking, learning and saves cost. ICT facilitates data information transmission, knowledge acquisition, dissemination and creation of value chain (Jaja, 2010).

With the above merits of ICT, it is an open, free and unregulated device, which brought negative challenges that affects the Youths. It influences and changes people's moral perspective and ethical values. One of the major negative challenges is the exposure of the Youth to Western Culture.

CONCEPTS OF GLOBALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Concepts of Globalization.

Globalization is the term used to describe the growing worldwide integration of the people and countries. It is a process of integrating economic decision-making such as consumption, investment and saving all across the world. This means that part of globalization is a process of creating global market place in which increasingly, all nations are made to participate.

The features that characterize globalization include interconnection of sovereign countries through trade and capital flow; harmonization of the economic rules that govern the interaction or relationship between these sovereign nations; create structures to support and facilitate dependence and interconnection; and creation of a global market place. However, globalization brings about advancement in information technology, harmonization of different cultures and belief and harmonization of the political systems of different countries of the world.

Globalization has led to the intensification of the world social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many Kilometers away and vice versa. The components of globalization include:

Movement of people, goods and services across the world.

Interdependence of economic transaction.

Belief on the efficacy of the market.

Public and private sector development.

The belief on the effectiveness of the market presuppose an adherence to economic fundamentalism, the Washington consensus or a form of dogmatism in the extreme in which there is a strong belief that markets can handle any and everything. More important is the fact that the principles and mission statement of globalization are constantly reviewed and sustained by multinational corporation (MNCs), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (WB), World Trade Organization and the industrialized countries or Europe and North America (Kankwenda, 2004).

Since globalization largely depends on technological efflorescence, massive industrialization and solid infrastructural base to triumph, it automatically means that countries that are lagging behind in development, with micro-economic inconsistency will be enveloped and be manipulated by those that have been developed. This could lead to inequality in the global economy.

Concept of Development

Development is a term that is used to describe quantitative and qualitative growth-taking place in an area or environment. Growth is concerned with the measure of quantitative changes that has taken place over a period of time, which could be negative or positive. The word development has been defined in different ways by different authors.

Development is defined as a process that seeks to reorganize space and society with a view to reducing spatial integration and diffusion of idea (Mabogunje, 1980). Therefore development should aim not only to achieve socio-economic formation of a society but also seek to transform space since space is part of the socio-economic formation.

He further explained that development brings about fundamental change in the life of any society; change which will extend into political, social and economic spheres of human life. Development takes place when infrastructural constructions, which make life meaningful, are brought under focus, and when the human mind has acquired more skills for solving contemporary problems. Development depicts modernization in the way man lives his life, uses his material resources and plans his immediate activities.

(Seers, 1969) defined development as a term that involves economic growth and the conditions of adequacy in food supply, employment, as well as reduction of the gap between the poor in developing rural area and the rich in the urban area. According to (Falodun, et al, 1997), there are economic, political and cultural developments. Economic development is the attainment of ideas of modernization such as the rise in productivity, social and economic equity, improved institution and values. That is, economic development is concerned with the improvement in the quality of life of the people. Political development is the process of evolving an acceptable political behaviour that facilitates the achievement of the national objectives such as a free and democratic society. There is the development of civilized and refined political culture that corresponds with the objectives of each country.

Finally, cultural development involves a process of improving the culture of the society. Since culture is dynamic, it is expected that the culture of the society should reflect the socio-economic requirement of the people from time to time.

EFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION ON THE ECONOMY OF NIGERIA AND THE YOUTHS.

The effect of globalization on the economy of Nigeria

There are positive and negative influences of globalization on the Economy of Nigeria.

The positive influence include:

The opportunities to create wealth through the export-led growth, to expand international trade in goods and services and to gain access to new ideas, technologies and institutions.

Globalization has reduced the barrier existing in international trade. The reduction in those barriers has opened the door for export led growth.

Since globalization entails trade liberalization, it means that there is free and unrestricted movement of trade, finance and investment across the international border. Globalization allows Nigeria to export and import goods, capital and investment without restriction.

Globalization promotes the rapid output growth that will increase national income and as a consequence enhance higher standard of living of developing country like Nigeria.

Globalization has enriched the world economically, scientifically and culturally. This is because; globalization opens the economies to a wide variety of consumption of goods, new technology and knowledge.

Through the ICT, globalization allows the access to ideas on new things and best practices in all area of human endeavour. New designs, production technology, new managerial practices, etc are made available to people, thereby helping them to change their old practices. These may lead to acquisition or imitation of foreign products, technologies and cultural practices.

Globalization creates global market places, which, with the development in communication technology, can be accessed by any person from any location. This opens up a world of opportunities for business and also links them to market.

Globalization encourages research, since through the Internet; one can access websites of different authors, organizations, and companies in different countries of the world.

The negative influences include

The greatest concern about globalization is the ever-increasing gap between the rich and the poor. The observation in this case is that while global wealth has increased, it has become concentrated in the hands of the few privileged individuals and few countries. The distribution of global wealth has never been fair.

There is very high inequality because while some countries such as India, Asia, United kingdom, etc have benefited from their integration into the global economy, most countries in

Africa, more especially Nigeria where income has equally decreased is facing unrest and frustration (Salimono, 1999).

Any adverse global shock in an interdependence world economy affects Nigeria. The propagation mechanism of the oil glut of 1982, 1998 and even 2015 brought decline in the import volume and change in the real price of commodities (oil). Since Nigeria depends heavily on crude oil as the main source of income or foreign exchange earning, her revenue suffers when there is a global shock.

The effect of globalization is the fear of uncertainty and volatility on capital formation and productivity growth with its negative consequence on economic growth. There is economic instability as a result of tax on growth and prosperity (CBN, 2000). This problem of uncertainty is not from within but externally generated and Nigeria has not evolved a good mechanism that can absorb the shocks.

The social effect of globalization is another fear considered, since globalization is associated with instability of output and employment. Thus there could be fear of job security, which can bring industrial conflicts if any attempt is made to disengage employee.

Globalization tends to transmit the cultural pattern of developed countries to the rest of the world. In Nigeria today, our youths imitate the European and American consumption patterns, modes of transport, modes of dressing, method of communication including their music. They are at the verge of neglecting our cultural heritage.

Effects of Globalization on Nigerian Youth

The positive effects of globalization in Nigeria are:

The advancement in technology such as the provision of telecommunication infrastructure, cross border data flow, the Internet, satellite networks and wireless telephone. Computers, mobile telephones, and the Internet have brought about major transformation in world communication.

There is great improvement in transportation of goods by air, land and water.

The major negative effects of globalization through ICT are the exposure of the Youth to negative Western culture.

Most dangerous amongst them are:

Pornography, money laundering, cultism, international terrorism, child abuse and Yahoo.com boys (419). It is extremely difficult for Nigeria with strong Christian and Islamic cultures to tolerate the level of pornographic activities that go on in the Internet.

In many Nigerian Universities, polytechnics, Colleges of Education and urban centers, nudity has become a rich and elegant dressing style. Mode of dressing expressed through the exposure of various parts of the body is now a common occurrence among the Youth. The boys wear what is referred to as 'sagging', whereby trousers is no longer worn around the waist but would be hanging on the buttocks thereby exposing their underwear. Ladies wear clothes that expose their breasts in order to conform to their newfound culture.

The use of abuse of drugs, uses of arms and ammunitions,

Promiscuity, exposure to pornography and various other negative life styles are often a fall out of accessibility to the Internet and cable channels.

The Internet provides the opportunity for the proliferation of cyber crime, which is global phenomenon, and Nigeria Youths is global phenomenon, and Nigeria Youths are not free from these crimes. The perpetrators of this crime, which is often referred to as '419', 'yahoo' or 'Yahoo Plus' are usually the criminal minded Youths and many unemployed Nigerian. Many of these fraudsters patronize cyber Cafés; browsing all night, sending Scan Mails to unsuspecting victims. Their activities are carried out in various dimensions, ranging from soliciting for money, illegal businesses, relationships and marriages. These Yahoo boys have deceived foreign women who are seeking for spouses through the Internet. Some of the dupped foreigners report their ugly experiences to the security agencies who sometimes succeed in apprehending and prosecuting the suspects.

Trafficking in persons, which the international labour Organization (ILO, 2001) describes as the underside of globalization", is one of the greatest human rights challenges of our time. Some of our young girls are Kidnapped or lured into following the perpetrators abroad of no defined destination with the plan to position the girls as sex machine with little remuneration. For instance these trafficked persons, women and girls are placed in brothels, streets corners, tourist establishments and private homes where they are forced to offer sexual activities for money.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

From the discussion so far, it is clear that globalization is a welcome development not minding the problems inherent from it. It has both positive and negative impacts as discussed in this work but should be an irreversible process in Nigeria in accordance with natural laws.

In this article, we have looked at globalization and its effect on Nigeria Youths and the economy. It is unbearable and shame that many Nigeria children cannot speak their dialect or understand any of their cultures. It is also unfair that the girls do not cover their breasts and other private part properly, and this should be condemned. The cyber café crime should also be condemned in its entirety.

The advantages of globalization for Nigeria lie in the capacity for wealth creation through export led growth and the gains of expanded international trade of goods, services, and access to new products. Despite the fact that globalization provided opportunities for development and growth, there are associated serious problem that can be managed using appropriate fiscal policies. The macro-economic instability that had characterized Nigeria Government is as a result of globalization. The falls in price of crude oil, which is the major source of Nigeria revenue, affects the exchange rate of Naira, and as well affects both federal and states budgets.

Recommendations

In this work, the author suggests that globalization is good and should be handled in such a way to improve the life of every inhabitant of global neighbourhood including Nigeria. For globalization to succeed, the inequality between the poor and the rich should be minimized. The global economy should be regulated and should not be dominated by organizations that recognize money as the only way to life. Nigeria government should find the best method to counter the harmful effects of globalization.

Nigeria should not rely solely on what the developed foreign countries are handing down to us, but should consider and encourage local production and industry. The country should be proud of her heritage and way of life, instead of accepting all aspects of Western way of life. She should think of diversification to other sources of revenue, instead of depending on crude oil.

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