TRADE LIBERALIZATION IN A DEVELOPING NATION: THE NIGERIA EXPERIENCE (2007-2014)

IKEH, CHINYERE PATRICIA
Department Of Public Administration
Madonna University Okija campus, Nigeria

ABSTRACT
Trade liberalization in a Developing Nation: the Nigeria Experience (2007-2014). This research work examines Nigeria as a member of the International Community. Nigeria is not shielded from globalization. However, the country is exposed to both the positive and negative effects of trade liberalization. The research paper examines the negative effects of trade liberalization on Nigeria by focusing on its impact on political, social, cultural, her science and technology, and the environment. It argues that although Globalization or Trade Liberalization presents many opportunities, it also exposes developing countries like Nigeria to many new challenges. The paper uses Economic Liberalization Theory propounded by Adam Smith in 1775. It poses objectives of the study with Research questions and Research Hypothesis. The paper also suggests ways by which the negative effects of globalization/Trade Liberalization can be addressed.

Keywords; Trade Liberalization, Developing Nations, International Community, and Globalization

Introduction
The period between 1945 – 1980 was marked by Cold war system and three worlds emerged, namely; First World (USA and allies in Western Europe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and later Japan), Second World composed of Communist States of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union and then, the Third World which are still occupied with the process of development (O’Briens and Williams, 2004). However, from 1989 to the present, there are noticeable changes and development taking place and most scholars have named the 1990s as a decade of globalization. O’Briens and Williams (2004) argue that economically, new parts of the world have opened to capitalist activities. Over the past two decades, world output has been expanding and many countries are benefiting from increased cross-border trade and investments. Many others suffer because economic regimes are inefficiently managed, and this weakness reduces their capacity to successfully compete globally (Schneider and Enste, 2002).

The events in the last decade in the global economy suggest a challenge; the utilization of the opportunity engineered by globalization while at the same time, managing the problem and tension it poses, for developing countries particularly, Nigeria. Some individuals such as Dani (1999), David (1997) and Saliniino (1999) opine that globalization opens opportunities, others such as Awake (2002) and Garry (1998) express fear about globalization. Probably, it is fear anticipated by the people of the world that in December 1999, a meeting of the World Treaty Organization (WTO), held in Seattle USA was interrupted by riot. The demonstration feared the effect of globalization on the people and on the planet. Since that time, anti-globalization movements have spread across the globe. It is however observed that advocates of globalization hail it has the panacea for the most world problems.

Globalization is a complex and multifaceted concept that has generated controversy from its meaning, its time line, its future as well as whether it is serving the interest of all or its benefiting just a few countries or individuals in the world.
Due to the fact that it cuts across almost all disciplines proffers varying definitions and interpretations for the concept. Although the existence of globalization has been demonstrated in empirical case studies. Its definition still remains vague, elusive and even contradictory. The lack of an essential definition has contributed at least partially, to keep globalization as highly contested subject. (A costa and Gonzalez, 2010). (Cesare Poppi 1997:300) notes that: “The literature stemming from the debate on globalization has grown in the last decade beyond any individual’s capability of extracting a workable definition of the concept. In a sense, the meaning of the concept is self-evident, in another, it is vague and obscure as its more than any other concepts, globalization is the debate about it”.

**Statement Of Problem**

Globalization is a threat to world socio-economic and political-cultural cohesion, the disgust for global trend, despite its growth, the developing countries suffer the imbalance while it’s a major gain for the western imperialists because they control the economy, tag prices of goods in the International Markets. It is on this basis that the researcher embarks on this to find out how Developing countries, taking Nigeria as an example should tackle the challenges of globalization/Trade Liberalization. Also, of course, there are extensive analyses as well as polemics about whether the results are good or bad and for whom (see especially Rodrik, 1997 and 1999).

Based on problems created by this debate and gaps therein, this research work investigated the nature and effects of globalization on the development of Third World countries especially Nigeria.

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

This research work will answer the following questions:

1. What is the nature of globalization on Nigeria economic, political, social and technological systems?
2. How have globalization and development helped in the growing Nigeria economy?
3. Should globalization and development be accepted or rejected in the country Nigeria?

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The broad objective of this research work is to find out the true position of Nigeria and challenges she is facing in terms of economic, political, social and technological development within the global arena.

The specific objectives are:

1. To ascertain the nature of globalization on Nigeria economic, political, social and technological systems.
2. To highlight how globalization and development has helped develop the country.
3. To investigate, if globalization and development has helped or destabilized the economic, political and technological system of the country.

**RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS**

The following hypotheses are posed in this research work, to help us achieve our stated objectives.

1. $H_0$: The nature of globalization on Nigeria economic, political, social and technological growths are not well felt.
   $H_1$: The nature of globalization on Nigeria economic, political, social and technological growths are well felt.
2. $H_0$: Globalization and development have not helped in the growth of the economic system in Nigeria.
   $H_1$: Globalization and development have helped in the growth of the economic system in Nigeria.
3. $H_0$: Globalization and development should not be accepted in Nigeria economy.
   $H_1$: Globalization and development should be accepted in Nigeria economy.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

This study Trade Liberalism in a developing nation the Nigeria Experience (2007-2014) has some significant to the Government policy makers, students and to the society in general. It will help policy makers to know how to design their policy when planning with the South South Blocs, since the existing policy only favour them and disfavour the developing countries.
The research work will contribute to the available literature on international economic literature. Through this research work, stakeholders of the country will seek for proactive measures to be used so as to avoid adverse effect of globalization.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY
The scope of this study covers from 2007-2014, the phenomenon of globalization is a multi-dimensional and multifaceted process that encompasses political, economic, social and cultural dimensions that have been variously explained in different terms and contexts. Viewed from a general perspective the notion of globalization is broad and diverse. Our analysis in the paper is focused on its challenge for Nigeria’s development in the 21st century. It is considered germane however to consider first the multidimensionality of its conceptual usage.

The Concept of Globalization
Globalization has become one of the common catchphrases frequently used by people all over the world. However, many scholars referred the 1990s as the decade of globalization and like any other social phenomenon, globalization has brewed different interpretations since then. However, there are varied definitions of globalization as reflected in the arguments below.

According to Baylis et al (2008), globalization is simply the widening, deepening and speeding up of worldwide interconnectedness. Giddens (1999) in one of his lecture series organized by the British Broadcasting Company (BBC), defines globalization as ‘the intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa.’ According to Brown (2008), globalization in its simplest form, encompasses a growing interconnection between peoples, nations, cultures, governments, environments, economics and indeterminate global networks that are ultimately bound by the spherical shape of the earth. He continues to argue that, the direction in which globalization is moving is neither simply positive nor negative, for it is both.

Kiely (2007) defines globalization as a set of social relations which have expanded beyond older territorial boundaries, with the result that interconnectedness is not only international, but somehow global. More so, Thomas & Allen (2000) argue that globalization is a process (or set of processes) which embodies a transformation in the spatial organization of social relations and transformations – assessed in terms of their extensity, velocity and impact – generating a transcontinental or interregional flows and networks of activity, interaction and the exercise of power. However, globalization seems to bear different interpretations from different people, but it has been noted that there are common features in all definitions explored above and the section below explores some of these features.

Features of Globalization
1) Free access to the markets in the world without any physical (quota) or fiscal (tariff) or any other (government) restrictions. Hence Global consumers emerge demanding high quality products and more value for their money without any restrictions like parochial, regional or national consideration.
2) Global standardized products need to be marketed all over the world. There are already many such products having world market. It includes the ‘lead’ products in a region taking care of dominant needs of that region.
3) Globalization requires resources like raw materials, finance and technology. Free access to quality raw materials, latest technology and cheap finance are important characteristics of this process at a less cost.
4) In globalization, free mobility of managerial personnel and entrepreneurs result into merges, takeovers and structural regrouping in countries across the globe.

Furthermore, Stephen Gill (1997) defines globalization as the reduction of transaction cost of trans-border movements of capital and goods thus of factors of production and goods. Goyal Brainbant (2006) states that the process of globalization not only includes opening up of world trade, development of advanced means of communication, internationalization of financial markets . . . population migrations and more generally increased mobility of persons, goods, data and ideas but also infections, diseases and pollution.
Schools of Thought on Development

The Dependency Position

The dependency position argues that the relationship between the developed and underdeveloped nations is one of systematic exploitation of the latter by the former. Dependency is a situation in which a certain group of countries have their economies conditioned by the development and expansion of another economy to which their own is subjected (dos Santos, 1970, cited in Roxborough, 1979). The rich countries, first through colonialism and now through mechanisms such as multinational corporations, extract benefits from poor countries through economic exchange. The dependency position indict the international capitalist system, and not the domestic policies of developing countries, as the reason that the periphery countries remain poor.

The North-South Model

The development of underdevelopment, dependency theory, the North-South are some of the labels applied to this body of critical thinking. Briefly, the basic idea is that those countries that are now in the process of economic development may never make it to a level of development comparable to that achieved by the United States, the more prosperous European nations, and Japan (Beckford, 1971; Bornschier & Dunn, 1978; Cardoso & Faletto, 1979; Evans, 1979; Frank, 1969; Stewart, 1977; Vernon, 1977; Wallerstein, 1974).

According to this school of thought, the Multi-National Corporations (MNCs) hinder rather than help the economic development of Low Developing Countries (LDCs). The most fundamental criticism is that MNCs have tended not to bring in needed capital, rather harness existing capital from within those nations. For example, Pinto and Knakel (1973) have shown that between 1960 and 1968, profit remittances by MNCs to the United States from Latin America exceeded new investment by $6.7 billion. Thus, investment previously available for locally owned and managed business enterprises is diverted to MNCs based in the developed nations. Instead of profits being retained in the LDCs and perhaps reinvested there, they now tend to flow back to the home country of the MNCs or to whatever country the MNCs judge most opportune for investment.

Proponents of the North-South model therefore have had ample justification for their argument that MNCs investment does not provide the benefits for LDCs outlined by Rostow. Implicit in their argument is the LDC’s inability to protect itself from exploitation. Exploitation was seen as inevitable because of the MNC’s economic motives, which require them to reinvest profits where the economic climate is most favorable. In addition, the above-mentioned well-publicized cases of socially irresponsible behavior by MNCs gave little reassurance to North-South proponents that the problem of exploitation could be resolved in such a way as to create benefits for the LDC promised by the Rostow model.

Technological revolution

That the world is currently experiencing phenomenal changes in social, political, economic and technological spheres cannot be disputed. One fundamental instrument for this increasing transformation is technology, especially computer technology, and the evolution of low cost, global communications system which constitute major challenges that will dominate and fundamentally shape developments in the 21st century, particularly in the economic and financial sectors (Usman, 1999:48). The revolution in computer technology, has led to the advancement of information technology which has in turn enhanced the level of information transmission and business transactions across the global system. Indeed, the revolutionary changes that have occurred in computer technology since the latter part of the 20th century have brought about tremendous improvements in all facets of human endeavour.

Today, the use of computers has increasingly become quite commonplace in pure scientific research, social science and especially in managerial decisions. The significance of the strong force of technology can best be illustrated by reference to the financial system. Globalization and information technology have thrown up formidable challenges for national economies, especially the financial system, by reducing the world further into a global village, and as well by providing enormous information through a wide range of inter-connectivity. The interconnectivity (network) of computers has given rise to the development of internet, which constitutes the largest network and largest reservoir of all types of information in the global system (ibid).

Economic Liberalization:

The first pillar of contemporary globalization process in the modern world today is economic liberalization which has been accepted by virtually almost all countries and major international institutions
within the global system. Economic liberalization is simply seen as the process of achieving unobstructed economic activities. It seeks to remove all problems to trade, production and investment: emphasizes freedom of economic activities and dominance of private enterprises and aims ultimately at the divorce of the state from the economy (Onyekpe, 2001:52). At the global level, economic liberalization attempts to make all economies fully open for free inter-penetration and inter-state access. Liberalization theory is the major advocate of globalization. Liberals lay their focus upon a wide range of actors; namely from state to corporation and interest groups. Liberals do not see state as a unitary actor, but as influenced by numerous factors (O’Brien and Williams, 2004).

The liberal debate about globalization recognizes globalization as not only a reality (also inevitable) but as a positive force for good (O’Brien and Williams, 2004). The authors continue to argue that globalization breaks down artificial barriers, the force production which contributes to enhance happiness of human kind. Jackson and Sorensen (2010) echoed what the authors mentioned as three basic liberal assumptions and two of them are worth mentioning. Firstly, a positive view of human nature and secondly, a belief in progress.

Issues relating to the forces of economic liberalization are generally more difficult than and not as obvious as in technology. In effort of economic liberalization, the global system is divided into various groups. In one group are the industrialized (G8) countries that work closely with the World Financial Institution (IMF, World Bank) and Trade (WTO) institutions, and target a broad and ambitious agenda that attempt to build international capitalism on the foundations of open world trade and capital flows, privatization, balanced budget, freeing up of exchange controls and similar deregulation and liberalization measures (Usman, Op. cit: 52).

Liberalization support globalization because they believe that market relations lead to positive outcomes for all, as noted by O’Brien and Williams (2004). Liberalization bears four components as noted by Baylis et al (2008), namely; Juridical, equality, democracy and the free market. We shall use this theoretical framework to discuss the prospects and challenges of globalization as it concerns Third World countries, Nigeria particularly.

GLOBALIZATION AND THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT
Effects of Science and Technology on Nigeria
Science and technology are two of the most potent forces in human society. Historically, man has always made various attempts to transform the natural world in which he finds himself. Through science and technology, man has been able to create devices, tools and machines through which the threats of the society are being subdued and brought under his control.

Scientific globalization is the medium through which the science research front is now universally accessible, so that the practice of science now has hardly any geographical boundaries, while technological globalization leaders to the creation of uniform technical specifications and standards in industry. It is driven by the need to create wider markets especially for hi-tech goods. It leads to operational compatibility of equipment from different manufacturers. It also simplifies engineering design (Maduemezia, 2002:2).

However, though 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 faced in the world, Nigeria is beset with a number of challenges in this regard. Some of the challenges brought by science and technology will be examined here.

World Wide Web- the Internet
Information and communication technology (ICT) is playing a key role in globalization and integration. It has facilitated the heralding of a “Third Wave, comparable to the first Wave, Agricultural Revolution and the Second Wave, the Industrial Revolution.

The world is shifting from a manufacturing-based industrial economy to a service-dominated and network-based knowledge economy (Mohanty, 2005:2). Information and communication technology (ICT) 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 banking, airlines and publishing. It is also an important value-adding component of consumer products, such as television, camera, car and mobile telephone. ICT has facilitated packaging of information and sending the same across the world at negligible cost.
The Internet has opened up a vast array of possibilities worldwide. It has become a key element in what is seen as the globalization of society, providing technology that recognizes no national boundaries, that has no single owner, and that is not regulated or controlled by any single national or international legal framework. Kaiser admits the centrality of the internet to globalization. According to him;

…the internet is the turbo charger of globalization. By radically facilitating outsourcing, management, regulation, logistics, just-in time controlling, and business-to-business and business-to-consumer contacts, it has revolutionized in a manner that we could not have imagined until recently, the internationalization of production (Jaja, 2010:115).

The internet is a very powerful tool with two basic distinct characteristics. The first is that it contains the biggest, richest and wide ranging resource of information in the entire world, and secondly, it enables 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, saving costs of trial and error, and avoiding uncertainties. Knowledge is power and information is the key to knowledge. ICT facilitates data information transmission, knowledge acquisition, dissemination and creation of a value chain. International exchanges act as conduits for knowledge-intensive sectors like education, health and bio-technology hold promises of phenomenal growth due to the advances in ICT. Developing countries need not re-create knowledge; they have the advantage of acquiring and adapting knowledge already available in the richer countries (Jaja, 2010).

However, in as much as the Internet provides enormous convenience as well as propels the nation’s economy, the Internet which is an open, free and unregulated device has also brought with it negative challenges that cannot be overlooked. The internet is known to corrupt the minds of people. It also influences and change people’s moral perspectives and ethical values.

One major negative consequence of ICT most especially the internet and cable networks to Nigeria is the exposure of the youth to negative western culture. Charles Omekwu (2006) captured this thus:

The more dangerous dimensions of the digital revolution include pornography, money laundering, cultism, international terrorism and child abuse, which all constitute a threat to African cultural heritage. It is extremely difficult for African countries with strong Islamic and Christian cultures to tolerate the level of pornographic activities that go on the Internet. In traditional African culture, nudity is still not a virtue. In many African universities and urban centres, nudity has become an Africa’s rich and elegant dress style are becoming outdated.

Most Nigerian youth are now hooked on to weird western cultures emulated through these media that alienate them further from their traditional roots. Mode of dressing expressed through the exposure of various parts of the body is now a common occurrence among the youth. The guys do what is referred to as ‘sagging’, whereby the trousers is no longer worn around the waist but would be hanging on the buttocks thereby exposing their ‘designer’ underwear. For the ladies, they indulge in wearing of clothes that expose their breasts in other to conform to their new found culture. The use and abuse of drugs, use of arms and ammunitions, promiscuity, exposure to pornography and various other negative lifestyles are often a fall out of accessibility to the internet and cable channels. Unfortunately, indigenous languages which are the most effective method of transmitting culture are increasingly becoming extinct.

Scourge of HIV/AIDS

By all accounts, the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and its disease manifestation, the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), present an unprecedented crisis in the history of Africa and, have become a social and economic catastrophe. Every day, millions of Africans, in every strata of society, are infected with the HIV virus and every day, millions die (Stone, 2002). HIV/AIDS is perceived as a product of globalization and is considered not only as the greatest global health pandemic but also as the biggest “development challenge” of the twenty first century. It does not discriminate, and it affects all strata of the
population, hence, its impact far exceeds that of other communicable diseases combined because, there is no available cure or vaccine. It affects the most economically productive sector of the population and threatens development achievements in many countries of the world.

At a Special Summit held in Abuja, Nigeria from April 26-27, 2001, Heads of State and Governments of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) met to review and critically assess the HIV/AIDS challenges facing Africa. They declared, “AIDS as a State of Emergency on the continent”, and vowed to make the battle against HIV/AIDS the “highest priority in their respective national development plans”. Also, the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan declared the HIV/AIDS situation in Africa as catastrophic and called for a Special Session of the General Assembly (UNGASS) in New York, which was held from June 25-27, 2001. The activities around the world (particularly in Africa), in attempts to curtail the continuing and accelerated spread of the epidemic (UNGASS, 2001).

Nigeria is one of the worst hit by HIV/AIDS on the African continent. It is estimated that about 3.1 million Nigerians are infected with the disease, meaning that Nigeria has the second largest number of people living with HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and the highest in West Africa (Obinna, 2011). The spread of the disease is being encouraged as a result of people traveling from one country to another as modern travel facilitates rapid dissemination of HIV infection across national borders. Infected persons who have migrated from Nigeria in search of greener pastures sometimes visit the country, especially during festive holidays, and if they are promiscuous disseminate the disease.

Also, human trafficking for commercial sex purposes increases the spread of the disease in Nigeria. Trafficking in persons, which the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2001:47) describes as “the underside of globalization”, is one of the greatest human rights challenges of our time. A large number of trafficked victims are either kidnapped or lured into following the perpetrators usually to countries abroad. The destination countries of Nigerian women, who are transported to Europe for sex work, have usually been Italy, Belgium, Holland, Spain, France and Germany, with Italy being the most significant. The trafficked persons, especially women and girls, are placed in brothels, private homes, tourist establishment and street corners where they are forced to offer sexual activities for money. Many of these women often engage in their trade without the use of condoms and may even lower their prices for sexual services so as to enable them to pay back their debt bondage. These unsafe activities expose them to the risk of HIV and other infections. Thus, whenever these women are arrested, they get deported back to Nigeria, increasing the risk of infecting many unsuspecting promiscuous men.

**Impact of Globalization on the Environment**

Globalization can have both positive and negative effects on the environment. It can exacerbate environmental problems as well as provide new means for addressing them. However, the negative effects of globalization seem to outweigh its positive effects.

Globalization has had a negative impact on the environment through deforestation. According to Wikipedia Encyclopaedia, globalization is often viewed as a root cause of deforestation. The overuse of natural resources due to increased demand and also the removal of ecosystems due to population growth have had a large negative impact on the environment. Extensive deforestation has occurred world-wide with the logging industry being fuelled by the need for disposable products. Thus, deforestation whether it is for an increase in demand or for expansion is causing a loss of biological diversity on the planet (Francesob, 2010). Nigeria is not exempted from the impact of deforestation. The country’s rain forest is depleting fast majorly as a result of international trade. Kalbessa (2007:103) observed that:

*Under the current international law, trans-national corporations are free to promote their interests in any part of the world. They have continued to establish industries in various countries by destroying the natural forest and dismantling the source of the peasant farmer’s survival. Various plant and animal species are doomed to extinction owing to the loss of forest.*

Apart from contributing to the depletion of the ozone layer, deforestation also affects water cycle. Trees extract ground water through their roots and release it into the atmosphere. When part of a forest is removed, the trees no longer evaporate away this water, resulting in a much drier climate. Deforestation reduces the content of water in the soil and groundwater as well as atmospheric moisture. Deforestation reduces soil cohesion, so that erosion, flooding and landslides occur.
Globalization has brought about various forms of environmental pollution. Environmental pollution has been described as the contamination of the environment by biological, chemical, and or physical agents that are harmful to human, animal or plant, life and the general environment, and may arise through the natural events, industrial and human activities or the interaction of all (Otukong, 2002:3). Pollution of the environment is attributed to the increase in industries, burning of fossils fuels to run the industries, machines and for transport of both raw and finished products to different places.

The activities of oil industries and multinational corporations in oil producing areas of the country, mostly in the Niger Delta area is a major source of environmental concern in the country. Oil industry activities - exploration, production, refining and transportation - have caused widespread social and ecological disturbances. These include explosions from seismic surveys, pollution from pipeline leaks, blowouts, flaring, drilling floods, and refinery effluents, as well as land alienation and widespread disruption of natural terrain from construction of oil-related industrial infrastructure and installations. Oil producing areas in Rivers, Delta and Cross Rivers are most affected. The impact of the exploratory and extractive activities of global forces - Shell whose operation in Nigeria alone accounts for 14% of its total global operations, Mobil Agip, Cheveron, Texaco, Total, etc - have basically affected the social organization of the Ogoni people and the Niger Delta in general (Kelbessa, 2007).

One major activity of these multinational companies that has a tremendous environmental impact is gas flaring. According to the World Bank, by 2002 flaring in the country had contributed more greenhouse gases to the Earth’s atmosphere than all other sources in sub-Saharan Africa combined and yet this gas is not being used as a fuel (Friends of the Earth, 2004:1-2). According to the News Magazine of 18 April, 2011, the NNPC, in its May 2010 report, stated that of the 192 billion standard cubic feet (BSCF) of gas produced during the period, over 145 BSCF was flared. This is done at the detriment of the environment. All what flaring of gas does is to contribute to climate change which is already a major global threat, manifesting in food insecurity, diseases, skin cancer and also increasing rise in the cost of extreme weather damage. People living in the area where gas is being flared are the worst hit. The flares contain toxins, such as benzene, which pollute the air, resulting in respiratory problems such as asthma and bronchitis. Gas flaring is environmentally unethical and has contributed significantly to the degradation of the environment in the region. According to Eregha and Irughe (2009),

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\text{this practice may have altered the vegetation of the area, replacing natural vegetation with stubborn grasses and the presence of these grasses indicates that the soil is no longer fertile for cultivation of crops. A major example could be seen in Opuama and Sekewu communities in the Warri North Local Government Area of Delta State in the region. it is evident that gas flaring has affected the ozone layer of the region leading to climate change that is unhealthy to crops cultivation.}
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In other words, due to the intense heat that accompanies gas flaring, vegetation in the vicinity are bound to be affected as plants will not grow in such an area.

**Electronic Waste**

Another major challenge of globalization in Nigeria is that of electronic waste (e-waste). “Electronic waste” or “e-waste” may be defined as all secondary computers, entertainment device electronics, mobile phones, and other items such as television sets and refrigerators, whether sold, donated, or discarded by their original owners. This definition includes used electronics which are destined for reuse, resale, salvage, recycling, or disposal (Omatek Ventures: 2011).

According to Achim Steiner (2007), UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, “globalization is triggering a massive rise in electronic wastes, some of which are being dumped in Asia and Africa: one investigation indicates that at least 100,000 computers arrive at the port of Lagos alone each month. Up to three quarters of the imports - which also includes old televisions and mobile phones - will end up in an African rubbish tip or open air incinerator”. In other words, with computer manufacturers competing intensely in terms of innovation, the raw processing power of computers is rapidly increasing, resulting in a large number of machines becoming obsolete in.
increasingly short periods of time and also due to ongoing technological advancement, many electronic products become obsolete within a very short period of time, creating a large surplus of unwanted electronic products.

As a result of lower environmental standards and working conditions in most developing countries, e-waste is being sent to these countries without any concern on the negative environmental impact as well as the negative impact on the health of the citizens of these countries. When handled improperly, e-waste presents significant human health and environmental risks due to the toxicity of materials used in many electronic products (see table 1). Many of these electronic items which are obsolete are imported into the country by business men who are out to make their profit. They sell the items as ‘Tokunbo’ or ‘second hand’ items. Many Nigerians buy these items because they are believed to be cheaper than new ones and are purportedly better than new items that are manufactured within Nigeria. Also, some foreign organizations and agencies source these electronic gadgets from the western countries through donations and send them down to Nigerian schools, hospitals and other places. Some of these gadgets are sometimes unusable and beyond repairs. Domwatch, an anti-dumping group in a report said a UK-based organization once offered to donate 10,000 computers to a Nigerian NGO but only 2,000 of the computers were found to be okay and in reusable condition (PARC:2009).

Table 1: Effects of E-Waste on Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of e-wastes</th>
<th>Constituent</th>
<th>Health effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solder in printed circuit boards, glass panels and gaskets in computer monitors</td>
<td>Lead (PB)</td>
<td>Damage to central and peripheral nervous systems, blood systems and kidney damage affects brain development in children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chip resistors and semiconductors</td>
<td>Cadmium (CD)</td>
<td>Toxic irreversible effects on human health. Accumulates in kidney and liver. Causes neural damage. Teratogenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relays and switches, printed circuit boards</td>
<td>Mercury (Hg)</td>
<td>Chronic damage to the brain. Respiratory and skin disorders due to bioaccumulation in fishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrosion protection of untreated and galvanized steel plates, decorator or hardner for steel housings</td>
<td>Hexavalent chromium (Cr) VI</td>
<td>Asthmatic bronchitis. DNA damage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabling and computer housing</td>
<td>Plastics including PVC</td>
<td>Burning produces dioxin. It causes reproductive and developmental problems; immune system damage; interfere with regulatory hormones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic housing of electronic equipments and circuit boards</td>
<td>Brominated flame retardants (BFR)</td>
<td>Disrupts endocrine system functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Front panel of RTs</td>
<td>Barium (Ba)</td>
<td>Short term exposure causes: Muscle weakness; Damage to heart, liver and spleen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motherboard</td>
<td>Beryllium (Be)</td>
<td>Carcinogenic (lung cancer) Inhalation of fumes and dust. Causes chronic beryllium disease or berylliosis. Skin diseases such as warts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [www.basel.int/DraftstrateKjcpian4Seot.pdf](http://www.basel.int/DraftstrateKjcpian4Seot.pdf)

Yet, despite international attempts to prevent the continuous dumping of e-waste in developing countries, the dumping continues unabated. The major treaty entered into by many countries is the Basel Convention, which is an international treaty designed to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations, and specifically to prevent transfer of hazardous waste from developed to less developed countries. It represents the only global and comprehensive international legal instrument that addresses the integrated dimension of hazardous waste and it provides for an effective and stringent system for controlling their trans-boundary movements and ensuring their proper disposal; it clearly defines the obligations of parties to comply with its provisions. Incidentally, a dumping incidence that occurred in Nigeria was one of the factors which triggered and expedited the creation of the Basel Convention which came into force on 5th May, 1992. In 1988, 5 ships transported 8,000 barrels of hazardous waste from Italy
to the small town of Koko, Delta State in Nigeria in exchange of $100 monthly rent which was paid to a Nigerian farmer for the use of his farmland to dump these waste.

In a bid to find a lasting solution to the menace of e-waste in Nigeria, for the first time, an international e-waste summit was held in Lagos between 25-25 February, 2011 with the theme ‘Regulation and Management of E-Waste in Nigeria’. The Summit was hosted by the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) in collaboration with the Environmental Law Research Institute (ELRI) and Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region (BCCC-NIGERIA). At the summit, Lagos State Commissioner for Environment, Dr. Muiz Adeyemi Banire opined that second-hand electronics should not be allowed into country, stating that charting a regulatory roadmap for the rising e-waste problem is the best manner of solving the problem of electrical/electronics waste and its hazards (LASEPA, 2011). In essence, the menace of e-waste is a fall out of globalization. The craze for phones, ipods, laptops, blackberry and many other related items has turned Nigeria into a dumping ground. A large number of these electronics find their way to the Computer Village and Alaba Market in Lagos, and other places where Nigerians avail themselves of them. However, lack of data on the volume of e-waste imported into the country or generated domestically, constitute a primary challenge facing regulators. This hinders proper planning and strategic establishment of infrastructure required for the management of e-waste. Since Nigerians are moving with the tides of globalization and will continue to use these electronics products, the only option left for the country is for the government to put in place effective policy, law and regulation for the management of e-waste in Nigeria.

Generators
Another major environmental hazard associated with globalization is the influx of generating sets, commonly called generators in Nigeria. Due to incessant cut in power supply in Nigeria, most homes and industries resort to the use of generators. Nigeria is the largest importer of generators in the world, with over 1.3 trillions been spent in the last four years purchasing generators in an effort to respond to the declining power supply in the country. The generators is a source of noise and air pollution in the country. Many industries as well as many homes use generators for twenty four hours as an alternative source of power supply, despite the fact that they are only meant to be backups for electricity. Also, apart from the nuisance it constitutes as a result of noise in the neighbourhood, many Nigerians have lost their lives from the use of generators either through an electrical shock or the inhalation of generator fumes, which often contain carbon monoxide.

Also, the way and manner diesel and petrol are stored in many homes for use in their generators portends high risk for the environment. This is due to their inflammable nature, making generators unsafe for use sometimes within homes. Many houses do not have designated places for storing these items, and the fuel and generators are often kept carelessly around or even within the building , thereby increasing the risk of fire outbreaks. Undocumented incidences of fire outbreaks caused by the use of generators happen almost every week around the country.

Findings
i. The negative sides of Globalization is more on the Third World Countries especially Nigeria. A research by Global system for Mobile Communication (GSM) Association has revealed that a woman living in sub-sahara Africa is 23% less likely than a man to own a mobile phone, while middle and south Asia the figures are 24% and 37% respectively.
ii. The research further unveiled that 300 million women fewer than men in developing countries owned a mobile and initiative called M. Women proposed to halve this ‘gender gap’ within three years starting in 2010 (BBC News, 7th October, 2010). The Third World countries that do migrate from South-south has been on increase, some endanger their lives by sleeping on sea shore and being caught by strong wave” as expressed by an Egyptian participant (The world commission Report on the social dimension of globalization, 2007) indicating that developing countries are recipient of globalization. The socio-political dimension of globalization has been the weakness of the state in the Third World Countries and inability to influence international decision making to manage the economy.
iii. The forces of Globalization in terms of technological advancement call for exploitation of the world resources. There is a strong link between Globalization and rapid depletion of natural resources and deterioration of the environment and this is where the Netherlands Development
Assistance Research Council (2000) argues that Globalization is seen as a cause of the growing involvement of criminal in the new forms of natural resources management.

iv. Third World countries especially Nigeria are experiencing huge negative impact of globalization. For example, the dreaded Boko Haram that has caused monumental insurgency in Nigeria leading to colossal dislocation of political, economical, social, cultural cum religious lives of the country.

v. Again, it is a result of globalization that the economy of the country remains dormant since we continue to import and import more of goods and services, paying heavy tariff to others because we are interconnected through globalization. We also find out that globalization has destroyed our entire system, for example, the use of communication network and electronics to commit crime in Nigeria is at its alarming rate.

Conclusion

In this paper, it has been demonstrated that globalization as a phenomenon has assumed a new phase in contemporary global political economy and that Nigeria must equip and package herself effectively to confront its challenges in the 21st century. Whereas the world is rapidly growing and developing into a world single unit, otherwise known as the Global village, rapid movement at realizing the new ongoing process of globalization is a direct function of (National) development. The paper also articulates the view that globalization in its current dimension is characterized by three distinct but interrelated features: the integration of the economic systems of nation states into ‘global economy’, the primacy and supremacy of international markets and international competitiveness; and the phenomenal rise in the internationalization of labour, capital and portfolio investments. In addition, that globalization will incidentally bring about world development because of the opening up of one’s economy and products for an intensive competition among countries of the world at the world markets.

The paper critically examined the two forces that propelled globalization namely, technological revolution and economic liberalization. It submits that the new thrust of globalization makes it imperative for nation states to understand the intricacies of the phenomenon so as to enable them devise strategic ways to harness its advantages.

Third World countries, Nigeria inclusive, are weak in terms of development and economic viability; hence the bargaining power in relations to their ability to influence prices is mission due to the nature of their economy and development, which has subjected them to the state of underdevelopment and poor region – which has again made it easier and possible for the continued dependent and marginalization of the continent on their countries at the global level.

The challenges of globalization must be faced by developing nations for them to be relevant in the global scheme of things. For Nigeria, in particular, the challenges are enormous but not insurmountable.

Nigeria cannot afford to remain aloof and be completely isolated from the global economic interplay. The country should make conscious effort to transform the economy so as to fully harness the benefits of globalization. The various endogenous and exogenous constraints that have continued to undermine macroeconomic stability in the country should be seriously tackled.

The critical sector of the economy that mining, industries and energy should be the core concern of economic policy and should be properly harnessed for the country’s development.

The nation technological base should be re-activated, like the Ajaokuta Steel rolling mill, the Aladja Steel Plant and Kastina, Jos and Osogbo Steel rolling mills should be completed.

Finally, it must be stressed that given the nature and character of the Nigerian State with its inherent weak domestic base, globalization, certainly has its adverse implications on the nation’s economy. However, in order to minimize the negative effects and harness whatever benefits of the current growing and overwhelming globalization trend; there is the necessity for a complete restructuring and transformation of the Nigeria political economy.

Recommendations

From our findings, we made the following recommendations:

1. Nigeria and indeed the third world countries should strive to develop the potentials for active and effective participation in the world economic integration process.

Nigeria Government should initiate a new approach for development process and provide a framework for efficient resource mobilization to move the Nigeria economy and African states from primary/consuming economies to a more matured industrial/manufacturing economies.
2. Widespread economic activities should be encouraged between the rural and urban sectors to elicit employment opportunities, human capital and technological advancement.

3. Adequate provision of appropriate incentives should be made to increase the output and productivity of the real sector of the economy to enable the economy face the challenges of globalization.

References


