
IMPACT OF DEPENDENT CHARACTER OF NIGERIAN STATES ON DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

The paper discusses the nature of Nigerian state: the dependent character of Nigerian state on the developed countries. This dependent posture of the Nigerian state has placed great limitations to her development. The findings show that through three vital areas of economic dependence, namely, through foreign trade, provision of capital and transfer of technology; Nigerian economy has been underdeveloped. To break this ugly trend, the paper recommends a total break from the international finance capitalist states and encourages indigenous production of her economic resources. The paper concludes that Nigeria can only develop if her economic linkages with develop countries are at lowest ebb.

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“Africa is constantly berated for its poor policies and bad economic ideas, though most of the mischief has come from outside, in the 1960s the fad was “development planning”. In the 1970s, this gave way to “basic needs”. In the 1980s “basic needs” was supplanted by “structural adjustment”...the focus in the 1990s has shifted to “good governance”... donors now berate African governments for their “lack of ownership of reform dictated by the IMF and World Bank” (Jeffery Sacs, 1996). (Quoted in Uche O. Nnadozie, 2004: 13)”.

Development as a concept is being fought at two levels in Nigeria. Firstly, the forces and domination of the international capital played a significant role on her underdevelopment. Secondly, internally, the character of the “socio-economic and political formation” of Nigerian society as greatly hindered its development.

In order to come out of her underdevelopment, Nigerian government has adopted several development plans. This is perceived as a strategy for development. Development planning is also considered as the best means of bringing about development to the country.

Under this strategy, Nigeria has gone through many development plans. However, “maxis perspectives agreed that development planning in Nigeria has performed bellows expectation”. And this is the position of this paper. This paper present with facts and figures the external constraints to the development and development planning in Nigeria and hence provided away forward for subsequent development and development planning to meet development goals.

What is Development?

It may not be an overstatement to state that the term development is perhaps one of the most controversial and topical concepts among scholars. It is a common goal of every country, people and community. Consequently, the concept has attracted the attention of and comments from academic politicians of and bureaucrats. It is therefore not surprising to observe an avalanche of definitions on the subject in the literature (Uche, 2004: 22).

Nnoli (1981), for instance sees development as “a dialectical phenomenon in which the individual and society interact with their physical, biological and inter-human environment transforming them for their own betterment and that of humanity at large and being transferred in the process. The lessons learned and experience acquired in this process are passed to future generation enabling them to improve their capacities to make further valuable change in their inter-human relation and their ability to transform nation”.

The contentions of Nnoli is that development is associated with change in man and his creation ~~Impact of Dependent Character of Nigerian~~ development is human oriented and human generated. In other word it is a continuous improvement in the capacity of the individual and society to control and manipulate the forces of nature. A continuous improvement that probably has no end.

Todaro (1977), sees development as a multidimensional process Involving major changes in social structures, popular attitudes and National institutional institution as well as the acceleration of Economic growth, the reduction of inequality and eradication of Absolute poverty.

Seers (1969, premised is perceptions and meaning of development on three basic interrogation thus, according to him the question to ask about a country development are :-

What has been happening to poverty?

What has been happening to unemployment?

What has been happening to inequality?

If all these have declined then beyond doubt this has been a period of development for the country concerned. If one or two of these central problems have been getting worst, especially if all three have, it would be strange to call that result development even if per capital income doubled”.

Goulet conceptualized development as a sustained elevation of an entire society and social system towards a “better” and “more human” life. The advanced three “core” values of development. The first according to him his life substance, which is ability to provide basic necessities basically, people have certain fundamental needs without which life would be meaningless. These including food, shelter, health and protection. Goulet contend that, where any of these is absent or critically short supply, state of absolute underdevelopment exists. The second core value of development is “self-esteem”.

This connotes a sense of worth and self respect of not being used as a tool by others for their own ends. Goulet regretted that with the globalization of western value many societies in the developing countries, which previously may have possessed a profound sense of worth suffer from serious cultural confusion when they come contact in the economically and technologically advanced countries. The third universal value of development is the concept of freedom, freedom from servitude of men to nature, ignorance, other men, misery, institution and dogmatic beliefs. This is correctly observe by Ujo (1990: 5-7), that “when a society is free from superstitious beliefs, it would have more choices available to it”.

Rodney (1971), categorized development into three; the individual social and economic, at the ~~individual level~~ *Academic Excellence*. Development implies increased skills and capacity, greater freedom, creativity and self discipline, responsibility and material well-being. In terms of social groups, the concept is expressive increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relations. The tools with which people work and the manner in which they organize their labour are important indices of social development. As a regards economic development, a society is said to be developed economically when its members increase jointly their capacity for dealing with the environment. The substance of Rodney’s (1972) conceptualization of development hinges on the individual’s category from which his social and economic variant can be practically derived. The point being made here is that development at the individual level subsumes the other two categories because when individual are developed a society is developed. Baster (1972) assumed that development is a dialectical phenomenon, which far from being static, is dynamic and therefore assumes a continuous transformation process and a movement towards better and improved condition locally and in relation to the international economic order.

Rodney (1972) further said that development is to: Increase jointly their capacity for the dealing with the environment. This capacity for dealing with the environment is dependent on the Extent to which they understand the law of nature (science) on the Extent they put that understanding into the practice by devising Tools (technology), and on the manner which work is organized.

In the context of development at the individual level, Oni and Bellow (1987) have outlined some variables in dedicator of positive change in the quality and span of life of people, to which they referred to as development. These variables are as follows:-

- a) Ability to feed, cloths and shelter our self resulting from more income from one’s occupation and from provision of infrastructure facilities like roads, water, electricity telecommunications and improvement in other factors of production.
- b) Ability to live much longer life as a result of provision of health and medical facilities, prevention of diseases through better sanitation and other preventive measures.
- c) Ability to read, write and understand facts surrounding us through provision of normal and informal education.
- d) Ability to participate meaningful in political activities and in policy making at governmental level.

From the foregoing, analysis or the meaning of development, it is Important to note the question posed by seers. If the question, posed by him is anything to go by, then it is fear to admit that Nigeria is not on her path to development. For instance, there is still absolute poverty among the majority of rural urban population, unemployment is increasing at alarming rate the gape between the rich and the poor has continue to widen as a result of inequality in the distribution of natural resources. Furthermore, in Nigeria today, there is still absolute food, shelter and cloths in security (shortages) among the urban and royal poor; Nigeria does not command the respect among the committee of nations. She has remained inferior to western nation as her relation with west remained master Servant relationship (Onah, 2003).

To grapple with the topic well, we now proceed to discuss development planning and its role to *Impact of Dependent Character of Nigerian... Overall development of Nigeria.*

Development Planning and its Role in the Overall Development of Nigeria

The question to be answered these juncture are: can development plan strategy engender development for Nigeria? What are the relation ales to development plans? What are the constraints to development planning and how can we have development plan, that world engender development for Nigeria?

Development planning according to Nnadozie (2004: 31) is ... a complicated deliberates and continuous process by which the government through civil service accelerates and coordinates the creative energy of the people in the control, manipulation and exploitation of their physical environment as well as themselves and others in order to live a better and more rewarding life, through the formation and execution of state policies and programs. The purpose of development plans is eliminate poverty and redirect the objectives of the state to the particular direction. Development plan therefore gives focus and direction to the government on the type of programmes to be embarked upon to accelerate the development of individual and the state as a whole.

Development planning in socialist state for instance is basically different from those of the capitalist countries. For instance, in socialist economics, development planning is much more detailed, comprehensive and highly centralized administrative process of resource allocation, and control. Here, plans are based on needs of people and the government attempts to match their needs to the available resources of the state.

On the other hand, planning in capitalist economics is neither detailed nor comprehensive and has no common framework. Also, in the socialist, economics plans are made mandatory and always accompanies by sanction and reward, unlike the situation in capitalist countries, furthermore, in contrast with capitalist and neo-colonial economics, where private motive or profit motive and price are the prime movers in planning, these issues play minor roles in the planning process in socialist states.

Nnadozie (opicit) also observed that one cardinal difference between development planning in the socialist and capitalist states is the philosophy behind the exercise ... while the exercise is public oriented in the socialist state, the essence and objectives in the capitalist state are private accumulation of capital and individual group profit making. That is to say, while planning in the socialist countries is directed towards the advancement of common good and expansion of the productive forces in the society, the preoccupation in the capitalist and neo-colonial states is essentially geared towards the expansion of private capital and maximization of profit. This is the case in spite of the fact that planning in the letters of focused on the public sector which only exists to serve and protect the private sector and which, in any case is dominant.

Despite the differences in the conception and practice of development planning in socialist and capitalist economics, the role of development planning cannot be overemphasized. In other words, development planning is very crucial to any economy. Among the roles which development planning plays in an economy include the following:-

- a) Development planning enables policy maker to make choices among competing demands and needs.
- b) It help in forecasting and in projecting the future
- c) Development planning also enhances the prudence use of resources. Indeed development planning enables policy makers to prudently plan the allocation and use of resources to satisfy selected priorities.

How the Dependent Character of Nigerian State Affected Development and Development Planning

There are three major areas where the dependent character of the Nigerian state is anchored and bad contributed to the perpetual underdevelopment. These areas include, in the field of technology, in the areas of foreign trade, and in the sphere of “aid” or “assistance” (C. Ake, 1981: 105-110, Y. Povov, 1984: Ch4; and A.O. Adubifa, 1982). Without going into details of these areas, it may only suffice to outline their basic features as shown bellow in table 1 and 2. In the field of technology, for instance, the critical point that must be borne in mind is not so much the problem of technological dependence of Nigeria on the industrialized capitalist countries as the complete dependence of the country as a whole on these western powers. This situation makes any attempts at any break through impossible every manufacturing factory and firm in the country is basically tied to the technological apron, hardware and production in one industrialized capitalist country or the other.

The ultimate goal of the global capitalist system is to convert undeveloped countries such as Nigeria into an adjunct of gigantic assembly lines of international capitalist production. Thus, technological dependence is not just a special occurrence, but both a system and the consequence of the general dependent of Nigeria on the advanced capitalist states. This is vicious circle in which lack of technology create exploitation and underdevelopment and hence further dependence (see table 2).

Table 1: Some Basic Indices of Nigeria’s Economic Dependence, 1960

1.	Foreign trade as percentage of GDP	41.4
2.	Percentage of reading primary exports	65.7
3.	Percentage of dependence of government revenue foreign trade	67.0
4.	Percentage of foreign personnel to total high level manpower	30.0
5.	Gross capital formation as percentage of GDP	15.5

Source: Bassey E. Ate, 1987:37.

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Table 2: Technological Indication Showing the Position of Third World Countries vis-à-vis Industrialization Countries, 1975

	Industrialized countries	Third world countries		
Science And Technology		Africa	Asia	America
i. Ratio to total stock of scientist and engineer per 10,000 populations.	112.0	5.8	22.0	Latin America 69.0
ii. Ratio of technician per 100,000 Population.	10.4	8.3	23.4	72.2
iii. Scientist and engineer engage in R and D per 10,000 populations.	10.4	0.4	1.6	1.4
iv. Technicians engage in Rand D per	8.2	0.4	0.6	1.

10,000 populations.				4
V. expenditure in R and D as percentage of GNP.	1.2	0.6	0.3	0.2
A. HIGH LEVEL MANPOWER	11.1	1	2.7	5.7
i. professional and technicians as % of Economically active populations.				
ii. % of the economically active population Employed in manufacturing factor.	25.1	3.5	10.5	14.1
iii. Literacy rate %	96	20	32	77
iv. Ratio of primary and secondary school enrolment to school age population	92	32	56	78

Source: O. A Adutiya, 1982; 11 – 12.

As Claude Ake (1981) rightly put it: “because of their immense technological dependence, which tends to perpetuate itself, it is hard for Nigeria to make much progress in the fight against development (sic); because (if its) dependence on the industrialized countries and on the peculiar monopolistic character of the world technology market, it will be harder yet for (Nigeria) to deviate from the capitalist path of development”. It is also evident from table 3 and 4 that the bulk of Nigerian foreign trade since independence has been with the leading industrialized capitalist countries of the world. Nigeria’s trade with the socialist countries as table 3 shows has been minimal. As G. Frank observe the most critical sector for the most undeveloped countries over the largest period of their history is that of foreign trade. and this is precisely the sector most under foreign control (Y. Popov, 1984: 174 – 177). It has been estimated that the advanced capitalist countries received between \$60 – 80 billion a year from their trade with the third world countries; while the net between \$40 – 50 billion a year in the 1980s only from their exploitation of the third world petroleum resources, in spite of market increase by OPEC. (Y. Povo, 1984). And when its remembered.

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Table 3: Nigeria’s Foreign Trade; 1966 and 1974 (# Million)

	1966	1974
Western Europe		
Imports	328.8	1,119.1
Exports	442.2	3,056.2
U.S.A		
Imports	33.0	213.2
Exports	44.6	1,589.9
Eastern Europe		
Imports	11.6	47.9
Exports	6.6	77.4
China		
Imports	10.0	30.4
Exports		3.6

Source: C. Ake, 1981: 105 – 110.

That Nigeria is a leading member of OPEC and that, as pointed out in the preceding discussion, all the wherewithal of petroleum industry is owned and controlled by international capital, the real picture of the extent of the exploitation of the resources of Nigeria since independence begins to emerge. Again, capitalist countries especially through their monopolists earn between \$7 – 10 billion a year of the industrial enterprises and the transfer of technology (i.e. brain-drain) of third world countries including Nigeria (Popov, 1984).

In the sphere of the so-called financial aid or assistance from the industrialized capitalist countries, to the undeveloped third world states including Nigeria, is between #15 – 20 billion a year with an increase of something like #1 billion a year in absolute terms in the same period (povo). When all these set of figures are juxtaposed against one another, it become clear who is assisting who between the third world countries and the industrialized capitalist states. Yet it is through such so-called aid that the advanced countries also tie their third world counterparts to the apron of global capitalism.

Table 4: Direction of Nigerian Foreign Trade With Five Top Partners 1971 – 1976 (# Millions).

country	EXPORTS				IMPORTS			
	1971	1972	1973	1976	1971	1972	1973	1976
U.S.A	228	292	549	2353	151	103	126	560
U.K	279	302	424	702	344	292	332	1195
W. Germany	70	63	81	444	131	135	185	826
Netherlands	176	194	299	695	37	45	49	234
France	191	199	286	582	44	58	87	383

Source: Bassey, E. Ate (1987: 163)

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Table 5: Public and Publicly Guaranteed Internal Aid by 1965 (# Million)

Or country / Agency	Amount
Public issue	16.9
IBRD and IDA	68.0
U.K	30.0
U.S.A	16.3
ITALY	9.3
WEST GERMANY	6.2
ISRAEL	2.6
NETHERLANDS	1.0
Supplier's credit, contractor, France and other medium term credit	76.2
Total	226.5

Source: E. Dean, (1972: 121).

The major problem with the foreign aid is the conditional ties attached. If the loan is granted to an advanced capitalist state, there would be no conditions.

As observed by Nnadozie (2004) “most of the western aid countries and agencies, if not all, tied their aid to specific project or program in the plan. He continued that four major potential aid-givers, namely, the U.K, the U.S.A, West Germany and Italy as shown in a table 5 above, persistently tied their aid to the import of goods and services from their respective countries. In order to achieve this, they adopted the strategy of financing specific projects with specific import requirements which they could easily import into Nigeria from different countries, (E. Dean, 1972: 117 – 124) thus by this action, Nigeria’s economy and environment have become a dumping ground of all sorts of rejected imported goods that have become obsolete for use or consumption.

Conclusion

The Nigeria economy is a dependent and dept-trap economy. And a dept-trapped economy is an enslaved economy for any people, such enslavement is worse than colonization (Ayayi, 1990). In Nigeria today, we are witness to the tragic consequences of a grossly mismanaged economy and those responsible

for it – the governing class are confused and do not know how to proceed. Every one can see how the western powers and their international finance institutions have taken over significant functions of government approving tariff regimes, decreasing the level of social services and deciding suicides, privatization, trade, wage level, the location of industries, the choice of consultants for the government projects, etc, (Ake; 1996) the situation can not definitely be allowed to continue.

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The war against exploitation, poverty and underdevelopment which is the second struggle for independence must therefore be waged first and foremost against the corrupt, incompetent and exploitative local governing class that has held the country prostrate since 1960. This is because this struggle – the second war of independence cannot be successfully waged under the leadership that derives and benefits from the current socio – economic and political formation on the country. Due to their success and expertise in neo – colonial, political and manipulations, the members of the Nigerians governing class now occupy positions of power and privilege in the inherit political economy which gave rise to and continue to reinforce underdevelopment and exploitation.

Recommendations

Although there are much in the developed countries that will be useful to Nigeria, what is required is to select suitable ones and ensure proper adaptation to the Nigerian environment (Nwankwo, 1981: 104).

As an alternative, I recommend that the “Assia Tigers” model which Malaysia, China and Japan used to develop their societies. For instance, in Malaysia, selective foreign direct investment was allowed, but proceeds from it were reinvested in Agriculture to provide employment and food for the majority of the people. Also in China, foreigners were allowed in to the economy through the multinationals; however, stringent enforceable government policy agenda was put in place to prevent the tradition and culture of the minority oil producing states. The aforementioned strategy is known as theory Z advanced by W. Ouchi (1981) and Macmillan, C. J. (1985), which placed emphasis on the development of indigenous human resources. This is certainly the model for Nigeria and other third world states, although not exhaustive but it seem that this is where the challenge of development in Nigeria lies (Duru; 1999: 114).

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