CHALLENGES OF TEXTILES PRODUCTION IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF EBONYI STATE, NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

This study will thoroughly investigate the challenges of textiles production in the economic development of the nation particularly in Ebonyi State. To achieve this, five research questions will be proposed to guide the study. Therefore, some scholars' works will be reviewed theoretically based on the issue of textiles production as related to economic development in Nigeria. The population of the study will comprise of 100 respondents. 30 item structured questionnaires will be used to collect information from respondents. Data collected will be presented and analyzed statistically using a simple mean. A mean value of 2.5 and above will be accepted, and items with mean values below 2.5 be rejected. Based on the findings of the study, the results will be considered and place clues as factors militating against textiles production in Nigeria. Such factors are inadequate availability of textiles raw materials, lack of manpower, dependent on foreign technologies, low patronage and low quality products, amongst all. Some recommendations will be made to redress the issue. They are as follows: Nigeria should start grazing textiles raw materials to industries for production of textiles products, Government should build her own textile industries and as well help in funding other private textile industries, as this will help in job creation and reduction in poverty, Youths should be advised and empowered by government to embark on sourcing textiles raw materials, as this would make them become self-employed, self-reliant, self-discovered, self-independent, among others.

INTRODUCTION
Background of the Study
Nigeria is one of the few developing economics endowed with diverse natural and human resources that could have made her a leading economy in the world within two decades of its independence. The social, physical and infrastructural developments in the independence era in 1960, guaranteed an upward, stable increase in its economic profile. The trend then, given the surplus natural resources, attest to the potentialities of the country and its people, possibility of being ahead of other developing countries in Africa and beyond. This is expected to ensure steady increase and stability in its political economy one hand and provide job security to its teeming population. Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa and the fifth in the world, the oil boom era of the 1970s stalemated the steady growth and promising future of Nigeria political economy. The discovery of the black gold prior in independence at Oloibiri (present-day Beyelsa State) in 1959 and subsequent exploration, processing and marketing of crude oil signaled the subtle and steady slide into economic extravagancy and over-dependence on an oil-powered economy (Banger, 2005). Therefore, the negligence of other aspects of the economy such as agriculture (cocoa, groundnut, palm); textiles, art and crafts among others in pre and post independent Nigeria were gradually undermined through inadequate funding.

The concept of development has to do with the identification of basic needs to the individuals, families, interest groups, communities as well as their competencies or abilities to meet these needs, which are channeled or targeted towards gradual growth (Ogunduyile, 2002). National development can therefore be actualized when a nation's total resources: human, environmental or material are appropriately and effectively harnessed to move the country from the status quo to a higher stratum. The need to stabilize Nigerian economy implies harnessing all resources and factors that can re-shape its economy to achieving a purposeful growth. In this regard, textiles industries have been identified as a dependable employer of labour and a source of financial security for most Nigerian youths (Afuye, 2014).

Textiles is a general term which refers to any material made of interlacing of fibres such as fabric, cloth, carpet, and belt among others. Generally, it is a flexible woven material consisting of a network of natural or artificial fibres which are often referred to as thread or yarn. The importance of textiles to human sustenance, and the socio-cultural and economic development of a nation cannot be overemphasized. Apart from food and shelter, textiles (clothing) has been identified as the most flourishing at both cottage and industrial levels. Studies show that the industry had been a major employer of labour (about 60% of the labour force) in the manufacturing sector and contributed immensely to the socio-economic and cultural development of the country (Asaju, 2004). It is unfortunate, that the current economic low-ebb in Nigeria has developed adversarial forces clamping the proper functioning of the textile industry as a resourceful economic contributor.

The first modern textile mill in Nigeria, Kaduna Textiles Mill, was started in 1956 in Kaduna in northern Nigeria. The primary reason for setting up the mill was to process the cotton that was produced in the northern part of the country. By the 1970s and 1980s, the Nigeria textiles industry had grown to become the third largest in Africa (Abimbola, 2010). Between 1985 and 1991, it recorded an annual growth of 67% and as at 1991, it employed about 25% of workers in the manufacturing sector (Banger, 2005). Unfortunately, the industry's relevance to national

economic growth had decreased drastically in recent time. Hence, certain nagging questions naturally come to mind, what could have been responsible for the dwindling fortune of Nigerian textiles industry? What led to the industry – which was once the largest employer of labour in the manufacturing sector of the country – to become one that desperately needs help? How do we salvage the economic downturn of the industry or what could be done to bring it back from the brink?

Finally, textiles production is very important to the extent that its value cannot be over-mentioned. Textiles industries provide job opportunity to Nigerian youths, and reduce poverty in society. These roles of textiles production are believed to be the contributing factors that harness Nigerian economic development.

Statement of the Problem

Before the discovering of crude oil in Nigeria in 1960, Nigeria has been depending on agriculture for survival, and its economic boost. But, today she has left agriculture and depended on oil production. Textiles raw materials which are sourced out by the local farmers are inadequate for practices by government and individuals have led to ineffective production of textiles materials in Nigeria especially. Other problems such as over dependency on foreign textiles products, high cost of textile materials, epileptic power supply, adverse government policies, poor technology among others have crippled the effective functioning of the textiles industries in Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to:
- Assess government effort in building up textiles industries in Nigeria.
- Determine the level of dependency on foreign textiles products.
- Determine the possible availability of textiles raw materials.
- Ascertain the cost of textiles raw materials and textile products.
- Ascertain how much textiles productions contribute to economic development.

Significance of the Study

The role of textiles in the society cannot be over-emphasized. Therefore, this study will be beneficial to the following:
- Industrialists: Raw textile materials would be adequately made available to industries for effective production of textiles products. It will also encourage industrialists to establish more textile industries in Ebonyi State and Nigeria at large.
- People: This will lead to job creation for the teeming Nigeria youths and unemployed graduates. It will also lead to building people entrepreneurially.
- Government: This study will be an advisory measure to government, for her to know the relevant of textile production, and roles it plays to the development of her economy.
- Society: This study will also be beneficial to the society, as it will reveal the socio-eco-political and socio-cultural uses of textiles products.
- Educationalist: This study will be a source of information to the readers researchers and curriculum implementers as it would expose to them, the relevance of textiles materials.

Scope of the Study

The study intends to cover textiles productions in Ebonyi State, Nigeria as it relates to the topic 'Challenges of Textiles Production in the Economic Development in Ebonyi State'.

Research Questions

The study formulated the following research questions,

- Does Nigeria as a nation have the capacity of sourcing out textiles raw materials?
- What percentage of textiles raw materials can the nation source locally?
- To what extent has government shown effort in rebuilding the textiles industries in Nigeria?
- Does the Nigerian populace depend on foreign textiles materials and products?
- Does the cost of textiles raw materials affect productivity?
- Do textiles industries and their products cause economic growth and development?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This paper describes the methods used for this study, this includes:

Research Design

This design of the study is descriptive survey. However, investigations will be carried out in their natural settings without research manipulations of either the independent or dependent variable. In this study a survey design is preferred since the study aims at sampling teachers and textiles practitioners perception on the challenges facing textiles production in Nigeria as it effects economic development.

Area of the Study

This study will be carried out in Ebonyi State particularly in Ohaukwu Local Government Area. Ohaukwu Local Government Area is one of the Local Government Areas in Ebonyi State. It shares boundary between Ishielu, Ezza North and Ebonyi L.G.As, and Benue State. It has fertile land. The primary occupations of Ohaukwu people are farming, crafting, pottering, trading and schooling. It has about 10 communities which includes: Ntsurakpa, Amike, Amechi, Umu-Ebe, Umuoru, Umuagara, and among others.

Population of the Study

The total population in this study will be 100. That is 50 local weavers, 30 fabric designers and 20 art teachers in five (5) selected communites (Ntsurakpa, Amike, Amechi, Umu-Ebe, Umuoru) in Ohaukwu Local Government Area.

Sample and Sampling Techniques

The study will use Simple Random Sampling Techniques due to the vast number of people in the five (5) selected communities. 100 respondents were randomly selected for sampling in each community, 20 respondents (10 local weavers, 6 fabric designers and 4 teachers were sampled.

Instrument for Data Collection

The Instrument for data collection will be structured questionnaires which will be designed to elicit response from the respondents.

The responses are rated as follow:

Strongly Agree   (SA)   =4points
Agree   (A)   =3points

Disagree   (D)   =2points
Strongly Disagree   (SD)   =1points

Validation of the Instrument

The instruments will be given to experts and other educationists. This is to ensure the content and face validity. The experts will analyze the instrument thoroughly and give corrections for appropriateness.

Reliability of the Instrument

The reliability of the instrument will be established using test-re-test method.

Method of Data Collection

One hundred questionnaires will be distributed among the selected samples. In administering the questionnaires, the researcher will adopt the Direct Delivery Techniques (DDT). This means that the questionnaire will be personally administered and collected. This was to ensure high rate of questionnaire returns. The DDT will be used to:

- Reduce the mortality rate of the questionnaire;
- Help researcher to clarify issues and matter which were ambiguous;
- Encourage the respondents to complete the questionnaires on their own rather than being influenced by others;
- Eliminate delay and time loss

Method of Data Analysis

The study will use descriptive statistical method of analysis to analyze the data. However, the mean and standard deviation will be computed on the responses of each questionnaire item using the mean formular =   and standard deviation formular

Where,

= Mean of the response in each questionnaire item.

= Frequency of each questionnaire item.

= Deviation of each scale point from mean.

= Total number of response on each questionnaire item

Calculation of the decision point or cut-off mean was arrived as follows;

.. cut-off mean =

.. 2.5 decision.

Finally, the cut-off mean of 2.50 implies that, every mean score that is exactly or above 2.50 accepts with the decision, while any score below 2.50 rejects with the decision.

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

The data collected from the study were presented and analyzed in this paper by using table, as it regards based on the research questions chosen for the study.

Research Question I

Does Nigeria as a nation have the capacity of sourcing out textiles rawmaterials?

Table 4.1: Responses to weather Nigeria as a nation has capacity of sourcing outtextiles raw materials.

S/N	Items	Responses				Total	Ex	Remarks
		SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1			
1	There are grazing lands for textiles raw materials in Nigeria	40	30	20	10	100	3.00	Accepted
2	There are farmers who engage in planting of natural fibres for textiles raw materials	60	20	10	10	100	3.30	Accepted
3	The fibres planted in Nigeria will be enough for both exports and the production of local textiles.	10	20	15	65	100	1.75	Rejected
4	There are sources for both synthetic and locally made fibres in Nigeria.	40	45	5	10	100	3.15	Accepted
5	Nigeria has a planned system for the production of textiles	10	10	10	70	100	1.60	Rejected

From the table 4.1 above in item 1, it was observed that, there are grazing lands for textiles raw materials in Nigeria with a supporting decision-mark of 3.00. It was seen in item 2 that, there are farmers who engaged themselves in planting natural fibres for textiles raw materials with a decision-mark of 3.30. Item 3 shows that fibres planted in Nigeria would not be enough for exporting with a mark of 1.75. A 3.15 decision mark proved in item 4 that, there are sources for both synthetic and locally made fibres in Nigeria. In item 5, it was observed that Nigeria has no planned system for the production of textiles raw materials with a decision-mark of 1.60.

Research Question II

What percentage of textile raw materials can the nation source locally?

Table 4.2: Responses to percentage of textile raw materials Nigeria sources locally.

S/N	Items	Responses				Total	Ex	Remarks
		SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	1		
1	Nigeria sources out 100% of cotton as one of the locally made materials.	15	IS	10	60	100	1.85	Rejected
2	Nigeria sources out 100% of silk, fibres for production of textiles.	10	15	15	60	100	1.75	Rejected
3	Nigeria has the capacity of manufacturing out synthetic fibres for textiles products	10	10	30	50	100	1,80	Rejected
'4	The nation raises budget for manufacturing raw materials for textiles.	10	10	30	50	100	1.80	Rejected
5	100% of textile raw materials are sourced locally.	20	10	30	40	100	2.10	Rejected

From table 4.2 above in item 1, it was shown that Nigeria does not source 100% cotton locally with a decision-mark of 1.85. Item two proved that Nigeria does not source out 100% of silk, fibres for production of textiles with a mark of 1.75. In item 3, it was observed that Nigeria has no capacity to producing out synthetic fibres for textiles products with a decision-mark of 1.80. It was seen in item 4 that, Nigeria does not raise budget for manufacturing raw materials for textiles, as supported with a mean-mark of 1.80. Observably, in item 5, 100% of textiles raw materials are not sourced locally with a supporting decision of 2.10

Research Question III

To what extent has government shown effort in rebuilding the textile industries in Nigeria?

Table 4.3: Responses to the extent government has shown effort in rebuilding textiles industries.

S/N	Items	Responses				Total	Ex	Remarks
		SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1			
1	The government provides adequate raw materials to the textile industries.	15	14	21	50	100	1.94	Rejected
2	The government provides enough manpower in rebuilding the textile industries.	13	19	30	38	100	1.99	Accepted
3	The government and its top officials patronize locally made textiles products more than that of foreign own.	10	20	40	50	100	1.90	Rejected
4	Government policies encourage growth and sustenance of textiles industries in Nigeria.	40	45	10	5	100	3.20	Accepted
5	The government reinforces the textiles in industry workers by giving them on-job training and incentives for hard work	10	15	40	35	100	2.00	Rejected

From table 4.3 above, it was proven in item 1 with a decision-mark of 1.94 that, government does not provide adequate raw materials to the textile industries. A decision-mark of 1.99 supported the view in item 2 that, government does not provide enough manpower in rebuilding the textile industries. It was seen in item 3, that government and its top officials do not adequately patronize locally made textiles products rather they depends on the foreign ones, with a decision-mark of 190. It was observed in item 4 that, government policies encourage the growth and sustenance of textile industries in Nigeria with a mark of 3.20. Item 5 proved that, government does not reinforce textile industry workers by giving them training and incentives for hard works with a decision-mark of 2.00.

Research Question IV

Does the Nigeria populace depend on foreign textiles materials?

 Table 4.4: Responses to whether Nigeria populace depends on foreign textiles materials.

S/N	Items	Responses				Total	Ex	Remarks
		SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1			
1	Nigerian textile industries satisfy Nigerian populace such as producing fashionable and quality textiles products.	15	15	35	35	100	2.10	Rejected
2	Nigerian textiles industries produce enough quantity of textiles products needed by the large population.	10	10	30	50	100	1.80	Rejected
3	Foreign textiles products are classified above Nigerian textile products.	10	15	40	35	100	2.00	Rejected
4	There is comparison between Nigerian textiles products and foreign own,	40	45	10	5	100	3.20	Accepted
5	Nigerian populace prefer foreign textiles products to Nigerian own.	60	30	10	0	100	3.30	Accepted

From table 4.4 above, it was seen in item 1, that Nigerian textile industries donot satisfy her

populace, such as producing fashionable and quality textiles products,with a mark of 2.10. In

item 2, it was observed that Nigerian textile industries do notproduce enough quantity of textiles

products needed by the large population withdecision-mark of 1.80. A 2.00 decision-mark

supported the view of tern 3 that,foreign textiles products are not classified above Nigerian own.

It was seen in item 4that, there is comparison between Nigerian textiles products and that of

foreign ownwith a mean-mark of 3.20. Item 5 proved with a decision-mark of 3.30 that Nigerian

Populace prefers foreign textiles products to Nigerian own with a mark of 3.30.

Research Question V

Does cost of textile raw materials affect productivity?

Table 4.5: Responses to whether cost of textiles raw materials affect productivity.

S/N	Items	Responses SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	Total	Ex	Remarks
1	High cost of cotton, fibresetc. leads to Poor textiles production.	50	30	15	5	100	3.25	Accepted
2	Lack of raw textile producers leads to high price in demanding by industrialist.	40	45	10	5	100	3.20	Accepted
3	Inadequate supply of textile raw materials leads to poor-making of textile products.	42	38	15	5	100	3.17	Accepted
4	Inadequate production of textiles products due to high price demanded by the makers leads to high price in selling.	50	35	10	5	100	3.30	Accepted
5	High cost of textile raw materials discourages manufacturer's interest.	46	44	5	5	100	3.31	Accepted

From the table 4.5 above in item 1, it was observed that high cost of cotton, fibres leads to poor textiles production with a decision-mark of 3.25. Item 2 in the same table revealed with accepting mean of 3.20 that, lack of raw textiles producers leads to high price in demanding by industrialist. In item 3, it was seen that inadequate supply of textile raw materials leads to poor making of textile products, with 11 mean-mark of 3.17. A 3.30 decision-mark supported the view of item 4 that, inadequate producing of textile products due to high price in demanding by makers leads to high price in selling. Item 5 proved that high cost of textile materials discourages manufacturer's interest as it is supported with a decision-mark of 3.31.

Research Question VI

Do textile industries and their products cause economic growth and development?

Table 4.6: Responses to whether textile industries and their products cause economic growth and development

S/N	Items	Responses				Total	Ex	Remarks
		SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1			
1	Textiles production creates job opportunities in Nigeria.	50	40	5	5	100	3.35	Accepted
2	The production of textiles in adequate quantity and quality enhances economic development and career-making.	50	40	10	0	100	3.40	Accepted
3	Sustenance of viable textiles industries encourages young people textile artists towards having the desire to be entrepreneurial in textiles and fashion business.	40	40	15	5	100	3.15	Accepted
4	Functional textiles industries encourage employment thereby reducing social vices in the society.	30	50	20	0	100	3.30	Accepted
5	Textiles industries and their products lead to the reduction of poverty.	50	40	5	5	100	3.35	Accepted

From table 4.6 above in item 1, it was observed that textiles production create job opportunities in Nigeria with a decision-mark of 3.35. Item 2 proved with a decision-mark of 3.40 that production of textiles in adequate quantity and quality enhances economic development and career-making. A 3.15 decision-mark supported the view in item 3 that, sustenance of viable textiles industries encourage young people textile artists towards having the desire to be entrepreneurial in nature. In item 4, it was proven with a decision-mark of 3.30 that, functional textiles industries encourage employment thereby reducing social vices in the society, Textile industries and their products lead to reduction of poverty, as it was proven in item 5 with a mean-mark of 3.35.

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Discussion

This section discussed extensively on the findings of the study as related to the research topic 'The Challenges of Textiles Production in the Economic Development of the Nation; A Study of

Ebonyi State'. Therefore, questionnaire was administered to the respondents by researcher for proper obtaining of vital .information on the issue under the study. The data collected were presented and analyzed in chapter four on this work. The discussion went as thus:

Nigeria has enough lands for grazing textiles raw materials, and there are farmers who engaged themselves in planting textile raw materials such as fibre, silk, cotton etc. But, the textile raw materials planted in Ebonyi State were not enough for production of textile for both internationally and locally used; and Nigeria has no well planned system for the production of textiles, as they were proven in chapter four (table 4.1) of this work.

Based on the findings in table 4.2, it was discovered that Nigeria as a nation does not source out 100% cotton and fibres for textile production; and has no capacity of manufacturing out synthetic fibres for textiles products. This would have led to poor production of textile products in Nigeria. However, the nation has not raised budget for manufacturing textile raw materials. This must be a militating factor against production of textiles in both quantity and quality.

Another finding, as it was discovered in chapter four (table 4.3) is that, government was unable to provide adequate raw materials to the textile industries, and as well incapable to provide manpower for rebuilding the textile industries.

Surprisingly, government and her top officials depend on buying foreign textiles products than locally made ones upon her policies that support for the growth and sustenance of textile industries but they failed to utilize the policies, and failed to reinforce the textile industry workers by not giving them in-service training and incentives for hard work. These bad altitudes are believed to have negatively influenced the productivity of textiles in Ebonyi State, Nigeria.

Another discovering was that Nigerian textile industries do not satisfy Nigerian populace. This might be as a result of government attitude (lack of proper caring to textile industry workers) and inadequate availability of textile raw materials'.

Most interestedly, even the textiles products, some industries produce are even more precious than that of foreign own, as they were proven in chapter four (Table IV) in this study.

Finally, another finding was that textile production creates job opportunities, and as well enhances economic development and career-making by encouraging youths (textile artists) to become entrepreneurial in nature. Undoubtedly, this would lead to self-employment, self-actualization, self-independence etc. which will help tremendously in the reduction of social vices and poverty, and thereby boasts Nigerian economy.

Conclusion

The roles of textile production in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. Although, there are numerous challenges that face the production of textiles in Nigeria, but it still maintains its roles in booting Nigerian economy and reduction in poverty and social vices.

This study was conducted in Ebonyi State, Nigeria to examine the challenges of textile production as they affect economic development of the nation. Based on the research conducted, it was clear that Nigeria as a nation has a great fertile land to graze cotton, fibres, silk and some other textile raw materials for production of textile products, but due to her attitude towards the utilization of these raw materials, the production of textile products in Nigeria has become ineffective and inefficient, Some industrialists who have established textile industries in Nigeria have closed, and some of them that are still into existence are no longer producing in large quantity and quality due to inadequacy of the availability of textile raw materials. The low

quantity and quality of production of textile products in Nigeria have led to the discouragement of the buyers' interest, which made them to start patronizing foreign textiles products.

Interestingly, the textiles products produced industrially and locally in Nigeria are more precious than that of foreign own. Believably, if government would do something tangible to ensure that re-frastructuralization of industries, youth empowerment (textile artists), reinforcement of textiles industry workers, raw textile materials growing, take place effectively and efficiently, some problems facing Nigeria today such as poverty, unemployment and some social vices would becomeas history.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the research conducted, the researcher recommended as follows:

1. Nigeria should start grazing textiles raw materials to industries for production of textile products.

2. Government should build her own textile industries and as well help in funding other private textile industries, as this will help in job creation and reduction in poverty.

3. Youths should be advised and empowered by government to embark of sourcing textile raw materials, as this would lead to self-employment, self-reliance etc.

4. If Nigeria starts to producing textiles products in quantity and quality, the importation of textile products should be banned/restricted.

5. Vocational subjects such as Fine and Applied Arts, Business Studies etc. should theoretically and practically be taught effectively and efficiently inboth primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education, as this will lead to self-entrepreneurial.

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