

## CHALLENGES OF DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION IN NIGERIA: ISSUES AND PROSPECTS

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### ABSTRACT

To fully appreciate development in the context of this study, it is necessary to understand the character of world system, Nigerian State and internal forces that impinges on her development. Hence the objectives of the study are to determine the effect of development administration on the Nigerian development and to explore measure to mitigate daunting development administration challenges facing Nigeria. Content analyses were used in the study. Thus, the study discovered that development administration is healthy for both developed and underdeveloped countries, hence Nigeria must be ready to exploit huge potentials in development administration through capacity development of political institutions for entrepreneurship and infrastructural leadership, among others.

### ARTICLE INFO

#### *Keywords:*

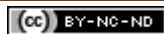
Development, Development  
Administration and FDI

#### *Article History:*

Received: 15 Feb 2023

Accepted: 25 Apr 2023

Available Online: 15 May 2023



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### 1. INTRODUCTION

The term development was coined by Goswami in 1955 and later popularized by scholars like Fred W. Riggs, Edward W. Weidner, Joseph La Palombara, Albert Waterson etc. Weidner's axiom was of two streams as the first who introduced the concept. One of the streams of administrative thought is the result of an evolving trend of scientific management which started at the turn of the century with administrative reform movement (Dwivedi, & Jain, 1985) cited in Omeje, (2019). The dominant concern in such reform effort has been with the means of administering in the best possible manner. In this process the analysis of ends or goals was not given equal attention. The goals were often identified with economy and efficiency. Hence economy and efficiency served as both ends and means blurring the distinction between them. There was under-emphasis on the study of the goals. The Public Administration had glorified means and forgotten the ends. It was an attempt in this concept, to fill a gap in administrative theory that the concept of development administration was introduced by Weidner (Omeje, 2019). The second stream is the trend towards national planning and government interventionism which emerged as consequence of the great depression of Late 1920's and early 1930's, World War II, post war reconstruction and other development after the war. In other words, the idea of development administration spans from perceived challenges in administration ranging from the time of European reconstruction, bi-polar division of the post-war world, the UN special international cooperation and development and emergence of the countries of Asia and Africa from the colonial bondage into sovereign states, as new members of the international community.

It is a very common practice now a days to classify the modern states into two broad categories on the basis of their development, developed and developing. However, Chukwuemeka (2022) maintains that even though we advocate again that a state can either be developed or underdeveloped, thus the word developing is illusive and deceptive, he argued. It was discussed earlier that the nature of the administration of a country is influenced by its environment, one of the characteristics of environment is development. Hence the level of development has linkage with the nature of administration of the country. This implies that the developed and underdeveloped countries will have administrative sub systems peculiar to them, for instance China and South Korea. This also explains the fact that there are differences of detail within the same category. What is development? It is a very complicated concept. It refers to an average of economic, social and political variables each of which exists on a continuum ranging from less to more develop. A country may simultaneously exhibits some traits that appears to be developed and others that appear to be less developed. Similarly, some features of public administration may appear developed, while others in the same country may resemble the features of a less developed country. There are differences in public administration at each pole of the development continuum that

do not reflect the stage of development as much as they reflect peculiar historical experiences or cultural traits. Great Britain, France, Germany and U.S.A for example are currently at about the same stage of advanced development. However, each of these states demonstrate peculiarities in public administration. Riggs (1963) argued that development exists in societies that have relatively equal distribution of benefits, utilizes modern technology that assigns rewards according to personal achievement and not according to family, caste or tribal background, that use specialists in economic and governmental roles, instead of generalists who must provide leadership in a full range of activities and that have governmental units that can adjust to social or economic changes and acquire new capabilities to meet new demand.

### 1.1 Statement of problems

Nigeria emerged from the independence as underdeveloped neo-colonial state. After ten years of independence and up till date it continued by and large with policies which at the international level ensure close collaboration with the metropolis emphasizing the special relationship between her and Britain even when it had gradually began to diversify her relations with the capitalist countries of the western bloc (neo oppressor) like Britain, USA, Germany etc. The industrial sector is dominated by low technology and the pattern of relationship between her and multi-nationals being based primarily on joint ventures did not encourage the development of an auto-centric industrial base. She lacked the capacity to exploit local raw material, diversify the economy which hitherto is mono cultural, work intermediate industries and produce capital goods, which could provide the basics for production and reproduction required for national development. Import substitution policy initiated during the colonial period and confirmed by subsequent government, which loudly took into account the local endowment, led to increased dependence on imported raw materials, industrial inputs, machinery and equipment, technology and expatriate personnel. Unequal exchange and predetermined international division of labour persisted reliance was placed on foreign direct investment as to accelerate both financial flows and the hydra-headed monster called technology transfer (Chukwuemeka 2018). The prolonged romance has led Nigeria into implementing some obnoxious policies that are antithetical to development. Chukwuemeka (2022) posits that there still inter factor such as politicization of ethnicity/ethnic jingoism, “domestic imperialism” divide and rule system. These have culminated in governance deficit “target-enemy” graft agency.

### 1.2 Objectives of the study

The broad objective is to examine the perceived challenges of development administration in Nigeria while the specific objective is to;

- Determine the effect of development administration on Nigeria development.
- Explore possible measure to mitigate daunting development administration challenges facing the country.

## 2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The study will be explored using three basis school of thought: the modernization theory, dependency and Marxian models. Modernization Theory was propounded by liberal scholars Samuel Huntington, (1927), Walter Rostow (1916), Gabriel Almond (1911), James Coleman (1926), Lucien Pye (1921). Lapalombra (1925 and Sydney Verba (1932)).... the basic tenets of the theory is that underdevelopment is a natural stage. They consider underdevelopment in Nigeria as lack of skilled manpower, high incidence of corruption, politicization of ethnicity, absence of adequate institutional structure, non availability of modern technology, inability of the third world countries to explore its natural resources, absence of effective leadership etc.

### 2.1 Tenets of development

- Self reliance, self generating growth a linkage between agriculture and industry must exist.
- Independent control of the economy to include nationalization of finances, houses and monitoring the movement of money.
- Equalization of economic opportunities, the reorganization of production relation in agriculture, industries and socialization of the means of production, which runs counter to privatization.
- A developed country should have ability to solve problems
- A developed country should be able to supply the basis needs of life to its citizens, such as food, cloths, shelter and healthcare services. Chukwuemeka (2008) argued that in discussing development it is imperative to expunge such indices of gross national product, per capital income because it only explains the growth rate.

The maxim development cannot be discussed in isolation hence under development. Clark (1997) cited in Chukwuemeka (2022) stated that underdevelopment means a situation in which the institution of a country in the periphery of international capital maintains a dependent relationship with one or several countries at the centre of international economy. Underdevelopment does not portend absence of growth but it is characterized by unequal distributions, slow growth and the sub-ordination of internal economics and political institutions to the influence from the centre (Onyishi 1995). In other words it characterized by a high incidence of poverty and a distorted economy.

### 2.2 Tenets of underdevelopment

- Corruption, politicization of ethnicity, political hegemony

- Non availability of modern technology, absence of effective leadership – cultural domination
- Lots of import substitution
- Marginalization of the peasantry – predominance of a comprador bourgeoisie over the national bourgeoisie
- Capital – monopoly capitalism i.e absence of competition because industries are dominated by MNC's leaving no room for new industries to spring up.
- Mono cultural, dependent on one type of mineral for survival.
- Enclave economy; suppliers of raw material
- Poverty of ideology – unidentified ideological interest, confusion in pursuit of development strategies
- There is divorce between resource and need, i.e underdeveloped countries very wealthy in terms of national resources endowment but poorest in the type of good and services provided for their citizens
- Domination of commercial activities instead of production.

### 2.3 Theoretical framework

The study adopted Dependency theory which was influenced by the Marxian theory of imperialism in the 1950's and 1960's. The theory originated from Latin American Countries. The initial formulation came from people who worked with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America who fought a middle way between socialism and semi-colonial status for the region. The leading articulators of Marxian dependency theory include Paul Baran, Paul Sweezy, Harry Magdoff, Andre Gunder Frank and Samir Amin. An economy is dependent to the extent that its position and relations to other economies in the international system and the articulation of its internal structure makes it incapable of auto-centric development (Ake, 1981 cited in Ikeanyibe 2014). By this definition all Colonial economies of Africa including Nigeria were and are heavily dependent. Ake, tries to articulate this by stressing factors such as dependence of the monetary system, financial dependence, technological dependence and trade dependence, which is an extension of the metropole. The Marxist dependence theory is shaped sharply by its development of the idea advanced in 1928 by the communist international. They posit that the effect of imperialism on the economically less developed countries is their underdevelopment. The proponent maintained that in the twentieth century there has been a net flow of wealth from the economically less- developed countries, which subsidize the advanced capitalist countries. The consequences of this transfer of wealth they argued is seen to be the less-developed countries becoming poorer and the advanced countries wealthier (Szymanski 1971 cited in Ikeanyibe 2014).

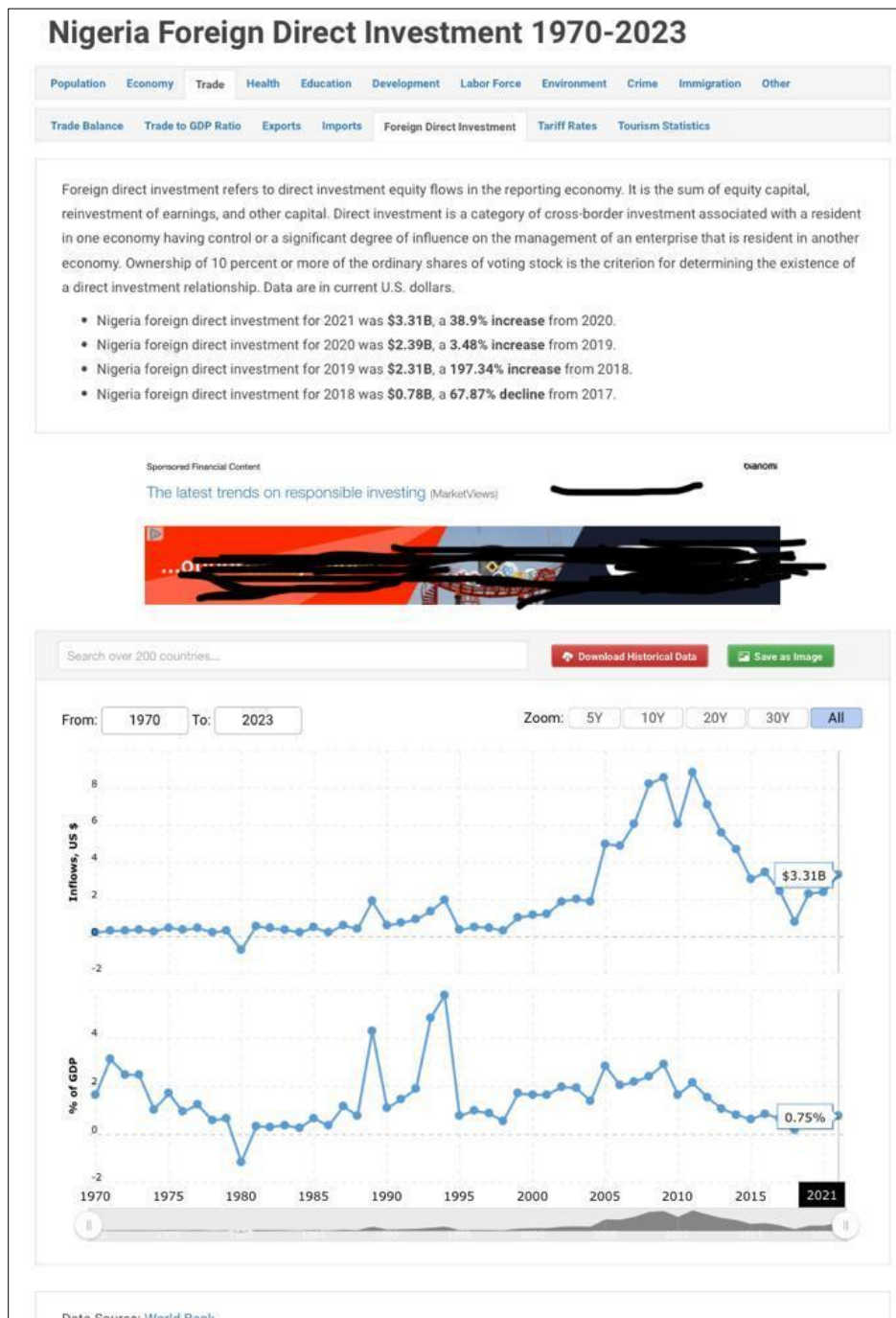
The school agrees specifically with dependency theory, by saying that Nigeria's underdevelopment is as a result of her incorporation into the world capitalist system. Chukwuemeka (2022) argued that although external factors are important, other factors such as relation to production and class formation helps in understanding Nigeria underdevelopment. However, the export of capital produce is what Marx, Luxemburg and Lenin called uneven development, with the formerly backward areas of the world rapidly industrializing. The predominance of the capitalist relations in the less-developed countries results in the process of underdevelopment, which increases the gap between the two types of countries both through the appropriation of their economic surplus by the advanced countries and because of the structural blocking of industrialization by the economic policies of the transnational corporations and the states they dominate (Szymanski 1981). Baran (1952) cited in Ikeanyibe, 2014) argues that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer because of the monopoly position of the rich in world trade and their dominance in overseas investment processes. That it results in the actual transfer of wealth from the less developed to the more – developed capitalist economies. Frank (1967) specifies three basic principles that order the relations between the less developed and developed capitalist countries. The first he argues is the exportation of the economic surplus by the metropolis, secondly, the polarization of the world capitalist system, and lastly the continuity of the fundamental structure of the capitalist system. In other words, it is justifiable to posit that under-development is the direct consequences of capital development of the metropole. In another development, Rodney (1972) posits that what is responsible for African underdevelopment can be explained in two ways, that the operation of the imperialist system bears major responsibility for African economic retardation by draining African wealth and making it impossible to develop more rapidly the resources of the continent. Secondly one has to deal with those who manipulate the system and those who are either agents or unwitting accomplices of the said system hence the capitalist of Europe and America have benefitted from the perceived exploitation and underdevelopment of Africa.

Once a country is converted into the satellite of an external capitalist metropolis, the exploitative metropolis satellite structure quickly comes to organize and dominate the domestic economic, political and social life of that country (Frank, 1967). It is metropolitan – controlled monopoly structure of the world market that is responsible for the direction of net capital flow towards the advanced capital states. (Frank, 1967) argued that the net capital flow is and has always been from the less – developed to the developed countries. These mechanisms do not belong only to the colonial and post-colonial era, they are contemporary as well in the current process of globalization. The basis of the economic dominance, especially the monopoly position, for the advanced capitalist state over the less-developed countries is superior technology. As technology has advanced over the centuries, the actual basis of dominance has also advanced. The basis of metropolitan

monopoly was to shift increasingly to technology combined with still greater penetration of metropolitan international corporations into the satellite economies (Frank 1967). Monopoly in the context of this study impedes the free flow of capital into protected high profile situation of nations of Europe and America, so that relations between the advanced capitalist states and those of the under developed countries are affected by transfer of value and accumulation.

## 2.4 Foreign direct investment

Most foreign direct investments in loan and grants shows targeted sectors of the economies that requires some form of advanced technology that Nigeria do not have. The expectation of advocates of technology transfer has been that with increased foreign direct investment across Africa, technological transfers as well as other skills sets would enhance the capacity of the state and citizens to develop their own resources to enhance economic and social wellbeing. The table below shows FDI from 1970 to 2021, looking at the trend one would conclude that corruption has really take the order of development in Nigeria. Between 2016 to 2020 FDI increased ranging from 3.48% to 197.34% apart from a decline of 67.87% recorded in 2017.



### 3. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings the study it can be concluded that development administration played a very crucial role for socio economic development of both developed and underdeveloped countries. These roles though significant can only be effective if the mentioned challenges were overcome. However, more important is giving attention to the needs of the people than increasing wealth.

### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Transitioning administration as a high performing institution deliver efficiency value with performance management.

- Development professionally competent bureaucracy: capacity autonomy, accountability
- Capacity development of political institution for entrepreneurial and transformative leadership
- Serving citizens more effectively = entrepreneurial administration.
- Innovative and sustainable returns in administration
- Strengthening administration for economic development and nation building
- Reinforcing e-governance for improved administrative performance.
- Creating enabling policies and building capacity for participation in global economy
- Enhancing public administrative capacity for realizing rights – based governance.
- Promoting public – private partnerships (synergy) in infrastructure development and delivery of services.
- There must be fundamental structural transformation of the society, thus Nigeria should not delink, but transform that relation of production. Therefore, Nigeria can only develop by adopting socialist party as a mode of production.

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