



## **Globalisation And Development: Nigeria's Benefit**

<sup>1</sup>FADEYI, Adebayo Olufemi & <sup>2\*</sup>ODUWOLE, Tajudeen Adebowale

<sup>1</sup>Department of Sociology, Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos State, Nigeria

[fadeyi2@yahoo.com](mailto:fadeyi2@yahoo.com) Tel: 234(0)8062331374

<sup>2</sup>Department of Sociology, Houdegbe North American University, Route de Porto – Novo,  
Cotonou, Republique du Benin

+22967086446, +234(0)8037140814

G. P. O. Box 4887, Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria

\* *Email of Corresponding Author: [toduwole2@gmail.com](mailto:toduwole2@gmail.com)*

### **ABSTRACT**

The paper seeks to x-ray globalization as a worldwide concept use in explaining dynamism of multifaceted phenomenon in the world, while development as a concept is conceived to mean a multiparous discourse in explaining the wind of change in particular direction. The proposition expressed in this piece of work sought explanation from inexhaustible scholarly literature to juxtaposed the intertwine dichotomy and symbiotic relationship between the former in the latter discourses as presented. Nigeria as a country in Africa is the focal point of illustrations whereby experiences of the country, both in the past and immediate intricacies are empericalized. Therefore, the quest for meaningful change (development) that would make the country to be on the threshold of competing favourably with highly industrialized countries of the world is considered achievable. Thus, the paper strongest thrust in this direction is that Nigeria needs to galvanize holistic approaches towards development as succinctly identified in concluding synopsis of this paper.

**Keywords:** Corruption, Development, Globalization, Industrialization, Leadership and Technology.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Parentetically, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) whose year of assessment is 2015 has gradually winding-up and accidentally has paved way for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which was newly ushered in the fourth quarter of the year 2015, at the recently concluded UN 68 Summit, in New York, United States of America. However, Globalisation and Development, both social-discourses are still very much relevant in academics, writers and commentators still largely at various times used and will continue to use the words/concepts in specific contexts for confirmed and unconfirmed purposes.

Akinlo (1998) stressed that globalisation, a frequently used concept worldwide to explain issues in the dynamic and multifaceted world. It has indeed become “the cliché of our times”, Akinlo (1988) emphasized. Meanwhile, development a multiparous concept has to do with a rate of change in a particular direction. Inusa (1998) echoed development could be a “change in technology, social, economic and political aspect of life translating in happy human life”. Both former and latter concepts seem related. Therefore, it is germane to view “globalisation” and “development” as the two far-reaching concepts for transformation (development).

Moreover, Nigerian government is premised on becoming one of the twenty (20) most industrialized economics in the world by the year 2020. Attainment of this aspiration hinges on the extent of which the country is able to create and nurture, a competitive, an adaptive human resource base, responsive to the rapidly industrializing and globalizing economy. This is considered as the hallmark of attaining development. Hence; this synopsis of academic presentation focuses on the followings: clarification of the concepts – Globalisation, Development and their features. The impacts of globalisation to the world, benefit of globalisation to Africa: Nigeria in particular. Thus, of what benefit Nigeria derivable from globalization? What are the possibilities? To this end a conclusion is drawn.

### **Globalisation and Development: Conceptual Clarification**

Globalisation is a social discourse which has been used severally in the literature. It is a process of integrating not only the economy of nations but also their culture, technology and even governance. Holistically, it may be referred to as;

*“the widening, deepening and speeding up of world-wide interconnectedness in all aspects of contemporary social life, from the cultural to the criminal, the financial to the spiritual. (David and Megrew, 1999).*

In capsule form, “it refers to a process of increasing economic openness, growing economic interdependence and deepening economic integration between countries of the world. It is associated not only a phenomenal spread and volume of cross-border social-economic transactions, but also with an organization of economic activities which bestrides national boundaries. Simply put, it refers to the increasing integration of economies, manpower exchange particularly through trade and financial flows around the world. The term also refers to the movement of people that is, labour, knowledge and technology across international borders. There are also cultural, political and environmental dimensions of globalisation that might not be exhaustively discussed in this piece of paper.

Meanwhile, the concept “globalisation”, which has been construed in many dimensions-has actually formed the genesis of confusion and controversy entrenched in the understanding of or the intricacies of having the full knowledge of what the concept suggests. While some perceived globalisation as a road map of galvanizing integration into the world economy as positive (redemption), others conceived it as negative (torment) in terms of unequal segregation mitigating development. Following from the foregoing, there are three distinguished schools of thought, which shall be explained in brief for the essence of clarity and better comprehension of this subject matter.

Succinctly, there is trajectory in the globalisation debate: the **hyperglobalisers**, the **sceptics** and the **transformationalists**. The **hyperglobaliser**: and the other two discourses championed by (David et al 1999) see globalisation as “a secular process of global integration” which is often associated with the linear view of epochal changes and relatively smooth in explaining human progress, while the **sceptics** subscribes to the view that globalisation manifests its distinct phases and recurrent features most especially in relation to the ostensibly “golden age” of global interdependence – basically on how historical changes arises out of the influence of particular condition and social forces. This informed the **transformationalists** to describe the whole rationale “as contingent and contradiction that attempt to construct an analytical framework which must, move the globalisation debate beyond its present intellectual limit as it is now. The bottom line of the continuous debate of globalisation is that, globalisation offers all-embracing opportunities for real world-wide developments (though this varies or differs across the globe). The contention and the endless debate of globalisation apparently offer extensive opportunities for truly world-wide developments. Though, things (development) may not be moving/growing at the same pace evenly across the globe.

#### **Understanding the Concept: Development**

The discourse has been conceived largely as a value word use to describe the process of economic, social and political transformation, Babalola (1998) contends development is all about how to realize positive changes that are seen as progressive shift five decades ahead. Development explains the act of developing or process of being developed; it connotes “an increase, propagation, expansion, improvement or change for the better, David and Megrew, (1999) stressed. Seers (1974) also go further to identify certain requisites that are germane in the process of understanding what development is all about. These, he presents to include adequate educational level, participation in government and belonging to a nation that is truly independent both economically and politically, in that the views of the other government of the world do not largely predetermine one’s own government decisions.

In whatever dimensions one might view development, it is pertinent to stress that development whether in terms of the economy, politics or social, it implies both advance and upturn output and transformations in the technical and institutional preparation by which it is produced, Babalola, (1998) emphasized. At this juncture, therefore all societies have experienced development at different points but the level at which development occur differs across board.

#### **Basic Features of Globalisation**

Broadly speaking, there are many features of this phenomenon. This can be summarized and categorized into two broader perspectives. Foremost, is the economy interconnection. The inauguration and operation of global network providers (internet and phones) with reliable shipping and easy communications have made it so easy for goods and services to be produced in one country

for use in another. Secondly, is the cultural integration, this is equally made possible as the influence of both electronic and print, most especially through the electronic media.

Other perspective features of globalisation can be itemized as follows:

- ⇒ Manufacturing plants sourcing their raw material from different countries. The sale of products manufactured in these plants may include sale in countries other than where the plant is located or those supplying new materials.
- ⇒ Manufacture of sub-assemblies of finished products in multiple countries in plants owned by the same company.
- ⇒ People in more than one country collaborating in design of new products and manufacturing processes.
- ⇒ People and companies making investment in countries other than their parent countries.
- ⇒ Employment of people from different nationalities, and posting them in locations other than their home countries.
- ⇒ Outsourcing of business processes to other countries.
- ⇒ Marketing of the same products under the same brand names in different countries.

Seers (1974) aligned with the above propositions and remarked that majorly the presence of technology allows for increased connections between businesses and people in general. This ensure and enhance interconnections in terms of social-interactions, understanding of cultures and people, and acceptance from and around the world.

Furtherance to the aforementioned, Dotun (1999) posits other key features of globalisation, which is liberalization of international trade. This is widely accepted and made possible through the combined effect of new technology. The technology has a distinctive character to the current process of globalisation by breaking the nature barriers of time and space. These have been vastly reduced. Also, the cost of moving information, people goods and capital across the globe has fallen dramatically via global communication.

By and large the features and possibly the merits of globalisation cannot be overemphasized. For instance, the increase in capital flow was greatly boosted by the revolution in Information and Communication Technology (ICT). This made possible the improved and speedier knowledge of foreign markets, the development of “round the world and round the clock” financial transactions and the emergence of new financial instruments, especially derivatives. Dalip (1995) equally contributed that globalisation has taken all over human, social, economic and political endeavours.

### **The Impacts of Globalisation to the World**

It is pertinent to perceive that globalisation has wide ranging and often times improvements particularly in the economic state of a country. According to Adedjei (1981) contends that globalisation should benefits all countries and should raise the welfare of all people. This implies that it should raise the rate of economic growth in poor countries and reduce world poverty. It should not increase inequalities or undermine socio-economic security within countries.

Added to this, the real test for globalisation is whether it significantly speeds up development and reduction of absolute poverty in the world, and whether it ensures economic, social and environmental sustainability. Hence, the impact of globalisation should not be confined to poor countries that have been marginalized from the process. Theodore (1985) argued that the wider effects of globalisation can be viewed from two perspectives – increased global awareness and the growth of illicit cross-border activities.

Theodore (1985) argued further that, for people living in deprived parts of the world, global awareness raises their expectations and lowers their tolerance of the situation they are in. This is probably a factor in the spread of democracy and growing demands for political freedoms where these are still denied. For people in richer countries, the information revolution is helping to forge a sense of global community and transnational solidarity. This is visible in the growth of global coalitions of non-state actors around issues of universal concern such as globalisation itself, the environment, human rights, humanitarian aid and labour exploitation.

In addition, Adedjei (1981) earlier added that global information revolution has also clearly affected cultural and social values. The fear, contemporarily is that constant exposure of the images of Western life styles and role models could lead to tensions, gross diffusion both culturally and socially divisive has been experiencing by the developing nations. For instance, in Nigeria the mode of dressing mostly

by the youth (aged 15 – 35 years). The male make use of hearings, often draw their trousers below their waist apparently show their panties (fondly called “sagging”) and the female too dress alike. All these are considered as culturally infringement to Africa, just to mention a few.

On the aspect of illicit cross-border activities, Khor (1996) remarked that global interconnectivity which expectedly to facilitates legitimate cross-border economic transactions. On the contrary too, it has helped to increase tax evasion, money laundering, trafficking in people, commercial sex and drug trades. To this end, such nefarious activities have causes great set back to developing nations, in particular, to Nigeria over the years based on serial activities of political stooges to the West and some sycophants that have arm-twist the development of the country.

**Benefit of Globalisation to Africa: Nigeria in Focus**

Inspite of unfavourable and disadvantageous state of African economies to a new and challenging economic relation of the globalized world system, based on the fact that many countries in Africa are yet to have grown or developed to a certain degree and in relation to what Rostow (1962) identifies as “the stages of economic growth” which appears to be one of the most celebrated Theory of Modernization from the economic development point of view, which are based on five stages. The traditional, pre-conditions to take-off, take-off stage, the drive to maturity and the age of mass consumption.

The bane of taking off in Nigeria and other developing countries is internal to the economies as concerned. Therefore, Nigeria economies cannot adequately take advantage of a globalizing world economy unless certain and prior conditions are fulfilled; that is an educated citizenry with the requisite skills, a framework of physical infrastructure such as energy, water, transport and effective communications; a network of export based industrial production.

Aside from the pre-conditions as stated by Rostow, Dotun (1999) presented an observable world-wide checklist of pre-conditions which include good and democratic governance, efficient bureaucracy, adequate and functional infrastructures, stable market-oriented macro-economic policies, open and growing economy, adequate satisfaction of people’s basic needs, virile export strategy, large and growing multinational companies just to mentioned a few. However, a disconnection from Markets globalism would at the same time spell doom for a growing economy like Nigeria and other African economies in the wake of development. For instance, the dwindling ‘oil’ market internationally. Most especially its effects on mono-economic countries, like Nigeria and other African countries that are yet to diversify economically. Therefore, the interconnection between globalisation and development are arguably complex, augmenting classic and contemporary issues of social development, political economy and sociology.

**Nigeria’s Benefit from Globalisation: The Possibilities**

The dynamism of globalisation is engineered by the rate of development and the level of intensified interdependence which makes it almost impossible for any nation to isolate itself rather effect to develop Dalip, (1995) in his remark, posits that all nations have tendencies to benefit from the interdependence which is manifested in the increasing economic linkage among countries through trade, financial flow e.t.c. Considering the on-going political dispensation of the current administration (2015 – 2019) in Nigeria, to tackle the intricacies that are bedeviling the country in order to achieve meaningful development. Thus:

- ✚ Elimination of corruption or at least to reduce to a barest minimum – the current administration at the recent concluded UN world summit, New York, United State of America.
- ✚ A strong advocate to the West “No provision of safe havens for the economic looters”
- ✚ Military and other forms of assistance to combat insurgency – Boko-Haram, militancy groups and the likes.
- ✚ Provision and assistance for the internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) within the country which are on alarming rate considering the social-demographic characteristics involved – another social problems to be possibly reviewed in another study
- ✚ Trade – bilateral relationship
- ✚ Financial assistance “grants” to combat poverty, boost agriculture in order to enhance employment of the escalating unemployed youth in the country (Nigeria).
- ✚ Assistance in the area of security challenge(s) and host of other social problems
- ✚ Improvement in political and democratization process (electioneering).

- ✚ Enthronement of rightful political leaders with appropriate political and leadership traits to galvanize the nation to greater height of development.

## CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that the world is rapidly growing and developing into a world single unit, otherwise known as “global village”, rapid movement at realizing the new and ongoing process of reforms, of effect of globalisation is a direct function of (national) development. Africa, Nigeria inclusive may in the nearest future begin to appear as one of the active and leading participants in the world economic order if the necessary conditions for rapid development are put in place, such as:

- ✚ Gear towards formidable political leadership
- ✚ Improve capacity to export (agricultural produce, resourceful manpower etc.) and less importation
- ✚ Reduction in volume of external debt in order to relief burden of debt services
- ✚ Curb mismanagement and corruption
- ✚ Re-invigorate absolute independence and tactical withdrawal from imperialism and neo-colonialism syndrome.

Thus, the strongest thrust of this paper is that if the country (Nigeria) could abide with the recommendations as identified and make effort to institutionalize appropriately, the country might be on the path of galvanizing development and benefit immensely from numerous advantages accruable in globalisation.

## REFERENCES

- Adedeji, A. (1981) *Indigenization of African Economies*, Hutchinson University Library for Africa, London.
- Akinlo, G. (1988) *Development and Globalisation: The Implications for the African Economy*, *Humanity and Social Sciences Journal* (1):65 – 78.
- Babalola, C. (1998) “Making Development work for people” being a paper presented at the distinguish lecture organized by the Nigerian Society of Law, Lagos, Nigeria.
- Dalip, S. (1995) “Towards a New Economic Vision” *Mainstream Philippines*.
- David, H and Megrew, A. (1999) *Global and Jonathan Perranton*, *Global Transformation: Politics, Economics and Culture*. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.
- David, H. et al (1996) “Globalisation: what it means to small nations” a paper delivered at the inaugural lecture held at Kuala Lumpur in JDPC symposium on Globalisation and the Nigeria state held on Monday – June 24, 1996.
- Dotun, P. (1999) “Globalisation: Getting Nigeria Ready”. *Nigeria Tribune*, December 13, 1999 Pp. 6.
- Inusa, B. I. (1988) “A Fenmal in the next millennium” in *A Fenmal News Magazine*, No. 15-29, Auch, Nigeria.
- Khor, M. (1996) *Globalisation: Implications for development policy*. A paper delivered at the 8<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes at Vienna on 11-14 September, 1996.
- Rostow, W. W. (1962) *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto*, Cambridge University Press. United Kingdom.
- Seers, D. (1974) “The New Meaning of Development” *International Development Reviewed*. No. 3.
- Theodore, L. (1985) “The Globalisation of Market” in Kantrow, A. N. *Sunrise..... Sunset: Challenging Cataloguing in Public Data*, Canada.