Reviving of Textile Industry in Nigeria

BY

Wogke Isaac Gyunggon

Department of Industrial Design, Federal University of Lafia Nasarawa State, Nigeria.
Email:sirgyungs@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This paper gives an overview of Nigeria Textile Industry, identifies the challenges and highlights possible solutions that will revive the industry. The Nigeria Textile Industry used to be the largest employer of labour, second to government and has always been major player in the manufacturing sector of the economy. However, today , the textile industry has ceased to be an important contributor to foreign exchange earnings and employment generation in Nigeria due to inadequate power supply, inconsistent government policies, rampant smuggling of foreign textile, insecurity, etc. Attempts at reviving the sector through fiscal policy and monetary intervention seem to go nowhere. This indicates that Nigeria operating environment is still very hostile to the textile sector . The challenges currently facing the industry are multifaceted and the need to revive the Nigeria textile sector in order to boost the economy cannot be overemphasized. Revival of the textile industry will require a strong political will, commitment and sincerity of purpose by the government. If all the problems affecting the industry can be tackled decidedly and holistically, the Nigerian Textile Industry will be resuscitated for sustainable development.

Keywords: Economic Recovery Policy, Political will, Intervention Fund, Revival.

INTRODUCTION

Industrialization is the engine for growth in any economy due to its important role in the foreign exchange earnings, provision of employment and general well-being of a nation. The textile and garments industries are of the largest industries in the world (Abimbola, 2010). As one learns about the various aspects of textiles and garment production, it is clear that it plays a major role in the economy of a country (Adam, 1992). Textiles and clothing contribute to employment in developed countries, particularly in regions where alternative jobs may be difficult to find, for example, the sector is dominated by small and medium-sized enterprises concentrated in several regions that are highly dependent on this sector.

Textiles and clothing are also said to be among the sectors where developing countries have the most to gain from multilateral trade liberalization. The garment industry is one of the largest and fast-growing industries (Adisa, 2013), the clothing industry is labour-intensive and it offers entrylevel jobs for unskilled labour in developed as well as developing countries. Moreover, it is a sector where relatively modern technology can be adopted even in poor countries at low investment costs.

These technological features of the industry have made it suitable as the first rank on the

industrialization ladder in poor countries, some of which have experienced a very high output
growth rate in the sector. Before the dominance of oil, Nigeria used to export agricultural products namely: oil palm produce, cocoa, groundnut, cotton and a host of others. The solid minerals exported included tin ore, iron, cobalt, coal, columbite etc. In Nigeria, nearly two decades after independence, the textile sub-sector was the major key player and this industrial sector contributed significantly to the growth of the economy. The textiles factory is said to have employed about 3 million Nigerians in the direct job from the production of cotton to the weaving, spinning and printing of textile materials. The industry also contributed hugely to the revenue bases of governments across the country and created hundreds of thousands of indirect jobs for Nigerians (Afuye, 2014).

Reports have shown that before 1997, the Nigeria Textile Industry was the second largest in Africa after Egypt with above 250 vibrant factories and over 50 percent capacity utilization. Olumide Abimbola (2015) reported that by the 1970s and the 1980s, the Nigerian textile industry had grown to become the third largest in Africa. Between 1985 and 1991, it recorded an annual growth of 67% and employed about 25% of workers in the manufacturing sector. This era could be described as the golden period of Nigeria’s textile industry. Some of the textiles companies that enjoyed the boom in the golden era then include Kaduna Textile Ltd (KTL), Arewa Textiles Plc, United Nigerian Textile Plc, Supertex, Nortex Nigerian Ltd and Finetex Nigerian Ltd. Others include Gaskiya Textiles Mill, Kano Textile Ltd, Aba Textiles, Zamfara Textiles Ltd, Asaba Textiles Ltd, African Textile Mill Plc, Tofa Textiles and several others such as Afprint, Atlantic Textiles Mill, Spintex, 5-Stars and Speco Mills Ltd. With the closure of KTL in 2002, Arewa Textiles in 2005 and UNTL in 2007, former President Olusegun Obasanjo announced a plan just prior to leaving office in 2007 to establish a 70 billion naira fund (which was later increased to 100 billion naira) that would provide moribund mills with loans to revive the industry. However, by September 2009 funds had not yet been disbursed, in part because the procedures for administering the loans had still not been finalized. The following year Namadi Sambo, the then Vice-President of Nigeria, set up a committee to reorganize revival efforts.

By the end of March 2011, Salisu Umar, chairman of the textile section of the Manufacturers
Association of Nigeria, reported that ‘At least 60 per cent of textile companies in the country have accessed loan from the N100 billion textile revival fund’. The textile revival committee also
facilitated the loan made to the largest Kaduna textile mill, UNTL, which was reopened in December 2010. Yet UNTL, while producing textiles for the domestic market continues to work with a skeleton staff, as the many and complex problems facing the Kaduna textile industry remain to be addressed. Previous studies by Asaju (2004), Oloyede (2014) and Makinde (2015) have shown that the textile industry had been a major employer of labour (about 60% of the labour force) in the manufacturing sector and contributed immensely to the socioeconomic and cultural development of Nigeria. It isunfortunate, however, that the current economic downturn in Nigeria has developed adversarial forces, thereby, clamping down the proper functioning of the textile industry as a resourceful economic contributor, due to the continuous usage of obsolete technology in the textile industry which reduces the standard, thus, patronage of the locally produced textile in the

country, and unfortunately lack of intervention fund because money is not readily available for textile manufacturers in Kaduna and Nigeria at large. When it is available through bank loans, the interest rates are so high. At such rates, even if you made a profit, you will use a good amount of that profit if not all to pay your debt to the banks, and finally, the lack of restriction policy on foreign textile materials into the country makes most of the earlier textile industries in Kaduna to stop functioning. It becomes germane to briefly trace the history of the development of both the traditional cottage textiles and industrial textiles over time to ascertain the lack of revival of textile industries in Kaduna. Nigeria's reliance on oil affected production in other sections, which led to the neglect of non-oil exports and Nigeria became a mono-cultural economy depending solely on oil revenue for economic progress. New developments and challenges made diversification inevitable. The essence of diversification is to make Nigeria go back to a non-oil economy based on the quadruple of agriculture, manufacturing, trade/services, textile, and other emerging sectors like entertainment and telecommunication. However, the sub-sector which was once the leader in Nigeria's industrial sector has undergone a considerable decline over the years. This paper, therefore, examines Nigeria's textiles industry in Kaduna: Challenges and economy recovery policy. The main objective of the study is to assess the Nigerian Textile Industry: Challenges and Economic Recovery Policy. It attempts to find out to what extent the intervention funds and restrictive policy impact on the revival of the Nigerian textile industry? Thus, the study focused on the revival of the Nigerian textile industry in Kaduna, challenges, the impact of intervention funds and restriction policy on revival. This study looked at the economic policy as a way of reviving the textile industry in Kaduna and Nigeria at large. The scope of the study is limited to the three textile industries in Kaduna (Kaduna textiles limited, Arewa Textile Plc and United Nigeria textile Ltd) which were closed down or barely functioning as a result of the inability of the authority involved to disburse the moribund mills loans to revive the industry by former president Olusegun Obasajo before leaving the office in 2007, even up till September 2009 because the procedures for administering the loans had still not been finalized.

Review of Related Literature

Conceptual Issues

Traditional Cottage Textiles: Production of cottage textile in Nigeria is the traditional artisanship of the rural and urban dwellers who engage in the production of various textile related materials with available raw materials sourced locally and skills inherited from past generations. The cottage textile industries produce their products locally and through handcrafted of locally sourced raw materials. According to the International Labour Organization (2007), handcrafting is a part of economic activity characterized by certain features like reliance on locally available resources and skills generally acquired outside the formal school system, unregulated and in a competitive market. Nigerian traditional textiles are classified as woven, non-woven, dyed or patterned which are decorated and designed structurally at the surface. These include; "Aso Oke" (Yoruba), "Akwete" (Igbo), "Okene" (Ebira), "Ashiasha" (Tiv), and "Adire" (Yoruba) among others. These fabrics have age-long qualities such as high durability, unique textures and traditional designs used on special occasions.

Industrial Textiles: Industrial textiles are produced specifically through the use of automated electronic machines which come in a variety of colours, designs, and quality. It became possible due to some factors. Basically, Nigeria is known for the production of cotton, silk and others, which are primarily raw materials for the industries (textile). However, the situation has changed today as Nigeria now relies majorly on imported raw materials and foreign technology to make the industry function. Andrae and Björn (2009) state that the oil boom era stalemated the steady growth and promising future of Nigeria's political economy as it resulted in the neglect of other aspects of the economy such as agriculture (cocoa, groundnut, palm); textiles, art and crafts among others in pre and post independent Nigeria. These other sectors of the economy were gradually undermined through inadequate funding.

Concept of Economic Recovery Policy: According to study.com (2021), economic policies are the actions that the government take to bring changes to the economy of a nation. It is the term used to describe government actions that are intended to influence the economy of a city, state, or nation. ***Intervention Fund:*** Textile industry is capital intensive and the Nigerian industry in particular experiences a shortage of funds for the smooth running of the mills. The federal government has made effort to approve a bail-out funds for the textile industry under President Obasanjo's regime, he approved 70-million-naira Textile Industry Revival Fund to revive the ailing industry. Unfortunately, this fund was not disbursed to the stakeholders. The bail-out fund was later increased to 100 billion naira before some could access it. (Adamu-Suka, 2011).

Restriction Policy:

Restriction is an official rule that limits what you can do or that limits the amount or size of something (Collins English Dictionary).

Concept of Revival: According to Oxford Language Dictionary (2021), revival means an improvement in the condition, strength or fortunes of something. It is an improvement of something becoming popular again, active, or important again. Ogunbiyi (2019) stated that considering the urgent need to diversify the country's economy, there is no better time than now to promote the nonoil sectors in the economy. One vital approach to achieve this would be to revive the local industries. There is a need to embrace local industries by embracing locally made goods and this is where the funding and other related issues come in.

Empirical Review

Owen, Ogunleye and Orekoya (2016) conducted a study on The Nigerian Textile Industry: An Overview. The study adopted the qualitative approach to investigate the problem and concluded that the nation's textile industry has been brought to its knees by a combination of huge infrastructural deficits and cheap imports from Asia, thus, recommending the cotton, textile and garment (CTG) policy as a "requisite compass" for the revitalization and growth of the cotton, textile and garment industry in Nigeria. Akintayo (2020) also conducted a study on Revitalizing the Nigerian Textile

Industries for Mitigating the Effect of COVID-19 and Achieving Sustainable Economic Development. The study used the literature review method and concluded that the industry can stimulate the Nigerian economy, and retain and create jobs, thereby turning COVID-19 into an opportunity if there is government determination to introduce policy options and programmes designed to proactively revitalize the textile industry. The study recommended that Governments at ball levels should implement developmental policies especially as it relates to the productive sectors of the economy as economic growth is a determinant of foreign direct investment. Yusuf, Salihu, and Danladi (2021) equally carried out a study on Nigerian Textile Industry Sickness, Failure and Decline: A Literature Review. The study used an empirical literature review. The study findings from the empirical literature review show that sickness, failure or decline is attributed to internal and external factors in the business environment. The study concludes and recommends that the Nigerian textile industry used to be the largest in Africa after Egypt and South Africa. It plays an important role in the economic development of the country and was previously the largest employer of the labour force after the civil service. Though the outlook of the industry looks bleak, a concerted effort is required to restructure the moribund sector. Muhammad (2019) also carried out a research study on Trade Liberalization and Deindustrialization of the Textile Industry in Nigeria (1997-2000). The researcher compares financial data for a period of four years before textile import was liberalized, and four years during the period of trade liberalization. The study recognized that the adoption of the neoliberal policies by Nigeria brought about low sales, low profit, and low dividends and shares. The case of the textile industry in Nigeria as a result of trade liberalization is a case of deindustrialization. The study recommends that government should increase surveillance on the porous border to eliminate or reduce drastically the incidences of smuggling and that Government should set up machinery at the port of entry to ensure that all imported textile goods are correctly evaluated and taxed accordingly.

Challenges Facing the Textile Industries in Nigeria

In addition to the problems that plague businesses in Nigeria and Africa in general, some challenges are specific to the Textile industries in Nigeria which are as follows:

Financing: The stage of a business could make one be thinking about the product to produce or might have started producing, thereby, planning on expanding operations. Whatever the case is, you will need some money to kick start your business. Unfortunately, money is not readily available for Textile manufacturers in Nigeria. When it is available through bank loans, the interest rates are so high (25% - 40%). At such rates, even if you made a profit, you will use a good amount of that profit if not all to pay your debt to the banks. The textile industry is capital intensive and the Nigerian industry in particular experiences a shortage of funds for the smooth running of the mills.

Inadequacy of Local Raw Materials: Availability of raw materials is the major factor of consideration when proposing the establishment of a textile industry. The basic raw materials for effective textile productions like cotton, silk, dyestuff, and chemicals among others are not readily available at home. Where available, the quality is low, inadequate and not of commercial quantityfor the industry’s full productioncapacity (Oloyede, 2014). Even petrol chemical-based products such as polymer, dyes and other synthetic materials (which were later introduced and are now being used in Nigeria) are scarcely available even though Nigeria is a big oil-producing nation. Most of the raw materials used are now imported due to the country’s inability

Global Recession: Global recession is affecting the economic stability of the world, particularly the

developing nations coupled with the present pandemic (Covid-19). The World in general as well as Nigerian society is feeling the impact of the global recession. The problems are low economic

growth, closure of companies that cannot compete with those that are highly technologically driven, retrenchment of staff in companies and government establishments, unemployment of youth, financial liquidity and high cost of living. There is a general decline in economic activities around the world.

Manpower Development: In the 1920s, textile industries in Nigeria employed and trained their

factory staff on the job to satisfy the principle of manpower development. However, only expatriates (foreign experts) were usually allowed to man the sensitive sections of the industry to keep Nigerians away from understanding the secret and basic technological workings and operations of the industry to the advantage of the colonial masters (Ahmed, 2014). A similar situation persisted even after many decades of the Nigerian nation as a free state. Technically, the modern textile industry has a complex setup that needs to be handled with utmost care. Most of its units are independent and so,it requires different skilled personnel to handle them. This includes designers, spinners, engineers, technologists, chemists and marketing experts, while the whole units are integrated as one.

Dependency on Foreign Technology: Nigerian textile mills depend heavily on foreign technology (machines) and accessories. This practice becomes problematic and costly to the nation’s economy due to the high cost of importation of materials and tools, non-availability of spare parts for the replacement of worn-out or damaged tools, coupled with poor maintenance culture arising from inadequate knowledge of its components (Ohiorhehuan, 2001). Often, these machines wear out with use and age while the unserviceable ones are often cannibalized in an attempt to put the working machines in good shape. This invariably affects the production and quality of products which often leads to the abandonments of local textiles for the imported ones as a better substitute.

Low Patronage: People are not patriotic and are not patronizing made in Nigeria textile products. The Nigerian Customs Service is guilty of this because they fail to check the influx of foreign textile materials. Investigations conducted among some selected consumers in Nigerian markets revealed that more than 70% of the people prefer imported textiles to locally produced ones. Price and quality have been observed to be the determinant factor for consumers’ choice of goods (Ogundele, 2000).

The concomitant effect of all these is that smuggling has become a “booming industry” this has

greatly affected the locally produced products to compete with the cheap smuggled ones into the country. 80 per cent of Ankara in the country today are being smuggled in, many of them are counterfeited Nigerian products branded as made in Switzerland. So, smuggling, faking and counterfeiting are the order of the day and nobody is checking the trend.

Infrastructural Inadequacy: Power infrastructure has been a major challenge facing Nigeria's economy, even as privatization of the power sector is yet to yield the desired result to resolve the perennial electricity shortage in the country. The main issue that hinders manufacturers is the access to an uninterrupted power supply. The use of alternative power such as Diesel generators in Nigeria increases the cost of production by a magnitude which discourages manufacturers. Other infrastructural issues include bad roads, and poor storage facilities. These all extend the time it takes for a manufactured product to get into the hands of the consumer. For our economy to achieve optimum growth, there must be stability to enhance sustainability both in the medium term and longrun expectation.

Insecurity: Insecurity in the country is affecting many manufacturers. For example, Vita-Foam has a manufacturing plant in Jos, which has been closed due to insecurity in the Northern region. In fact, the last bomb blast in Kaduna was very close to one of the Textile mills. Not to talk of perpetrating issues of kidnapping. Yet, the people perpetuating this evil live within the same economic environment we operate. Ginners have not been able to operate because of insecurity in the North, and so have not been able to produce enough cotton to feed the local textile factories, which hitherto have no standard measuring equipment to process their product for export, "Apart from the inputs, you need appropriate seed to give you the right yield. You also need security, farmers are being killed every day in the North, and 75 per cent of the Ginners are located in the North where there is insecurity. So, the industry doesn't have enough cotton, the raw material for the textile companies.

Smuggling of Textile Goods: In the textile trade, much smuggling occurs when enterprising merchants attempt to supply demand for a particular textile that is illegal or heavily taxed.
Smuggling is an attritional problem, evidence of corruption, greed and disrespect for the rule of law. Smuggling is caused by greed for wealth and the implication is disrespect for due process. It does not encourage the growth of local industries. The activities of smugglers have posed a serious threat to the survival of the textile industry. This is because the foreign textile materials are always cheaper and they are considered superior to local textiles even when the local textiles are more expensive.

Theoretical Framework

The Internal Funds Theory of Investment is the base on which this paper is built upon. Under this theory, the desired capital stock and or investment depends on the level of profits. Since investment presumably depends on expected profits, investment is directly related to realising profits. Alternatively, managers have to decide on their preference for financing or funding investment internally. It is in line with the focus of this paper because funding is identified as one of the parameters of reviving the textile industry in Nigeria. Firms may be funded for investment purposes from a variety of sources.

Methodology

The study used a descriptive survey research design which is sourced mainly from primary data.

The population includes the employees of the textiles industries in Kaduna (Kaduna textile Limited, Arewa Nigerian Textile Limited and United Nigeria Textile Limited) which are either closed down or barely functioning as a result of the inability of the authority involved to disburse the moribund mills' loans approved by former President Olusegun Obasanjo regime to revive the industry prior to leaving the office in 2007; even up till September 2009. The population is 101 various employees of the industries. The population of 101 was retained as the sample size because it is not too large for the analyses. This sample size helps the paper for appropriateness and equal participation of respondents from the various textile industries sampled through the selected instruments of data collection. The paper used convenience sampling techniques for the selection and distribution of the questionnaire to the respondents. The questionnaires were used to gather the data used for analysis, and it was designed on a 5-point Likert scale. A total of 101 questionnaires were administered to the top level managers, and middle and lower level managers of the selected textile industries respectively. Out of this number, 101 were correctly completed and hence retained for analysis. The collected data was analyzed using linear regression through the statistical packages for social sciences (SPSS) and tested the formulated hypotheses at a 5% level of significance

Data Presentation and Analysis

Measurement of Variables

The reliability of the instrument was measured using the Cronbach Alpha to determine the internal consistency of the instrument. A reliability coefficient of 0.50 and higher is appropriate for measuring the reliability of the instrument (Hulland, 1999). Kline (2013) suggested a coefficient of 0.60 as average reliability while Mallery and George (2003) are of the view of a coefficient of 0.70 as having higher reliability. For the purpose of this paper, a threshold of 0.70 as suggested by Mallery and George (2003) was adopted for the paper.

Discussion of Findings

The first hypothesis shows statistically that the intervention fund has a positive impact on the revival of textile industries in Kaduna. The result further reveals that as the intervention fund increases, it leads to an increase in revival by .294. This clearly indicates that the revival of the industries in the study is a function of the intervention fund. The finding of this study is not strange as it is in agreement with the studies of Salihu, and Danladi (2021) the outlook of the industry looks bleak, concerted effort is required to restructure the moribund sector.

The second hypothesis also shows statistically that restriction policy has a positive impact on the textile industry revival in Kaduna. The result further reveals that as restriction policy increases, it leads to an increase in textile industry revival in Kaduna by -.280. This clearly indicates that the revival in the study area is a function of restriction policy on the side of the government. The finding of this study is similar to the findings of Owen, Ogunleye and Orekoya (2016) which concluded that the nation’s textile industry has been brought to its knees by a combination of huge infrastructural deficits and cheap imports from Asia, and Muhammad (2019) who recognized that the adoption of the neoliberal policies by Nigeria brought about low sales, low profit, low dividend and share.

Conclusion and Recommendations

It is no gainsaying that the Nigerian textile industry has the potential to contribute profitably to human capacity development, revenue generation (through exports), and job creation and sustain the national economy. Unfortunately, the industry had been undermined for more than three decades and could not measure up to its potential. The potential of textile industries to contribute to longrun growth and development will therefore depend not just on the attributes (desirable or otherwise) of the investor, but also the quality and effectiveness of government policies and institutions and funding in developing countries like Nigeria.

Nigeria has had its fair share of development plans and industrial policies, but that the industrial sector contributes only 4 percent to the national GDP is an indication of the failure of the planning agencies or implementation agencies or both. Given that these policies were instrumental to the successes of other economics; it is easy to conclude that perhaps in stepping down or replicating policies (as is often the case) our local peculiarities were neither accounted for nor modelled into the implementation processes. Based on the conclusions, the following policy recommendations are proffered:

i. Provision of intervention funds by the government or private sectors to textile industries in Kaduna and Nigeria at large to revive the collapsed textile industries in Nigeria should be encouraged to boost the production of textile materials that will meet the demand of the Nigerian market.

ii. Government should restrict the importation of foreign textile materials into Nigerian market, so as to revive the domestic textile industries in Kaduna and Nigeria at large against their foreign counterparts.

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