

NIGERIA INDUSTRIALIZATION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: THE NEED FOR SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION

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Abstract

Industrialization refers to the mass production of goods in a factory system which involves some degree of mechanized production technology. It is the process by which an economy is transformed from primarily agricultural to one based on the manufacturing of goods. Individual manual labour is often replaced by mechanized mass production and crapesmen are replaced by assembly lines. The important of industrialization in national development cannot be over emphasized. However many factors are militating against industrialization and nation development and these call for increate social work intervention. Social work is an agent of social transformation. It transforms both people and nations. It is a profession that is good at helping people and nation to overcome difficulties and improves the lives of the people and conditions of the nation. Social work is committed to the well being of people and nation. The greatest asset of any nation is its people and their various abilities.

Keywords: Industrialization, problems, national development, social work and interventions.

Introduction

Before the advent of European colonial rule in Nigeria, some levels of technological and industrial development were achieved by a number of Nigerian communities. This was

reflected mainly in the manufacture of tools and implements used for different purposes as well as the production of artistic materials (Falola, 2008; Osuntokun,2000).

Indeed, in contemporary times, the relevance of traditional technology to modern living has been emphasized (Ekpo, 2010). However, in the modern sense of the sophistication of technology and industrialization, respectively defined as the scientific study and use of applied sciences, the application of this to practical tasks of industry and the process of producing goods, especially in factories it was during the colonial period that the process expanded (Davies, 1988). Even then, only scanty attention was paid to technological and industrial development by the colonial authorities in Nigeria and the result was that at independence Nigeria's technological and industrial levels were low compared to the middle income and developed countries of the world (Onimode,2000). However, Nigeria's level of technological and industrial development was similar to what is obtained in many other colonial territories. This was because the colonial powers were generally not committed to high level of technological development of their respective colonies (Ake, 1981:58-59). In the immediate post independence period, therefore, a major challenge that countries like Nigeria had to face was how to promote rapid technological and industrial development for national development (Adamole, 2003).

Level of Technological and Industrial Development During Pre-Independence

At independence, the level of development of technology and industrialization in Nigeria was very low. This was also the case in other areas such as education and health. During the nearly a century of colonial rule in Nigeria, the British paid very little attention

to the development of technology and industrialization and the result was the low level of industrial and technological development before 1960. This attitude was in line with British colonial policy. The philosophy of European colonialism in the 19th and 20th centuries was that African should be kept as a source of cheap raw materials to feed the industries in Europe and to serve as a market for its finished products (Oliver & Atmore, 1996). Embanking on intense technological and industrial development was therefore tantamount to destroying the basis of colonialism itself.

The fact that the British colonial authorities strongly encouraged the cultivation of cash crops easily explains this. The development of technology and industrialization requires conscious effort, a reasonable amount of resources and a clear aim which is to promote scientific study and research, the results of which are used to make machines and other inputs for mass production of goods and to ease the laboriousness with which services are carried out.

There was a tremendous advancement in this area in Europe in the second half of the 18th century and during the 19th century in what has been described as the “industrial revolution”. By the early 20th century, Britain, which blazed the trail in the industrial revolution, had recorded a great leap in its economic development and the resources from the colonies and the markets they provided played a great role in this (Goff, 1998). Britain did not want to disrupt this condition and her desire to maintain the status quo meant little or no attention to the development of technologyzz and industrialization in the colonies which included Nigeria.

However, some attention was paid to scientific research and industrialization during the two world wars when it was difficult to import manufactured products from Europe (Osuntokun, 1979). After the end of World War II in 1945, the British

colonial authorities seriously considered the possibility of establishing an office to coordinate the development of commerce and industries in Nigeria. This led to the establishment of the Department of Commerce and industries in 1946. This office had as one of its major assignments the conduct of research on a small scale and the promotion of industrial development (Kilby,1969). The activities of the Department enhanced the development of technology and industrialization at its inchoate stage in the 1940s.

Further attention was paid to the development of technology and industrialization in the 1950s. In September 1952, a World Bank mission came to Nigeria on the invitation of the British government to conduct a survey on the state of technology in Nigeria and ways of improving it. The mission submitted its report in 1954. It observed that research efforts had not been systematic and recommended that an institute of applied technical research be established (Ekundare,1973). Following this recommendation, the British colonial authorities provided the sum of \$2660,000 which was used to established the Institute of Applied Technical Research in 1956. This Institute, which later became the Federal Institute of Industrial Research, was responsible for coordinating research into new methods of production throughout Nigeria from when it was established. It continued to carry out basically the same function under its new name after independence. It carried out research in many areas, but the most prominent ones were the use of wide fibers for the making of sack, the use of local dyestuff for textile manufacture and the mechanization of the production of gari (Kilby,1969). Some of the research efforts had actually commenced before the establishment of the Institute of Applied Technical Research. But it continued from where they were inherited and struggled to ensure that they were completed so that the results could be put to good use.

The application of the modest achievement recorded by the institute of Applied Technical Research and the few breakthroughs made before its establishment which included the results of the research efforts of the West Africa Institute of Oil-Palm Research constituted the level of technological development of Nigeria before independence (Ekundare, 1973). There was of course, local technology which continued to feature prominently in the production techniques of Nigerians. However, in most instances this was rudimentary. In fact, the research efforts of the post-World War II period were basically aimed at improving on the indigenous technology which was regarded as laborious and unsophisticated.

A similar trend was recorded in the area of industrial development. The post World War II attention to the production of some goods in Nigeria, especially those items in which raw materials were available, resulted in the establishment of many new factories in the 1950s. This received a boost from 1955 onwards following the introduction of the Lyttleton Constitution in 1954, which transferred the responsibility for industrial development to the regional governments. The Nigeria leaders who assumed responsibility for administering the regions saw industrial development as a way of stimulating economic development. They therefore put in place policies and incentives to encourage investors. Some of these included the provision of finance in form of loans to assist private entrepreneurs. This was important since lack of capital was one of the major problems faced by industrialists, especially the indigenous ones during the period. It was in accordance with this objective that the Federal Government established the Federal Loans Board in 1956. In addition to this, the government at the center established the Investment Company of Nigeria in 1959 with the assistance of the Commonwealth Development Finance Company. The main objective of the Investment Company was to provide finance and technical assistance to companies

engaged in manufacturing agriculture and mineral exploitation (Arikawe, 1987).

In addition to the provision of assistance to entrepreneurs, the government at various levels was involved in direct investments in industrial production as well. In 1959, the government of Eastern Region formed the Industrial and Agricultural Company to promote manufacturing and agricultural production. The Northern Nigerian Government established the Northern Nigeria Investments Limited which carried out a similar function with the Eastern Region's Industrial and Agricultural Company. Long before this time the government of Western Nigeria had established the Western Region Development Corporation which had been involved in industrial manufacture since 1954 (Arikawe,1987). Apart from this, the Western Region embarked on the development of infrastructure on a large scale which was aimed at providing a boost to industrial production. All the efforts greatly stimulated industrial development in Nigeria between 1954 and 1960. Indeed, it can be said that the little autonomy which was provided by the 1954 Constitution was exploited by Nigeria leaders to give a leap to the country's industrial development (Onyemekukwe, 1982).

Industrialization in Nigeria at Independence

At independence in 1960, Nigeria had a total of 389 industrial establishments (Onyemelukwe,1982). Many of these were engaged in the production of soap, cement tobacco, textile and brewing. At this time, the country's population was estimated at about 50 million. Products from these factories were grossly inadequate to meet the needs of the teeming population. The result was that Nigeria continued to import much of the manufactured products it needed. This was the state of industrialization in Nigeria at independence. Taken along with the state of the development of technology described earlier, it can be concluded that the level of

industrial and technological development of Nigeria at independence was very low.

Industrialization after Independence and National Development

As soon as independence was over, the government of Nigeria embarked on import substitution as an industrial strategy in order to reverse the problem of deficit balance of trade and fasten industrialization among other reasons. Right from the first national development plan (1962 – 1968) to the fourth national development plan (1981–1985) rapid industrialization received priority in Nigeria's development objectives. The government sector for instance, the allocation of 16.2 percent of the budget plan to the manufacturing sector during the third national development plan (1975 – 1980) was the highest. The industrial policies and strategies of development were adoption of import substitution strategy, expansion of indigenous equity participation in foreign owned enterprises, provision of integration, linkages and diversification of industrial increased domestic resources content of industrial product and provision of financial and manpower resources to promote research and adoption of technology to encourage the small and medium scale industries and public sector participation and control of some large industrial products such as iron (Okafor, 2005). To withstand the rising problems of the sector and economy in general, Nigeria embarked on Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in 1986 on the assumption that Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) would correct these problems. It has important implication on both the government and industry. It brought government re-appraisal of the regulatory environment, the structure of protection for local industries and the package of incentives available. For the private sector and industrialist in particular, SAP presented a new challenge which resulted in a more serious effort to control costs, increase production efficiency and remain competitive.

In the spirit of SAP, the Second Tier Foreign Exchange Market (SFEM) was introduced in 1987 to allow market forces determine the foreign exchange rate, remove price distortions and thereby effect a more efficient allocation of resources (Ekpo: 2010). Because of inability of the existing policies to live up to expectation, government therefore in 1988 adopted a new approach to industrial development, which gave prominence to the role of the private sector. To give effect to this management approach, government, in August 1988, established the National Committee on Industrial Development (NCID). The Strategic Management of Industrial Development (SMID) or Industrial Master Plan (IMP) is predicated on the need to organize a network of sectors (referred to as strategic consultative groups) on industrial activities with the aim of having a comprehensive and perception view of the investment problems in particular line of industrial activity. The (IMP) seeks to minimize the problems of policy and programme consistency in the development of the nations industries (Szirmai, 2008). A number of fiscal and monetary policies together with institutional reform measures have been undertaken by the Nigerian government. With these measures, it is envisioned that Nigeria will be transformed into a major industrialized nation and an economic power.

The Rationale/Reasons for Increased Industrial Output

Most developing countries see increased industrial output as a central objective of their economic policy, they see it as integral part of development and structural change. The government has always accorded it as an important pace in its various development plans to ensure an increased level of self-reliance in supply of industrial product.

The following are the reasons for increased industrial output (Adebayo, 2004):

1. **To Alleviate Poverty/Standard of Living:** With increase industrial outputs the standard of living of the people will increase or improve as a result of increase in goods and services, basic amenities and income capital.
2. **To Reduce Unemployment Rate:** Increased industrial output will reduce number of people unemployed in the country when more people are employed in the industries.
3. **To Increase Export/Import Substitution:** With increased industrial output of the country more goods will be exported to another country leading to favourable balance of payment and also reducing the heavy dependency on imported material/goods. And also there will be an increase in output, that is, GDP.
4. **To Reduce Dualistic Economy:** With increased industrial output most of the less developing countries of the world will be developed, that is, bringing the gap between developed countries and developing countries (the rich and poor).
5. **To Achieve Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals) :** The sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) otherwise known as the Global Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty; protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

Problems of Industrial Development in Nigeria

It has been shown that low industrial output has helped substantially in reshaping the economic structure of Nigeria. One may then ask: what are responsible problems for this slow rate of industrial development? The problems militating against rapid industrial growth are discussed as follows:

- (a) **Lack of Capital/Finance:** In almost all discourse of the problems of industries whether by their owners or those

interested in their wellbeing, their financial problems have tended to overshadow others which they also encounter in their daily struggle for survival. The major source of financing industries the world over is the owners' capital. In Nigeria as in many developing countries, this problems is accentuated the unwillingness of sole proprietors to allow the participation of outsiders in what is usually a personal/a family venture.

According to Okeke (1991) an industry in Nigeria are afflicted with difficulties with over abundance of problem and among them is lack of capital and over reliance on market serve. Besides the fact that financial constraint presents all small scale industries from producing less competitive with his large scale counterpart, it also limits his ability to engage in aggressive selling technologies.

Oshhunbiyi (1989,52) was in a total agreement with the above observation, he describe finance as a major problem confronting industrialist at various stages of their business, he went further to state that "whether for the establishment of new, industries or to carry out expansion plans, the inability to attract financial credit has hindered the growth of this sub-sector".

Owualah (1992) observed that financial problems of industries arise from multifarious sources which broadly can be classified as endogenous and exogenous. The endogenous problems include those due to under capitalization poor accounting and record keeping management incompetence and financial indiscipline. The origin of exogenous financial problem is partly due to the behavior of institutional leaders and the capital and partly, to past policy biases against them.

Finally, it is also important to state that because of our depressed economy and our debt problems, industrialist are finding it difficult to obtain enough trade credit or

source capital abroad to enable them, expand their operations. It is also difficult to attract direct foreign investment capital or obtain multilateral and due to high rate of inflation prevailing in the economy.

- b. **Lack of Technical Know How:** The technological knowhow and shortage of managerial man power is another problem facing the Nigeria industries. According to Babinton (2015) it is rare for the entrepreneur to have strong managerial and technical expert. Many industrial entrepreneurs engage in industries where they do not have appreciable technological background or experience. He went further to say that the size of such industrial units, technical advice and advisory department are normally non-existent hence there is lack of technical advice on operational problems in the workshop, development work on issues relating to efficient utilization of labour, equipment and also proper use of raw materials, improved product design, technical training for staffs and know-how to resolve problems of high production cost and poor quality of products.

Finally, Akinkugbe (1988) state that the lack of efficient organizational structure and practice of modern management techniques in industries could be attributed to the lack of understanding of modern management practices certain owner manages coupled with their strong desire to run and invariable rain their industries alone.

- c. **Weak Raw Material Based:** This is another problem of Nigerian industries. Due to poor state of its agricultural sector there has been lower weak production of raw materials these resulted to excessive reliance on the external sector or capital equipment and raw material. That is Nigerian industries have been dependent on imported raw materials and capital

goods. Most of the beverage industries cosmetics, cement rubber, (plastic producers), and some other food industries depends on imported raw materials for their production.

- d. **Inadequate Basic Infrastructural Facilities:** Infrastructural facilities like road network, railway, river transportation, railways, water facilities, irrigation machinery and equipment hampered industrial development in Nigeria. It has resulted to closing of the existing industries while new ones are not coming. Also inconsistent/epileptic power supply had contributed to diesel engines to run their industries which will result to high cost of production.

Other problems include:

- e. **Institutional and Administrative Bottleneck:**

These include various polices government put in place like excessive tax and these really decreased or reduced the coming of foreign industries in the country and folded the existing ones.

- f. **Militancy**

This is one of the major problem against industries development of Nigerian Delta/region, these militants has vandalized pipe line given or supplying gas to these industries, kidnapping of their workers thereby requesting a lot of money from these industries in that region.

Government Incentives/Policy Measures to the Industrial Sectors

Government has since independence in 1968 made conscious efforts to reduce dependence on foreign manufacturers through supportive program aimed at making the local manufacturers meet local demand along the line of import substitution. In order to achieve the above objective, the Nigerian government has drafted for the country an industrial policy document to guide its

achievement. According to the Bureau of Public Enterprise (2005), industrial policy can be defined as a systematic government involvement through specifically designed policies in industrial affairs, arising from the adequacy of macroeconomic policies in regulating the growth of the industry. It went further to say that the instrument of industrial policy include; subsidies, tax incentives, export promotion, government procurement and import restrictions. Others include direct investment which formed the pivot of industrial policy from 1970s to 1980s. Foreign exchange rate policy, monetary policy and trade policy also help to shape investment decision. The industrial policies of Nigeria intend to achieve the following objectives.

- To generate and raise the production
- Increase export of locally manufactured goods
- Create a wider geographical dispersal of industries
- To improve the technological skill and capabilities available in the country
- To increase local content of industrial output by looking inwards for the basic and intermediate inputs.
- To affect foreign direct investment

To achieve the above, the Nigerian government has put in place some policy measures or policies and these policy measures are in the forms of funding industrial development, incentives to industry and institutional frame work. The Nigerian economy has performed far below expectation since independence in 1960. The high hopes that were raised were quickly dashed in the course of the first decade of independence and the economy entered a deep recession in the 1980s. For instance, Nigeria's per capita GNP stood at between 1000 USD and 1,100 USD between 1975 and 1980. This dropped to just about USD 400 in the early 1980s and even less sometimes during the 1990s (Obadina, 1999). A measure of improvement was recorded in Nigeria's economic fortunes from 2000-

2010, and per capital GNP did reach \$1,400 in 2009, but the overall performance could be described as low in comparative terms at the end of the first decade of the 21st century (Saba,2016).

The low level of the development of technology and industrialization has contributed a great deal to Nigeria's poor economic performance since independence. The economy is dominated by the exportation of crude petroleum which accounts for over 90 percent of export earnings. As the government seemed, for the most part content with collection of rent from oil companies, the economy has not been diversified unstill recent emphasis on agriculture. This has limited economic opportunities and overall economic performance has been affected by the vagaries of international oil prices. This was the case in the early 1980s, from 1998-1999 and 2008-2009 and event this present time. Reliance on a single primary export product as a result of low level of technological and industrial capacity has also limited the opportunities for regional economic integration. There have simple been few items that Nigeria has been able to export to neighboring states and as a regional power from which much is expected, this deficiency has contributed to the low level of international trade in West Africa (Aworawo, 2016). Nigeria's low technological and industrial development has therefore contributed a great deal to the country's economic crisis in the last five decades and even to the present. Thus, the need for social work intervention cannot be over emphasized.

Social Work Intervention

Social work is a profession and it is a profession that is good at helping people and nations overcome difficulties and improve their lives and conditions of the nation. Social work is an agent of social transformation. Social works is committed to the well being of people. Social work is an applied discipline. The major challenge

confronting social work is how to apply professional knowledge and planned skilled intervention to the various problem situations in order to promote industrialization and national development in Nigeria. Social work is an aspect of social welfare and it is a professional practice. . According to Pincus and Minchan (1973) social work is designed to accomplish the following purposes:

- a. To enhance the problem solving and coping capacities of people
- b. To link people with systems that provide them with resources, services and opportunities
- c. To promote the effective and human operation of these systems and
- d. To contribute to the development and improvement of social policy.

In Nigeria with problems of industrialization and national development coupled with recession, there is a compelling need for increase social work participation in dealing with the effects of social change. Social work from remedial perspective emphasizes services and programmes aimed at helping individuals, groups, and communities to tackle individuals' social problems resulting from social change. Social work can also be seen in developmental terms as a comprehensive method of inducing attitudinal and social-structural changes instead of adjusting to and reinforcing the social order. It is a strategy in which social work participates with other related fields in the promotion of necessary change in systems and people in order to aid national development.

Social work utilizes a holistic rather than a fragmented approach to the problems of industrialization and national development. According to mere (1987) in dealing with the problems of beggars and handicapped, efforts are made to get policy makers to bring about an interdisciplinary approach to the problems which is located within the larger framework of Nigeria's socio-history

and the prevailing modes of production, distribution, exchange and consumption in today's Nigeria. Social work helps people, communities and nations to develop both awareness of their realities and capacity to initiate plans for developing their communities and nations.

In social work practice, there exists a number of strategies and methods of intervention which according to Ekpe and Mamah (1997) include.

Social case work, Social Group Work, Community Organization, Social Work Research, Policy Analysis and Social Work Administration.

Social Case Work: The most simple definition of case work is an individualized way of assisting people when they are experiencing some break down and cannot function unaided. It is given by individualizing the clients by taking into full consideration their thoughts, feelings, physical, social as well as emotional needs.

Social Group Work: Social Group Work can be defined as a process of assisting individuals in groups in their relationship with one another and assisting groups themselves to function more effectively, embraces therapeutic, educational and recreational process emphasizing character building, personality development and social adjustment. The role of a social group worker is that of an enabler; for the enables various groups to function in such a way that both group interaction and programmed activities contribute to the growth of the individual and the achievement of desirable goals.

Community Organization: Community Organization is the term also refers to as community development in developing countries like Nigeria with a goal of creating community competence community development is a process. It involves first and foremost an understanding of the basic

social and economic problems of the community. It is a process of social and economic action for solving community problems. It combines the efforts and resources from governmental and non governmental agencies for effective and purposive change. Community development as an area of specialization in social work involves the social worker in the roles of change agent, enabler, facilitators, catalyst, instigator etc. The social worker therefore uses various methods of intervention to help the community people to engage in planned collective action in order to deal with the social problems within a democratic system of values. Programmes aimed at transferring environmental conditions and social institutions are carried out. The process involves engaging the people in planning, organization identifying problem areas, diagnosing causes, formulating solutions on one hand and on the other hand developing strategies and mobilizing resources necessary for action

Social Work Research: Social work research is like every other research in social sciences. It is the use of systematic methods to evaluate ideas or to discover new knowledge. It means an organized, scientific investigation for development and production. Social work research is the systematic application of empirical methods in social work practice for specifying those workers' interventions which cause change in the clients. The activities of the social work research are aimed at advancing knowledge about the profession of social work and enhancing practice. As researchers, social workers consider as their constituency everything about social work profession that will aid in technological and national development.

Policy Analysis: Policies are guiding principles or courses of action adopted and pursued by societies and their governments, as well as by various groups of units within societies. Social policies are man designed principles and courses of action which interact with natural forces and chance

events in shaping the overall quality of life in a society, the circumstances of living of individuals and groups in the society and the nature of intra-societal relationships among individuals, groups, and society as a whole. Social workers assist lawmakers to know the areas of need in the community. They suggest the kinds of policy needed to respond to the identified needs of the population. They analyze existing policies to determine their continued relevance to people's needs and the alternative policies where indicated by their study of the social conditions and needs.

Social Work Administration: The social worker who specializes in social work administration assumes the responsibility of planning, organizing, leading and controlling to maintain a social work institution in operation. There are many and different institutions that serve the needs of different social work clientele and these range from child welfare, agencies, rehabilitation centres, approved schools, remand homes, family welfare agencies, youth development agencies to homes for the elderly. These agencies have different missions in the interest of the clients and the society as a whole. It is the duty of the social workers who administer these agencies to see that in each situation the mission of these agencies are fulfilled.

Thus, the need for increase social work intervention is necessary for successful industrialization and national development. Development should be seen as an overall wellbeing of people including economic, political, cultural, and moral aspects. The view here is that industrialization and national development should be seen as the process of emancipation of man from poverty, fear, exploitation, dirty environment, dependence on foreign culture etc. The welfare of human being is important in the light of industrialization and national development and the important of increase social work intervention cannot be over emphasized.

Conclusion

Industrialization is a vital part of national development. Industrialization is not without limiting factors and these also affect national development. Any nation that fails to develop and utilize adequately human resources in her industrialization and national development will not only be backward in terms of advancement but will surely be condemned to perpetual poverty. Thus, the need for increase social work intervention in solving the problem of the individuals, groups, communities and nations. The central and distinguishing characteristics of social work profession is its capacity for providing the means and the opportunities by which persons can work, find alternative for, contend with or in otherwise autonomous ways deal with conditions (internal, interpersonal, societal or environmental) which interfere with their productive social living.

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