



Article

## Sustaining Economic Growth and Security Through Rural Industrialization

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### Abstract

This paper is anchored on sustaining economic growth and security through rural industrialization in selected local government areas in Anambra State as a case study. It adopted the descriptive survey method, using both primary and secondary sources of data to extract information that enabled the conclusion. Its target was to determine the factors that militate against economic growth and security in Nigeria, viz., the imports of industrialization in sustaining economic growth and the security of lives and properties. The population of the study is one thousand, seven hundred and forty-five staff of Aguata, Ekwusigo, Aniocha, Awka South, Oyi, and Onitsha North local governments. A sample size of one thousand, two hundred people was drawn using random sampling techniques. The simple percentage method was used in the interpretation of the data. We identify the following as constraints to economic growth in Nigeria: importation of foreign-made goods; government policies; high cost of production; lack of funds, etc. The paper also recommends, as follows: favourable government policies with respect to tax reduction for SMEs; provision of infrastructure; adequate credit facilities for manufacturers; human capital development to sustain new technology; and encouragement of local manufacturing of goods and services.

### Keywords:

Economic Growth, Security, Rural Industrialisation, Human Capital Development, Economic well-being.

### Introduction

It is the desire of every responsive government to achieve economic growth and security of lives and properties of her citizens. As such, engages a process which requires administrative system capable of harnessing both human and material resources into advanced industrialization and in turn creates employment opportunities, increases the economic wellbeing of the people and encourages private establishment of industries, essentially, those that utilises local raw materials. No wonder, Odinigwe (2014), aver that achieving economic growth requires the contributions of rural economy via subjugation hence, the endowment with abundant natural resources. Economic growth entails a total increase of output in a country's economy with respect to goods and services produced in the economy. The harnessing process also requires inclusion and integration of the rural people via rural development exercise and provision of small-scale industries of different types. This assertion brings to day light, the import of industrialization in achieving economic growth. However, enhancing economic growth through industrialization connotes efforts both on the side of government and individuals to increase production and uproot the fundamental causes of poverty thereby reducing the security challenges associated with poverty and unemployment. Industrialization is an application of practical or mechanical sciences/technology for industrial advancement. It is a systematic and sequential generation of technical know-how, body of knowledge, materials, goods and services by man to manipulate his development in satisfying his basic needs through the use of machine, making him to achieve economic growth and improved standard of living. Industrialization moves the economy from agrarian production to mass-

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production using, technology to advance goods and services. This entails an exponential spring in productivity, moving from rural to urban labour with improved socio-economic wellbeing. It is considered a vital economic improvement in human history because of its contributions in determination of per capita income and productivity. As a necessary tool for a better standard of living, it imbibed the argument of specialization by a labourer being able to engage in activities of comparative advantage as such; improve productivity. Furthermore, application of better productive mechanism leads to more and improved productivity per hour. For instance, a haulage of 24-wheeler transports goods to a distance far more efficiently than a with bicycle. Industrialization brings about decline in price of goods and services hence, quick and mass productivity is granted thereby makes it affordable for all. No wonder, McCloskey (2004), opined that industrialization was the most pertinent epoch of human history since accommodation of animals and plants to domestic life, mayhap the most vital since the introduction of languages. The first industrial revolution was between 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century with huge technological achievements, transiting the society from agricultural to industrial economy with financial investments in the new structures and a highly developed state of steam engine, introduction of intrinsic deflagrated engine, electricity and building of canals, railways, power lines etc. It tends to encourage entrepreneurship, servitude and socio-economic development cum acceleration of economic growth Industrialization is considered an essential factor in economic growth and development of every country hence, the availability of essential goods and services, improved socio-economic wellbeing and galvanization of other sectors of the economy, poverty alleviation, employment opportunities, entrepreneurship etc. However, excess policies, programs and systematic plans have been formulated to achieve advancement of industrialization since independence. A major trust of these policies was rooted on the belief that industrial advancement would be a gateway for employment generation which will helps in reduction of poverty to minimal level. Unfortunately, these policies were unrealistic following innumerable challenges such as; incessant power outages, lack of finance/capital, multiple government taxations, and insecurity. However, there is no gain saying that low industrial base is also a constraint to economic growth in Nigeria bearing in mind, the imports of transformation of raw materials to finished goods and its influence to the economy viz the dominance of large raw materials and import substitution that is capital intensive rather than labour intensive. In other words, the absence of industries is a clog in transfer of technology notwithstanding, the investment in manufacturing. This research seeks to investigate the position of Nigerian economy vis a viz, the standard of living and material wellbeing of the people cum security of lives and properties by proffering better solutions via rural industrialization.

## **Conceptual clarification**

### **Economic Growth**

Economic growth is measure by increase in per capita income of a country's GDP over a period of time. It is often seen as a country's increase in output or capacity of an economy in production of goods and services needed to improve the welfare of its citizens. It entails steady increase in the level of output of goods and services in an economy (Balami, 2006). Economic growth is favourable when the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is higher than population growth. As a steady process of increase in the productive capacity of the economy, economic growth increases national income by higher rates of per capita output and total factor productivity, especially labours productivity. Economic growth is measured in three different dimensions such as; nominal measurement of growth, real output growth rate and growth measured in per capita values.

### **Industrialization**

The concept of industrialization was brought to knowledge in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as a result of Industrial Revolution which started in Great Britain but later had a global impact. It is a process that brought about application of technologies in manufacturing processes, resulting to abysmal increase in productivity and transition of economic system from rudimentary agricultural to industrialized system. Because of the

speedy nature of the automated machines in production, the output levels sky-rocked against manual working system, leaving the workers with no other option than to acquire new skills in management and administrative machinery (Bolaky, 2011). From empirical and theoretical research available, industrialization is a segue process from rudimentary agricultural economy to automatic manufacturing subsistence. It is what of note, categorizing the dimensions of industrialization into economic activities as such; human endeavour; product of the human endeavour; organization process of the human endeavour; the mechanization process (energy or power source) and the technology. For Sullivan and Sheffrin (2007), industrialization is a process of transubstantiating man from agrarian societal economy to mechanized one. They outlined three key areas of change as necessitated by industrialization which includes; modernization, development of large-scale energy and metallurgy production.

Industrialization must be viewed from two distinct significations; a transmutation of output and manpower towards productivity and threshold point of increase in income level (Clunies-Ross, Foresyth, & Huq, 2010).

### **Security**

Security was derived from the Latin word *Securus*, meaning freedom from anxiety. It is a protection from possible harm or other unwanted act of compulsion inflated by others, an act of liberation from vulnerability or susceptibility to attack. Security is protection from or resilience against potential harm (or other unwanted coercion) caused by others, by restraining the freedom of others to act. Beneficiaries (technically referents) of security may be of persons and social groups, objects and institutions, ecosystems or any other entity or phenomenon vulnerable to unwanted change. Security mostly refers to protection from hostile forces, but it has a wide range of other senses. For instance, as the absence of harm (freedom from want); as the presence of an essential good (food security); as resilience against potential damage or harm (secure foundations); as secrecy (a secure telephone line); as containment (a secure room or cell); and as a state of mind (emotional security). The term is also used to refer to acts and systems whose purpose may be to provide security such as; security forces, security service, security agency, security guard, cyber security systems, security cameras, remote guarding etc. It could be physical, virtual, economic, emotional or otherwise.

### **Insecurity and Industrialization in Nigeria**

Historically, the continual effort to industrialize the country started in 1960 with the implementation of economic policies such as; indigenization, structural adjustment policies, version 2020 among others; which targeted at improving the manufacturing sector. Unfortunately, these policies did not yield favourably following the incidents of insecurity in Nigeria (Muo, Okeke & Okpala, 2008). Insecurity is detrimentally evident on incessant security challenges and the inability of the security agents to guarantee safety of lives and properties in the country. According to World Bank (2005) in Nnabuife and Ndubuisi (2018), the problems of insecurity is the reason for inability of Africa continent to measure up in the indices of global competitiveness which would have facilitated industrialization of the economy as well improve standard of living.

### **The Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria**

So many factors have been identified by scholars as reasons for insecurity in Nigeria. These factors include among others;

**Leadership/power Tussle:** The Nigerian political system is characterized with crops of leaders who oppress the citizens with the looted money, train thugs and hooligans who later turn to armed robbers, kidnappers, drug pushers etc when they are dumped by the politicians after elections thus constituting a serious threat to economic growth and security (Fides, 2018),

**Unemployment/Poverty:** Every adult is saddled with a degree of financial responsibility as such, the need for employment. Unfortunately, greater population of Nigerian youths are unemployed and therefore, engage themselves in illegal activities such as kidnapping, robbery, child abduction, and other nefarious activities. No wonder, Adagba, et al, (2012), opined that the high level of unemployment and poverty among Nigerians, especially the youths, are attracted to violent crime. The evident of the assertion is in the report by Fides (2018), which unveiled a 70-year-old farmer butchered by disgruntled and jobless youths. Nwagbosa (2012), also posit that the “failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities is one major causes of insecurity in the country”.

### **Industrialization as Engine of Economy Growth**

Empirical studies have proving evidence on the assertion of the existence of a relation between industrialization and economic growth. While some focused more on stressing the importance of industrial development others tends to emphasize the contribution of the service sector. The contemporary studies support the view that industry tends to be more important as an engine of growth especially in developing countries. Referencing the study of conservative scholars such as; Hausman-Taylor, Szirmai and Verspagen(1991) on contribution of manufacturing industries to Gross domestic products (GDP) per capita growth conditional on the level of education and stage of development. The result shows that manufacturing industries are bedrock for growth in low and for some middle-income countries with sufficient level of human capital. Rodrik (2009), identifies earthshaking affirmative nexus between growth rates of Gross domestic products (GDP) and shares of industry using regression GDP for five-year periods. His findings correlated with the assertion that the modern industrial activities act as an engine of growth. According to him, the structural transformation is the sole reason for accelerated growth in the developing world. According to Kaldor (1967), the nexus between industrial development and economic growth with empirical results, inherent on manufacturing industries as the main engine of fast growth. His findings were in tandem with selected studies, from UK to Japan and also evident in countries with rapid, sustained growth (UNIDO 2013, 2008; Felipe et al., 2014). Furthermore, Wim and Adam (2012), investigated the assertion that the modern industrial activities act as an engine of growth, drawing hypothesis from Asian and Latin America. The analysis was anchored on capital intensity and growth of output and the outcome of the investigation were in tandem with the above assertion but for some periods capital intensity in services and industry turns out to be higher than in manufacturing. On this, he avers that productivity growth in agriculture is more rapid than in manufacturing especially in advanced economies.

An investigative report by Isiksal and Chimezie (2016), shows that no developing countries have attained a level of economic growth without sub-sector linkage. The investigation was anchored on the impact of Industrialization in Nigeria from 1997-2012. The outcome of their report avers a correlated and pertinent positive relationship between agriculture, industry and services with Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Katuria and Raj (2009) also conducted a study in India with investigation on engine of growth hypothesis at regional level and came out with a result stating that industrialized regions grow more rapidly than less industrialized region. Deducing from the investigation, there is no doubt stating that industrialisation.

### **Theoretical framework**

This paper was informed by economic modernization theory, embedded on linear stages of growth model as detailed in Rostow’s stages of economic growth. The theory established that economic growth can only be achieved through industrialization, stating the nitty-gritty of internal factors such as insecurity as impediment to economic growth. It argued that injection of capital in public sector would ultimately lead to industrialization and economic development. Rostow classified the stages of economic development to include; traditional; precondition for take-off; take-off; drive to maturity and age of high mass consumption. Arguing further on a prescribe rules in attaining development. For him, the investment rate

of a country needs to be increased to at least 10% of its GDP, one or two manufacturing sectors with a high rate of growth need to be established, an institutional, political and social framework has to exist or be created in order to promote the expansion of those sectors. This theory brings to fore, the pivotal intention of sustaining economic growth and security through rural industrialization establishing, the roles of industrialization in economic development.

### Methodology

This research makes use of case-study method as its methodology, anchoring on both qualitative and quantitative research techniques. The qualitative technique involves the use of textbooks, journals, magazines, newspapers, government publications, NGOs publications, internet materials and other documents while, quantitative involves administration, extraction and collection of data using structured and unstructured (interviews/questionnaires) on respondents in the selected local governments of study.

### Research design

This is a practical show of procedure for implementation of the methodology chosen in any research. This paper adopted a survey research design to establish; using the data extracted from respondents in Aguata, Ekwusigo, Aniocha, Awka south, Oyi and Onitsha north local government areas of Anamra State to bring to light the sustainability of economic growth and security through rural industrialization.

### Population of the study

The selected local governments include; Aguata, Ekwusigo, Aniocha, Awka south, Oyi and Onitsha north with total staff strength of one thousand seven hundred and forty five personnel (1745) which informs the population of our study.

The table below displays the staff strength of the six local governments selected.

**Table 1:**

**Population table of selected local governments**

Aguata	302
Ekwusigo	300
Awka south	293
Aniocha	287
Onitsha north	285
Oyi	278
Total	1745

The numbers of staff in various departments in the six selected local governments are showcased in the table below.

**Table 2:**

**Population Distribution table per department**

S/No	Departments	Aguata	Ekwusigo	Awka south	Aniocha	Onitsha north	Oyi

1.	Personnel	27	25	26	26	26	25
2.	Finance	25	26	24	25	25	23
3.	Supplies	24	25	26	27	27	25
4.	Planning	28	24	26	25	25	26
5.	Research & statistics	27	25	27	24	24	25
6.	Education	32	32	28	29	27	26
7.	Agriculture & natural resources	34	34	29	30	30	28
8.	Works	28	27	26	25	25	24
9.	Housing	24	25	28	26	26	25
10.	Land & survey	26	30	27	24	24	26
11.	Medical & health	27	27	26	26	26	25
	Total	302	300	293	287	285	278

However, the population categorized into two, using face to face interview to elicit information from the senior staff while structured questionnaires were distributed among the junior staff of the local governments.

### Sample Size

A random sampling was adopted in determination of size. However, from the total population of one thousand, seven hundred and forty-five (1,745) staff of Aguata, Ekwusigo, Aniocha, Awka south, Onitsha north and Oyi local governments, one thousand, two hundred (1,200) staff were randomly selected. The researcher engaged one hundred and eighty-seven members of the executive staff in unstructured interviews. The determination of these executive staff was done thirty-one (31) per local government except in Awka south local government in which thirty-two (32) were selected to strike a balance in the number. The other one thousand and thirteen (1,013) staff were engaged with structured questionnaires. It is believed that the sample size which represents 75% of the population will make a good representation of the views of workers in the six local governments.

### Sample Procedure

Sample procedure is a scientific tool employed in determination of sample size, a process in taking a representative selection from the population. Frey et al. (2000), aver that a sample is a subgroup of a population. As a representative of the population, each unit will represent the characteristics of a known number of units in the population (Lohr, 1999). Ensuring the effective capture of diversity in the population of our study, a probability sampling method was adopted. In furtherance, a stratified random sampling method was adopted for easy dichotomization of the entire population into strata (the upper and the lower strata). While, the upper strata depict the executive staff, the lower strata are a representation of the non-executive or junior staff.

In lieu of that, a random sampling method was adopted in determining selection of both the interview population and the population on which the questionnaires were issued. The method provides equal

opportunities to all the members of the population thereby reduce bias in the selection process, believing that every member has the capacity of providing needed information. However, the paper ensures 70% of each stratum in the sample.

Owing to uniformity in existence of departments in the selected six local governments the staff strength per department, number of senior staff per department, sample taken from the senior staff, number of junior staff per department and sample taken from junior staff were presented below. Recall that these samples were extracted from the six local governments and presented in sum.

**Table 3:**

**Staff strength per department, population and sample size**

S/No	Departments	Number of staff	Number of Senior staff	Sample taken	Number of Junior staff	Sample taken
1.	Personnel	155	30	20	125	92
2.	Finance	148	25	14	123	90
3.	Supplies	154	24	17	130	88
4.	Planning	154	28	18	126	92
5.	Education	174	26	16	148	94
6.	Agriculture and Natural resource	185	30	20	155	96
7.	Works	155	27	17	128	92
8.	Housing	154	28	18	126	92
9	Land and Survey	157	27	17	130	90
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10.	Medical and primary health	157	26	16	131	94
11	Research and statistics	152	24	14	128	93
	Total	1745	295	187	1450	1013

### Reliability of the Instruments

The researcher made use of a test reset method and also conducted a pilot test of the questionnaire before administering, just to confirm the reliability of the instruments. The process was carried out by giving out similar questionnaires to a similar group of people. This enables determination and appropriateness of the questionnaire.

### Validity of the Instruments

The principal instrument used for this research work was a questionnaire administered to the staff of Aguata, Ekwusigo, Aniocha, Awka south, Onitsha north and Oyi local government areas of Anambra state,. Research experts were employed for validation of the instruments (questionnaire) before administration just to ensure that it was in tandem with the objectives of the study. Secondly, the opinions of colleagues were also sort, to establish credibility in validation of the instruments.

### Distribution and Retrieval of the Questionnaire

Direct delivery technique was employed by the researcher in the distribution of the instrument (questionnaire). This implies that the researcher personally administered the questionnaire to the respondents. One thousand and thirteen (1013) questionnaires were distributed while nine hundred (900) of the distributed questionnaires were retrieved back for analysis. As such; two hundred and three (203) were not retrieved due to the fact that some of the respondents could not be reached at the point of retrieval and some questionnaires were lost by the respondents.

### Method of data presentation and analysis

We adopted the content analysis method in analysing the secondary data and have also used inductive reasoning method to analyse the result of the interview. For the data collected with the questionnaire tool, we adopted simple statistical tools like tables, percentages and charts in analysing them. The frequency of each response was obtained and divided by the total number of responses. It was multiplied by hundred, i.e.:

$$\frac{\text{Frequency of each response}}{\text{Total number of responses}} \times 100$$

Total number of responses

Hence the frequency of each response varied, total number of responses is constant.

### Presentation of data, analysis and discussion of findings

Here, we discussed the analysis of data collected during the course of the study. Hence the frequency of each response varied, the total number of responses is constant.

### Categorization of the respondents

DATA	OPTIONS	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Sex	Male	340	38%
	Female	560	62%
Marital status	Married	680	76%
	Single	220	24%
Age	18-55	640	71%
	56 & above	260	29%
Academic Qualification	O' level	140	16%
	ND	280	31%
	Degree	480	53%
<b>Total</b>		<b>900</b>	<b>100</b>



The table shows that 340 of the respondents, representing by 38% were male while 560 representing by 62% were female. On the issue of marital status, 680 respondents representing 76% were married while 220 respondents representing 24% were single. It can easily be ascertained that the bulk number of the respondents were within the age bracket of 18-55 years with the total respondents of 640 and 71% while those from 56 and above were 260 respondents representing 29%. On the issue of academic qualification, 140 respondents representing 16% had O' level certificate, 280 of the respondents with another percentage level of 31 holds ND Certificate while 480 of respondents with the percentage level of 53 were degree or its equivalent holders.

### Analysis of the research questions

The presentation and analysis of the findings regarding to the research question were treated below.

a. **Question 1:** Do you believe that importation of foreign made goods can stop economic growth?

**Table 1.1**

Responses	No of respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	680	76%
No	210	23%
No idea	10	1%
Total	900	100

Field survey, 2024

The aforementioned table (1) shows that 680 of the respondents (76%) answered yes i.e., they believed that importation of foreign made goods can stop economic growth while 210 respondents (23%) disagreed with the idea. According to them, importation of foreign made goods has no correlation with economic growth. More so, 10 of the respondents (1%) had no idea on the issue.

b. **Question 2:** Do you agree that industrialization is engine of economic growth?

**Table 1.2**

Responses	No of respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	720	80%
No	180	20%
Total	900	100

Field survey, 2024

The analysis of the table 2 above shows that 720 respondents (80%) were of view that industrialization can engine of economic growth while, the remaining 180 respondents (20%) disagreed with the answer.

**Question 3:** Can industrialization have positive effect on security of your community?

**Table 1.3**

Responses	No of respondents	Percentage (%)
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Yes	650	72%
No	250	28%
Total	900	100

Field survey, 2024

Table 3 above shows that, 650 respondents representing 72% agreed that industrialization can have positive effect on security while, 250 of the respondents (28%) disagreed with the above assertion.

### **Conclusion, Findings and Recommendation**

There is no gain stating that the magnitude studies on industrialization, economic growth, employment and industrial performance did not impact positively on Nigerian economy as; poverty and unemployment persist. However, rural industrialization is fundamental contributory factor to economic growth, unearthing the potentials of the rural dwellers. It encourages literacy and academic attainment, create urbanization, civilization, improve standard of living through employment etc. Engaging the youth to active production processes helps to reduce crime and improve productivity which in turn increase economic growth. Evident abound on countries with favourable gross domestic products being capable of welfarist provision and all-round development. Our findings include among others; importation of foreign made goods; government policies; high cost of production; lack of fund etc. The paper also recommends as follows; A favourable government policies with respect to tax reduction and provision of infrastructures; Adequate credit facilities for manufactures; Human capita development to sustain new technology and encouragement of local manufacturing of goods and services.

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### **Author's Biography**

Dr. Uzoigwe, Chidi Franklin is a researcher with wider experiences and publications in both local and international journals. He joined Federal Polytechnic, Oke in 2011 as administrative officer but was converted to academics in 2016. After the conversion, he pursued a doctorate degree which was gotten in 2021 from the department of public administration, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University. He is a political scientist, a member of the Nigerian political science association; institute of corporate administration and institute of entrepreneurs. He is married and the marriage is blessed with four children.