

Globalisation and the Nigerian State: Issues, Challenges and Prospects

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Abstract

The study explored how the Nigerian State has been faring in a competitive global environment driven by the wave global market economy and stimulated by information and communication technology. Despite Nigeria's interaction on the global scene, it has been lagging behind to grasp the opportunities abounds. The inability of the Nigerian State to key into utilizing global opportunities for national growth and development have been as a result of bad leadership, weak institutions, disconnection in resource development, both human and material, and cultural deformity and craze for foreign culture. As a result, it has denied Nigeria the opportunities to utilize its resources for international diplomacy towards its economic growth and development, and also employ and apply information and communication technology to boost industrialization and tackle its security challenges. The study adopted a decision making theory to explain the importance of state actors on foreign policy making. The actions and inactions of state actions greatly determine Nigeria's ability to achieve industrialization and economic stability in a competitive global market driven economy. The study recommended that, Nigeria should strength it's political and economic institutions towards a reliable foreign policies which is the reflection of domestic policies. More so, it should use its culture as a tool for national cohesion and development.

Keywords: Globalization, State, economy, leadership, Culture.

INTRODUCTION

According to Ahmed, Rwang and Onwaanibe (2019) Globalization has been a major agent of change in Africa since the end of colonial rules. It is clear that the world is increasingly confronted with problems that cannot be solved by individual nations alone; hence there is need for symbiotic relationship and interdependency among states. Contemporary issues such as boundary, air and water pollution, over fishing of the ocean known as ocean economy and other degradation of the natural environment, regulations of outer space, global warming, international terrorist network that has helped the spread of the dreaded Boko Haram sect in the North-Eastern Nigeria, global trade and finance among numerous other social ecological challenges all require collective efforts of nation states. Societies around the world continue to live in a single circle known as the global village. Societies are politically, economically and socio-cultural linked and engaged with each other as distance no longer constitute a barrier. Accordingly, a lot of changes have been witnessed in different societies as a result of increasing contact driven by the development of sophisticated means of transportation and communication technology.

As nations or state interact on the global stage, agreements and treaties are being articulated and commitment attached to guide interactions between states. Naz and Ahmad (2018) over that the world is strongly becoming an integrated web where every society is affected by ideas and activities of others, as such, no country or state is an island. Notwithstanding, the world has become a market where political, economic and socio-cultural ideas are sold and bought. Hence, nations struggle to explore the global market in order to attract maximum benefits. Yelcin (2009) stated that states become more open to the world as the need to satisfy

local demands intensities, policies and ideas for satisfactions of these demands becomes inevitable. The necessities of life have compelled states to acquire knowledge and technologies with the aim of surviving in a competitive global market. In formalizing a civilized relationship amongst states, international organizations guided by laws, agreements and treaties are introduced for political, economic and socio-cultural reasons. International Organizations base on laws and agreements include the United Nations (UN), regional organization, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (IBRN), Military alliances, among others. Also, the global society is floated by economic and social forces such as multinational corporation, Red Cross, Doctors without Borders among others. These organization shape and influences the policies of states as a result entering into one agreement or the other.

Historically, Nigeria was integrated into the global society through the incidents of slave trade (trans-Atlantic), trans-saharan trade and colonialism. Though, Oloidi, Eysi, Agha and Nwachuwku (2022) claim that, the present global world of today which Nigeria belongs was intensified through colonialism with a masking gospel of redemption. The activities of missionaries and explorers pave ways for the transfer of ideas to various societies know as Nigeria, today. The European colonial pioneers had a dramatic influence on the economic, political and socio-cultural structure of Nigeria. Deepened influence and domination was aimed increasing economic capacity by the British in finding market for their finished goods, raw materials and settle their poor and unemployed population.

Notwithstanding, after the end of colonialism, the diffusion and influence of political, economic and socio-cultural ideas were intensified through the activities of global institutions such as the United Nations (UN), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), World Trade Organization (WTO) Multinational Corporations (MC), as a result, the connection and influence of these global institutions on sovereign states like Nigeria gained momentum. The rapid growth in the area of transportation and communication technology further connected Nigeria to the global community.

Mazi (2006) infer that states such as Nigeria is being consumed by neo-liberalism through representative government combined with market based economics embedded in capitalist orientation in the 21st century is propelled competition and conflict amongst states. The global liberal values and institutions are influencing Nigeria's political, economic and socio-cultural way of life. Consequently, Nigeria belonging to global political and financial institutions like the United Nations (UN), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Trade Organization (WTO), etc. is bound to be influenced by decisions emanating from these and other global institutions.

Operational Conceptualization of Globalization in Context

Globalisation as a concept have been in existence even before the first and second world war. The activities of trade, human slavery and colonialism dramatically changed and shaped the world of today. Uktuk (2015) sees globalization as the:

Interconnection of sovereign nations through trade and capital flows, harmonization of economic rules that govern the relationship between these sovereign nations, creating structures to support and facilitate dependence, and interconnection and creation of market place.

This explains formal connections between independent states entering into agreements, as guiding principles are entrenched in facilitating mutual exchange of ideas stated in agreements. More revealing Chima (2023) aver that globalization is a process driven by

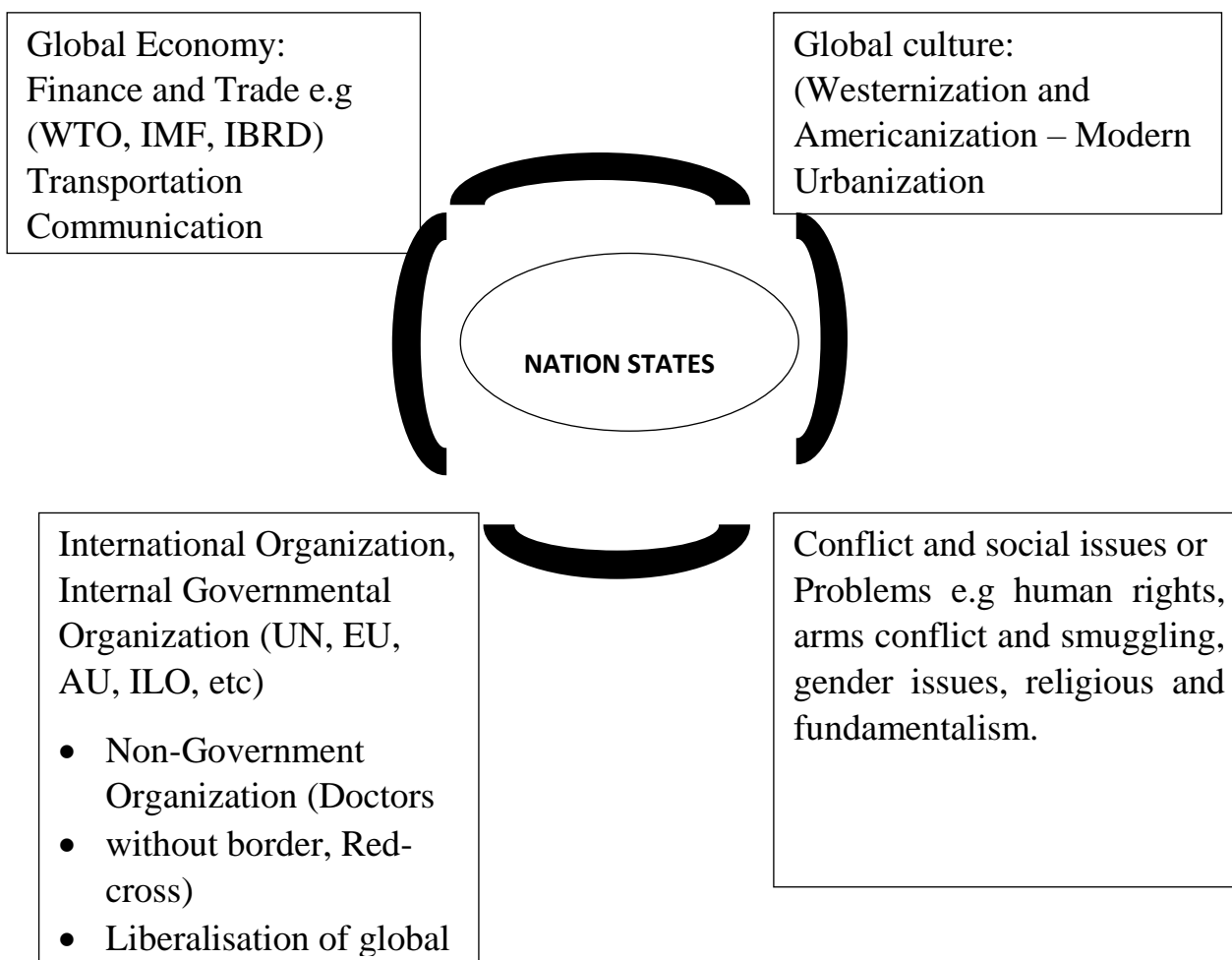
international trade leading to the expansion of liberal-market ideologies transcending beyond states geographical jurisdiction which erodes state sovereignly for easy access to resources and markets. States in the process of engaging in mutual exchange of ideas may influence or being influenced.

Oluwagbade and Ibidapo (2024) explains globalization as the intensification of economic activities across borders connecting societies or states, and increased interaction is witnessed due to the advances in “transportation, Communication and Information technologies linking individuals, communities, business and government around the world”. Governments or states interact with each other in anticipation or gaining from such interactions. Babones and Aberg (2019) expatiate that globalization is “a political network binding states together with embedded economic and production networks in de-localization and elevation of trading and financial capital transfer through the power of technology”.

In the process of de-localization and extension of ideas, states struggle to attract maximum benefit at the expense of others. Furthermore, states are more entrenched in the web of formal connection in form of military alliances such as NATO and counter terrorism, global credit facilities and financial markets (IMF and IBRD), the use of uniform international currency (dollarization of global finance), technology and communication network (intellectual property rights), ranking of global cultures (English Language and Western Culture), education (Western and American Institution as best) and acceptable global ideologies (Individualism, democracy, human rights) for global unification and control of weaker states.

Mann (2013) expatiate that globalization is about diffusion of ideas, technologies and practice through intensification of liberalization of social networks connecting states and economics around the world. Mann further stated that, the extension of ideologies in economic, political and cultural dimension which appears to focus on “de-localization and super-territoriality; the speed and power of technological innovation and the associated growth of risk; the rise of multinational corporations, and the extent to which the moves towards the creation of (global), free market leads to instability and division (Smith and Doyle, 2013). Delocalization and super-territoriality enables social and economic exchange of ideas with ease due to sophisticated technology in transportation and communication connecting people

The diagram below illustrates how nation- states are connected to free global markets and institutions.



Source: Authors (2025)

The above diagram depicts how global activities and institutions affect sovereign states, as Ideas are diffused across state borders. The liberalization of global economy involves the extension of global financial and trade institutions guided by the principal of free trade. The liberalization of global economy influences and determines the economic system of most states. By extension, the liberalization of global economy pave way for consummation of socio-cultural elements with the dominance of western and American (USA) Cultures determining global languages for communication, the food we eat, clothing and dressing styles, music and believe system (Religion). The forceful acculturation of cultures by western states on weaker states results to clash of liberal

democratic ideals against regimes purported to be threatening the crux of liberalism (humanity, human right abuse inform of gender discrimination, gay and lesbian rights, religious extremism).To cope with conflicts emanating from ideological clashes and neutralize relationship amongst states, international organizations are created to harmonize and Promote mutual co-existence

Theoretical Framework

The continues reliance on global market economy due to bad leadership and institutional weakness which has resulted to the disconnection between of citizens diplomacy in unitizing domestic resources for better foreign policies that are likely to present a favourable usage of Nigeria's comparative advantages tilted towards attracting investments in the economy with a

stimulated growth toward attaining qualitative changes. The study decision making theory places more importance to state actors who are the custodians of a state and makes a decision that affects the lives of citizens. Kalu and Ogbonnaya (2019) posits that, decision making theory explains " the actions and inactions of foreign policy enforcers of nation- states as a result of the perceptions, personalities, character, idiosyncrasies and general behavior of those in charge of taking of taking responsibility for the state business and foreign policy". The ability of policy makers to navigate the global environment using a carefully designed policy with corresponding actions to attract socio-economic development gives a nation stronger wheel and become less dependent and controlled by other nations. The decision making theory believe in global mutual interaction but should be accustomed to protectionist and economic nationalism for the benefits of a nation. Nigerian decision makers in their actions and inactions have for years render the country a dependent one due to bad leadership and institutional weakness. The proponents of this theory include Herbert Simon, Richard Synder, Graham Allison, Robert Javis, among others.

Globalization, the Nigerian Political System and Leadership

The Nigerian political system is a creation of history. Elaigwu (1993) states that, Nigeria is the artificial boundaries of states which emerged upon the European imperial expansion that shaped the political development of Nigeria.

Elaigwu (1993) further mentioned that:

These artificial boundaries created diverse states as they brought together strange ethno-cultural groups into one political territory; the problem of integration arising from these have been demonstrated by communal instability and secessionist bid in Nigerian (Brown, 2013)

The organic structure of Nigerian political structure shaped the nature and character of its political system and practice. The influence of colonialism by the British had a dramatic influence on the strength of Nigeria's Political system. Nigeria as a former British colony even after independence relied on the British for political and socio-economic advices. Nigeria can be said to have fully integrated into the web of globalization, as it has proven to have adopted modern ideas and technologies for progress and development. But Onyeji (2013) stated that nature of Nigerian political system in a global world can be regarded as weak and incapacitated to make and influence decisions due to its unstable political journey and lack of political will to facilitate the elements of global competitiveness and survival that include, investment in science and technology, urge for innovations and instituting productive strides for economics sufficiency and independence.

More so, internal crises such as ethnicity and corruption have weakened political institutions for better policies capable of making Nigeria a global power house. Nwoba (2023) further elaborates that Nigeria's foreign policy since independence lacks commitments from leaders to make decision in harnessing human and natural resources towards attaining economic independence and influence important decisions in the global stage. Nwoba (2023) further elaborates, that Nigeria's ability to compete in a global environment predisposes that, it must have the foresight and will to accommodate and implement decisions capable of enhancing economic independence and socio-economic stability in a global competitive environment.

Adebami and Uche (2023) claim that poor leadership has affected governance affairs and activities in Nigerians progress at the global stage, which should ordinarily socio-economic activities expected be handled and controlled by governments, have been forced on different actors, including banks, financial institutions and multinational firms. Government due to poor leaderships has failed to take critical decisions that would benefit Nigeria in the global

environment, allowing foreign control over important national issues. For example, poor leadership and governance have resulted to unregulated free flow of information and activities which constitutes security threat to its territorial integrity and affect the general standard of living of its citizens. Security threats have been aided through activities such as money laundry, proliferation of arms and ammunition, illegal migration of person and hard drugs, thereby worsening the socio-economic state of the nation.

Oforie and Madueke (2018) affirm that upholding democratic values of good leadership and putting Nigerian first in this era of globalization is likely to attract positive result change in a competitive global environment, thus in their words;" In the era of globalization...we have no choice but adjust and adopt the way we conduct foreign policy. As we respond to the forces of globalization, perhaps more than ever before, our diplomacy must be put at the service of our domestic priority".

However, internally, political leaders must employ decisions that would stimulate economic activities in terms of technological innovation, efficient resource allocation and utilization, and increase in production capacity through economic diversification and improving balance of payment and trade. Amah and Tende (2020) affirm that in reality, the implementation of national development plan in Nigeria over the years have not tapped into the verse opportunities globalization presents in the area of technology, housing, water, electricity, safety and security, education and skills, social protection etc. Thus weak and dysfunctional public institutions and lack of political will to harness the benefit of globalization has been responsible for this failure.

Globalization and the Nigerian Economy

Nigeria's openness to the international market guarantees her progress in international trade and investment. The Nigerian economy before independence to the early 1970s was largely agrarian with a very narrow industrial base. Gusau (2017) reveal that the Nigeria economy was largely agrarian and notably an exporter of agricultural produce before the period of the old boom in the 1970's. During this period, several manufacturing and extractive industries emerged which made Nigeria witnessed 8% growth per year through the 1980s. The thrust of Nigeria economic and trade policy have been aimed at securing favourable balance of payment, export promotion and strides towards industrialisation. The base of Nigeria's economy after independence was defined by basically the following core and solid factors;

- i. Nigeria was diplomatically inclined with western powers like- Britain, United States and Western Germany
- ii. It was considered too young and weak to become neutralist by leaders to stand on its own.
- iii. It was capitalist oriented, not industrially oriented, but heavily relied on external financial aid, loans and foreign investment from western capitalist countries.

From the above, Nigeria's economy became structured around conservatism (Britain and Western powers) which affected it quests for industrialization and economic independence. No doubt, Nigeria over the years have showed commitment in participating in the global economy through regional and global economic institutions such as the African Development Bank (ADB), NEPAD, ECOWAS, World Trade Organization, IMF, World Bank and attracting investment from multinational corporations. For example in the 1970s, Obiagulu and Obi, 2004, posit that economic liberalization through the realization of expanding trade and investment, Nigeria promulgated the Nigeria Enterprises Promotion Degree to reflect domestic and global market realities.

The Decrees of the 1977 aimed at making the Nigerian economy a global economic power house through privatization and commercialization of government enterprises. The liberalization policy became highly practical when the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) was adopted as a last resort to rescue Nigeria from the global economic crisis of the 1980s. Prior to the SAP, the level of Industrialization in Nigeria was low due to the inability of successive government to boost the capacity of domestic entrepreneurs to engage investment and provide capital in form of grant and loan hinged on low interest rate and invest in science and technology which are guarantee for economic independence and global competitiveness.

Oloidi, Eysi Agha and Nwachukwu (2022) reveal that despite the oil boom in the 1970s, Nigeria failed to utilise the money from crude oil proceeds on economic diversification, which in the long run resulted to increase economic dependence on imports, privatization of local industries, the unprecedented takeover of the Nigeria economy by multinationals and swimming in huge debt. Oloidi et al (2022) further claim that the “SAP was designed to liberalize Nigerian economy in the spirit of globalization has produced serious negative effects” including inflation and devaluation of currency creating new threats to human development. The Nigerian economy has not benefited from the competitive global environment due to poor economic decision and management of resources depriving the country of being an important economic player in the global market.

In the participation in international trade, Nigeria is lagging behind from competing in the international market, and the non-oil sectors oil as the major export commodity has been neglected. Even the revenue accrue from crude oil export is being mismanaged. More revealing, the liberalization of the global economy allowing for the free flow of goods and services has stimulated the investments of foreign companies in Nigeria in several sectors of the economy. It is interesting to note that most of the goods and services produces and used in Nigeria are imported from foreign countries and those goods and services produced in Nigeria are being produced by foreign multinational companies such as Total oil and gas giant, Unilever, Nigerian bottling company, Glaxo among other multinationals.

This have shown that Nigeria has not been taking the opportunities from global exchange of ideas in developing its human capacity and domestic market through research and development, diversification of production, logistics marketing and financial accessibility to stimulate local industrial production to compete favourably with their foreign counterpart, and invariably become a potential global market hub. In sum, Adegbite (2009) stated that, Nigerian production/ industrialization base is narrow because its revenue comes from a single product, which is crude oil. As such, Nigeria’s level of global integration has been extremely low (Ebenechi and Amodu, 2012).

Globalisation and the Nigerian Culture

Culture is the totality of learned, socially transmitted customs, knowledge, material object and behavior. It includes the ideas, values, customs and artifact of a group of people or a society. Far back centuries, Nigeria comprised of various society came in contact with western culture through the process of slave trade and colonialism. The diffusion of western cultural values including language, philosophy and mobility of information were witnessed. Globalization is like a revolution moving from one phase to another which appears to threaten cultural heritage of most societies round the world. This reality is capture in the words of Adamu (2003) that:

Globalisation is like a wild fire, it has started, it is uncontrollable and nobody knows where it is taking us to and what is evident is that no person, family, religions

or society is immune to it ... was, as humanity are shaping and affecting globalization and globalization is affecting us.

It is evident that the British and western culture have continuously influence local culture in Nigeria even after independence. In a global world were language, dressing, and promotion of cultural values are transmitted through information and communication technology, it helps states in the preservation and diffusion of cultural values to other societies for socio-economic gain. For example, Western and American culture have exposed Nigerians to abandon their culture and accept their ways of life through music, movies, language scholarship (funded education), pop culture amongst other medium.

Onyemechi, Suleiman and Chima (2018) reveal that, the inability of Nigeria to utilize global opportunities in promoting her culture have resulted to the oblivion of its cultural values, non-appreciating of its cultural elements that include books(literary works), films, television programs, local innovation skills. This has not only affected the utilization of cultural elements for national growth and development but have also stimulated inferiority complex among Nigerians relative to foreign culture. America (US), Britain, China, Germany, France, among other sovereign states are great because they use their languages in educating their citizens for easy assimilation and applicability in every day's life towards engineering growth and development.

More so, their mass media, movies, and literatures are written and translated in their languages for national progress and development. More revealing, in the present era of globalisation, the unfolding trends of neo-colonial encroachment of indigenous culture is so conventional that it has continuously trampled on the linguistic value of Nigerian Languages and the celebration of English Language and pro-America pop cultures, such as music, movies, fashion, literacy works and food is so alarming through the utilization of information and communication technology. Nigeria as the most populous black nation or state in the world is during little to promote its culture and attract other societies to appreciate its cultural heritage and explore the opportunities abounds in the area of medicine, artifacts, tourism, knowledge and skills emanating from indigenous persons or groups.

John, Akarika and Keira (2017) stated that the media is a very powerful that is expected to be used to influence youths in Nigeria to appreciate and promote their culture for national development. The influence of television and other mass media platform such as facebook, Instagram, twitter, tiktok in the dissemination of ideas have increased the risk of developing some behavioural problems that include addiction to pornography, drugs, indecent dressing, vulgar languages money laundering (yahoo), violence which is having a negative influence on the Nigeria economy and security. Interestingly, most television programmes and movie have very little to do with Nigerian culture in driving youths towards cultural assimilation for national unity and progress. According to Chick and Onyemachi (2020), the Big Brother Naija (BBN) reality show in Nigeria has been globalized through the use of satellite transmission and social media platforms such as Youtube, Instagram, Facebook and X application to promote sex, nudity, violence, cheating, voting unfairness" to disconnect Nigerians from their culture and invest more energy to social activities than engaging in profitable economic activities.

CHALLENGES CONFRONTING NIGERIA'S GLOBAL INTEGRATION AND SURVIVAL

Nigeria, the most populous black nation in the word, blessed with abundant natural resources is expected to utilize global opportunities such as transportation networks, information and communication technology to develop its human and natural resources for global

competitiveness. Paradoxically, numerous challenges have denied Nigeria to key into exploring these opportunities. These challenges are explained below:

i. Leadership and Institutional Dysfunction

The lack of political will by Nigerian leaders to translate Programmes into action have resulted to failure of several policies expected to stimulate growth and development. Alao and Ihuomo (2020) reveal that political instability, corruption and lack of political will by both Civilian and military regimes over time have halted development strides since independence. The reflection of Nigeria's image and performance in a global competitive world portrays the type of leadership and institutions that operates.

Oferie and MAaduekwe (2018) affirm that due to weak leadership and institutions, Nigeria's foreign policy has not been based on citizens' diplomacy. Political leaders do not tap into the opportunities presented by global interactions to develop Nigeria's abundant resource, rather depend on foreign aids, multinationals and international financial institutions for help with conditionally attached depriving Nigeria from developing her human and natural resources to full capacity. Alao and Ihuomo (2020) further reveal that, the political, economic and military institutions are weak, as such Nigeria's ability to industrialize seems an illusion. The synergy between institutions is in disarray, corruption strives, and poverty/inflation increases at geometric rate and insecurity continue to halt socio-economic development.

ii. Non-diversification of the economy

Oloidi, Eysi, Agha and Nwachukwu (2022), if there was a country that had the opportunity to build a viable and strong economic base in the 1970s, it was Nigeria. Without doubt, a country with huge market, robust urban centers, oil revenue, and attraction to transnational, vibrant capitalist culture and influence on the global system had the chance to exploit opportunities in the global order. Accordingly, mono cultural dependent economy on crude oil have placed Nigeria among economically weak nations, as dependency on one export commodity attracts unfavourable terms of trade, as well as excreting debt and debt service burden.

More revealing, even the crude oil serving as a dependent export commodity that generates 90% of revenue is refined outside the country. The implication is that a lot of cost implications affect domestic prices of refined crude products and drives inflation higher due to unfavourable balance of payment. Being blessed with arable land for agriculture, Nigeria is one of the largest importers of agricultural produce such as rice, maize, flour etc. Also, natural resources that include gold, Iron ore, lead, zinc, columbite, among other natural resource have been left untapped, and the little being tapped have not been added value to the neglect of importing and domesticating technologies to diversify the economy from crude oil is greatly responsibility for lack of industrialisation, thereby rendering Nigeria a loser in the global order.

iii. Misplacement of Educational Priorities

It is quit unfortunate that the Nigerian educational system do not reflect global realities. No country can develop and compete favourably in the global world without prioritizing education that is aligning to science and technology for human capacity development. Albi-Oparaocha, Eucharika and Obiageli (2018) state that, the Nigeria's educational system for long have neglected technical and vocational skills at all level of education. The system is Prioritizing paper qualification over skills which have rendered educational institutions a ground for theoretical exercise to acquire higher qualifications for white collar jobs and attain higher positions at work place. The inability and unserious on the part of political leaders and

educational administrators to develop human capacity have denied Nigeria from addressing socio-economic issues such as youth unemployment, stimulating local production and reduction of importation of commodities it can produce.

iv. Cultural Deformation

Nigeria's culture has witnessed a tremendous decline over the years, as Nigerians no longer appreciate and protect their cultural values. It is evident that the Nigerian market is being bombarded with new foreign ideas such as music, movies, cloth, food, etc have resulted to continuous detaching Nigerians from their cultural values. The craze for foreign cultural values has affected socio-economic progress of Nigeria. Osasona (2019) aver that "people want to speak English language because it is the language of advertising, blockbuster, movies and pop music, as well vital tool of success". Interestingly, Nigerian cultural elements such as language, literature, artifacts, field of medicine as viewed as obsolete by Nigerians themselves. As a result, the quest for utilizing cultural values to stimulate national development and selling Nigeria's cultural values to other societies is being defeated. For example, locally produced food, drinks, clothes are seen as archaic.

CONCLUSION

It is visibly clear from the discuss that globalization as a driver of local, national and international growth and development between and across states has become the pendulum and pivotal tool that any state wanting growth must embraced in totality because of the positive advantage it bring in the cause of states interactions across boards. Globalization no doubt have integrated sovereign states into a global village where the spread of ideas have influence the behaviour and actions of states in the area of political, economic, socio-cultural and environmental realm of life. The advancement in transportation and communication technology have intensified and inevitable interaction amongst states in the international community.

Way Forward For Nigeria

Every part of the global community utilizes globalization as means of its growth and survival in contemporary times. Therefore, no country can exist without positive utilization of globalization as means of interaction, social growth and economy development in this 21st century. It has become very pertinent and necessary that, for Nigeria to survive this competitive global environment where the pulling and hauling for resources, commerce, material, economy, civilization, military strength, democracy, social change and cultural diversities are in the forefront of state actors and none state actors quests for survivals, it must integrate itself into utilizing global ideas by establishing a positive synergy between its Nigeria's internal and external environment like it counterparts are doing across the globe for national transformation in all fronts and ramifications in totality.

- i. Politically, Nigeria should resolve it internal crisis to strengthen its institutions because the reflection of its external performance is a reflection of its internal workings. Good leadership and governance will enhance better decisions that would attract favourably foreign and local investments, reduce corruption, develop local initiatives and improve economic strength of Nigeria in the global community.
- ii. Economically, Nigeria should invest in human capital development through skilled and technological based education to accommodate economic diversification, reduce economic independence and strength the country's balance of trade.
- iii. Socio-culturally, the government, media and entertainment industry should promote Nigeria's culture through institutionalizing Nigerian Languages in schools at all levels for subjects to be thought in local languages, especially in science and

technology base field like agriculture, engineering and medicine. Television and radio programmes should reflect on promoting Nigeria's culture to reduce inferiority complex with regards to consuming foreign cultures. Finally, the entertainment industry should be regulated and encourage to make movies that promote Nigeria's culture.

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