

Globalization and Indigenous Public Policies in Nigeria

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Abstract

This research attempts a critical examination of the impact of globalization on indigenous public policy in Nigeria. Globalization demands that countries must obviously open their borders to allow easy flow and movement of goods and services. This condition, therefore, demands that Nigeria must adjust her indigenous public policy mechanism and apparatus to accommodate the movement of these goods and services. With effect of globalization on Nigeria in both political, economical and technological aspects etc the research findings conclude that globalization itself is not a strong predictor of indigenous public policies in Nigeria. The research employed the use of questionnaire to collect primary data and documentary research method was utilized to collect secondary data.

INTRODUCTION

Globalization has become one of the most frequently discussed topics in social science. The common notion behind these discussions is that the physical spheres of human activities are being globalized more broadly and more deeply than in any other times of history, and that this trend in turn bring significant changes in various human activities of economic, political, social and cultural dimension. Globalisation involves the interplay of political, economical and technological, which are amongst the oldest and most distinctive human innovations. Exchange, the fundamental principle on which markets are organised, is known to exist in the most primitive human societies. Man is not the only living creature with the ability to store surpluses and live in complex societies controlled by chiefs consider the industrious ants and bees but is the unique in his ability to socially redistribute these surpluses through increasingly complex divisions of labour under the authority of the State. Sheel (2008) asserted that the saga of globalisation is that of an unbound Prometheus, with surges in productivity and growth unparalleled in history as markets, technology and states are progressively freed from local demand and supply constraints. Although the term 'globalisation' has gained currency only recently, the forces driving this trend can be traced back to the end of the middle Ages in Europe.

Globalization in reality for better or for worse touches lives in ways most people never can imagine. So globalization has evolved revolution of information technology that has been dramatically changing human behaviour, management of corporations, and governance of states much more than the industrial revolution transformed the agricultural society. The markets and trade, in fact, are borderless, communication is much easier via the Internet and mobile instruments, and the world is getting much closer (Kim 2006). On the words of Ibrahim (2013) globalization as such process of intensification of economic, political, social and cultural relations across international boundaries aimed at the transcendental homogenization of political and socio-economic theory across the globe, impacts significantly on African states through systematic restructuring of interactive phases among its nations, by breaking down barriers in the areas of culture, commerce, communication and several other fields of endeavour. Globalization appears to have threatened the community and authenticity of local culture which has given rise to social movements protesting against perceived homogenization of culture (Hele 1997) in (Charles & Mark 2013).

Indigenous public policies refer to whatever government choose to do or not to do (Dye 2002). Governments do many things. Indigenous public policies are meant to regulate conflict within society; they organize society to carry on conflict with other societies; they distribute a great variety of symbolic rewards and material services to members of the society; and they extract money from society, most often in the form of taxes. Anderson (1979) was in the view that indigenous public policy consists of guidelines developed by governmental bodies and officials to regulate official actions that are influenced by non-governmental factors.

The problem that continues to dominates most researchers about globalization in relation to Nigeria view it negatively in every sector of human endeavour. But the research will attempt to bring about if globalization is a strong predictor of indigenous public policy in Nigeria.

DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

Globalization: encompasses many trends including expanded international trade, political ties, monetary

coordination, multinational corporations, technical and scientific cooperation, cultural exchange of new types and scales, migration and refugee flows, and relations between the world's rich and poor countries.

Indigenous Public Policy: is a proposed course of action of a person, group, or government within a given environment providing obstacles and opportunities which the policy was proposed to utilize and overcome in an effort to reach a goal or realize an objective or a purpose.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Globalization according to Akindele (1990) refers to the process of the intensification of economic, political, social and cultural relations across international boundaries. Globalization is principally aimed at the transcendental homogenization of political and socio-economic theory across the globe. It is equally aimed at “making global being present worldwide at the world stage or global arena” (Fafowora, 1998). Oluabunwa, (1999:20) asserted that globalization can be seen as an evolution which is systematically restructuring interactive phases among nations by breaking down barriers in the areas of culture, commerce, communication and several other fields of endeavour. Onuoha (2008) argues that globalization is intended to generate propensity and peace for the multinational corporations and advanced capitalist societies. Lastly, globalization is a process which breaks down barriers between nations and encourages closer economic, political and social integration among nations (Owugah, 2004).

Indigenous public policies are whatever government choose to do or not to do (Dye 2002). Coloete *et la* (2006), maintained that indigenous public policy is a “statement of intent”. Policy specifies the basic principles to be pursued in attaining goals. Owolabi (2005) asserted that indigenous public policies meant for the interest of any part of the community having a particular interest in common are public policies. Friedrich (1963) asserted public policy is a proposed course of action of a person, group, or government within a given environment providing obstacles and opportunities which the policy was proposed to utilize and overcome in an effort to reach a goal or realize an objective or a purpose.

Globalization and indigenous public policy in Nigeria will be research under which the research will attempt to find whether globalization in itself is a predictor of indigenous public policy in Nigeria.

CHALLENGES OF GLOBALIZATION IN NIGERIA

According to Sweeney (2000), president of International Confederation of Free Trade Union Convention narrated ‘we’ve seen the result (of globalization). The spread of sweat shops, the resurgence of child labour, prison and forced labour. Three hundred million more in extreme poverty than 10 years ago, countries that have lost ground, a boom in busts in which a generation of progress is erased in a month of speculation. Workers everywhere trapped in a competitive race to the bottom. Public administration and public policies are ineffective and inefficient to meet demands of the developing countries. ‘Those who protest free trade are no friends of the poor. Those who protest free trade seeks to deny them their best hope for escaping poverty’ (President George W. Bush, July 18, 2001).

As observed by Nsibamsi (2001) a former prime minister of Uganda, globalization has effects on culture interaction, some cultures are being diluted or destroyed, the world is now divided between the connected, who know and ho have a monopoly on almost everything, trade of illicit drugs, prostitution, human smuggling, brain drain from developing countries and effect on global rules and further marginalized Africa.

As a political and economic concept that originated from western world, the question arises as to the benefits of the third world countries in the contemporary globalization process. Thus, the question is, does globalization has any relationship to Nigeria especially on the issue of indigenous public policies formation? That is what the research is intended to find out.

HYPOTHESIS: There is no significant relationship between Globalization and indigenous public policy

METHODOLOGY

The research employed a questionnaire survey design to collected primary data. The questionnaire will measure demographic characteristics of the respondents such as sex, age, educational qualification and nationality. The independent variable constructs include issues related to recruitment, democratic governance, corruption etc and dependent variable construct which include beneficial communities, goals and objectives of the indigenous public policy, culture, democratic governance etc require four point Likert style responses ranging from 1 = “strongly disagree”, through to 2=“disagree”, 3=“agree” and 4 “strongly agree”. Variables in the questionnaire include background information of the respondents.

ANALYSIS OF DATA, RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1

		Sex			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	male	41	82.0	82.0	82.0
	female	9	18.0	18.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

Table one has shows the sex of the respondents, in which male respondents are 41 in number representing 82% of the total responses. While the female respondents are 9 in number representing 18% of the responses. So majority of the respondents are male respondents representing 82%.

Table 2

		Age			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	20 - 25	3	6.0	6.0	6.0
	26 - 30	13	26.0	26.0	32.0
	31 - 35	6	12.0	12.0	44.0
	36 - 40	14	28.0	28.0	72.0
	40 - above	14	28.0	28.0	100.0
	Total	50	100.0	100.0	

The age distribution of the respondents are 20 – 25 years of age are 3 in number representing 6% of the total respondents while 26 – 30years of age are 13 in number representing 26% of the total respondents. The third categories of respondents are those who fall between 31 – 35 years of age which are 6 in number representing 12% of the total respondents. The fourth category of respondents are 36 – 40 years of age which are 14 in number representing 28% of the total respondents. Lastly 40 – above years are also 14 in number representing 28% of the total respondents. So 36 – 40 years of age and 40 and above constituent majority of responses with 56% of the total responses.

Table 3

		Education			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Tertiary Education	50	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 3 virtually shows all the respondents have acquired tertiary education that is first degree or above first degree. The percentages of the respondents are 100% who acquire tertiary education. This symbolise that all the respondents are well educated and also elites in the society.

Table 4

		Nationality			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Nigerian	50	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 5 shows that all the respondents are Nigerians which represent 100% of the total responses.

Table 5
 Level of (Independent Variable) Globalization

		Statistics				
		Recruitment	Democratic Governance	Corruption	Western Ideology	Changes in Public Policy
N	Valid	50	50	50	50	50
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0
Mean		3.6800	1.2600	1.4800	3.3000	3.5800
Std. Deviation		.47121	.56460	.64650	.73540	.49857

Recruitment, western ideology and changes in public policy were found to be very satisfactory with means (3.68, 3.30 and 3.58 respectively). While democratic governance and corruption were found to be poor with mean (1.26 and 1.48 respectively). The reason for this may be connected with poor publicity about the effect of corruption, lacks of democratic governance to a nation were politics are do or die affair.

Table 6
 Level of (Dependent Variable) Indigenous public policy

		Statistics				
		Communities	Attaining Goals	Stability in Public Policy	Culture, Norms and Values	Democratic Principles
N	Valid	50	50	50	50	50
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0
Mean		3.7200	3.6200	3.5400	3.5400	3.6000
Std. Deviation		.45356	.49031	.50346	.50346	.49487

All aspect of indigenous public policy was found to very satisfactory with an average mean of 3.60.

Table 7

		Correlations	
		Globalization	Indigenous public policy
globalization	Pearson Correlation	1	.360
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.551
	N	5	5
inde.pub.pol	Pearson Correlation	.360	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.551	
	N	5	5

Table seven (7), since the sig value (0.551) is greater than 0.05, we accept the null hypothesis and conclude that globalization has no significant relationship with indigenous public policy in Nigeria.

Table 8
 Regression

		Coefficients				
		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	3.544	.096		36.881	.000
	globalization	.022	.034	.360	.669	.551

Dependent Variable: indigenous public pol.

Table 8 the sig value of 0.551 shows that globalization is not a significant predictor of indigenous public policy in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, globalization itself has many effects to Nigeria both politically, economically and technologically but the research found globalization is not a significant predictor of indigenous public policy in Nigeria. This is true because of the empirical evidence provided by the research study.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Research findings/recommendation includes the following:

- i. Recruitment (following due process), western ideology and changes in indigenous public policies should be encouraged at all level of governments. This is give way for more indigenous public policies to be created and in right time and will also encourage participation from the communities.
- ii. Democratic governance should given more publicity by all levels of governments and nongovernmental organizations in the country. This will allow more people to participate which will in turn improve participation of all in the formulation of public policies in the country.
- iii. Corruption is another area which was scoreless with a mean of 1.48 which translates poor. The authorities at all levels have to be more transparent in the execution of indigenous public policy. Those officials found in corrupt practices should be punished.
- iv. Culture, norms and values, democratic principles, stability of the indigenous public policy itself etc should be encouraged at all level of governments to allow participation from the benefiting communities (Nigerian community).
- v. Another research can be conducted to find more on globalization and indigenous public policies in Nigeria.

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