

Printing, Fashion and Textile Industry as Viable Tools for Bridging the Developmental Gap Between Nigeria and Its Contemporaries

Ibrahim Dalhat^{1*}, Abba Musa Ya'u² and Ibrahim Bukar Geidam³

^{1*}Dept. of printing technology, Kano state polytechnic

ibrhimdalhat22@gmail.com

²Dept. of fashion and design

Hussaini Adamu fed poly, Kazaure Jigawa State

abbamusayau@yahoo.com

³Dept. of surveying & Geo-informatics

Mai idris Aloom polytechnic Geidam Yobe state

ybuwar1@gmail.com

Abstract

The industrial sector remains a strong sector for nation economy be it developed or developing. It is a known fact that the economy of a nation will not grow fast without the inclusion of industrial sectors. It is impossible for any nation in the world to develop further without practicing industrialization. This industrialization has changed the way people live their life, and interact within the society. This paper is an attempt to look at the printing technology, fashion and textile industries as a viable tools for bridging the developmental gap. The paper concludes that to bridge developmental gap there is need for the government to embrace industrial sectors. This industrial sectors offered larger percentage of employment to the teeming youth across the country, and not only that, the sectors contribute immensely to the national GDP. It reduces the percentage rate of social vices such as thuggery and conflict. It also reduces the percentage rate of poverty level in the country. Again, the unemployment rate is always at decline level, it changes the living standard of the citizenry in the country and many positives changes. Various recommendations for bridging developmental gap were pointed out under recommendations.

Keywords: *printing, fashion, textile, industrialization and developmental gap.*

Introduction

Nigeria as a nation is blessed with more than 120 million people, spread across the six geo-political zones of the country with more than 150 languages spoken by the ethnic groups. It has been asserted by many scholars that Nigeria can be described as agrarian society since more than 70% of its population engage in agricultural practice. The nation is blessed with a vast land of 923,768 square kilometers all of which is arable, for both commercial and subsistence farming, as well as provision of almost all kinds of natural resources for industrialization (Abdulkarim, I. and Ali, M. 2012).

Today, bridging the developmental gap of a nation can only be possible if there is a stable and vibrant industries that will sustain the economic growth and development. It is therefore very much impossible for any successful developed or developing country to develop further without the inclusion industrial sectors. And this industrial sector apart from agricultural sector is the backbone of every successful economy.

Printing, textile and fashion industries are global industries that have been practiced by all other developed and developing nations of the world for many decades. These industries are among the other industries that provides greater opportunities of employment to millions of people across the country compared to other sectors and also support the economic growth in the short-term by providing incomes and jobs creation especially for youngster in the rural and urban cities and also in the long-term by providing country the opportunities to sustain its economic growth and development. It again provides opportunities for investments and wealth creation within the country.

Industrial development in the world has drastically change the conventional method of using machinery into more advance version. This development has positively increased the rate of production, rate of employment, rate of skilled operators within the industrial sectors. It therefore, brings new ideas of innovations and creations as well as nation incomes.

Printing industry is a sector which provides a combination of services and products to numerous customers. The industry operates in a material-intensive, labour-intensive and capital-intensive environment. There are numerous printing establishments engaged in one activity or the other from simple trade shops, publishing, special purpose, quick printing to commercial printing across the country (Kingsley and Owusu cited Adams et al., 1988). Afolabi and Omoyeni (2014) cited Bharti (2008) describing printing industry as part of the mass communication process involves several skills that attract job opportunities in a wide range of areas like publishing, commercial printing, digital imaging, advertising and public relations, packaging, electronic publishing, colour management, security printing, marketing and management, research and development and government establishments.

Development of industrialization in printing industries has transformed the conventional method of producing printed products into the digital one. The actual work from pre-press, press and post-press have change into more simplified way. The traditional method of preparing printing plate for offsets printing machine has now change directly to computer to plate instead of traditional artwork preparation for the plate. It now computer-to-plate (ctp). However, in bookbinding rooms the traditional method of finishing a printed books has been change, a machine was designed to take a control of collating, gathering, folding, trimming and gluing in one single pass, which a complete book is ready for use immediately instead of taking the operations one after another. Similarly, the traditional method of composing type characters for making books and other printed documents has now change to computer composition.

Likewise, in fashion and textile industries many of us have witnessed the new changes in fashion design industry by several technology innovations in form of new fashion styles on clothes. Industrialization into the textile/fashion

industries provides the greater advantages with the use of new machinery. For example:

- Knitting machines - Machines create knitted fabrics in large swaths of material, instead of long strips, that are then looped and sewn together.
- Pleating - Pleating can now be done solely by machines instead of laborers.
- Laser printing - Textile machines now use laser printing to produce images on clothes, like jeans and shirts. As a result, designs can be transferred to materials more quickly and more precisely.
- Digital printing - Layered printing allows for more complex designs.
- 3D Printers - Although mostly found only in the high fashion community, companies like Nike are finding ways to use 3D printing to make innovative shoes, a technology that may be eventually applied to thinner and more resilient fibers to make actual, soft clothing.
- Nanotechnology - The textile industry is looking to use nanotechnology to create more scientific clothing, like fire-repellent, self-cleaning, and water-repellent items. Nanotechnology will also allow the textile industry to make products at lower energy thresholds, which helps to sustain the environment. (study.com/academy/lesson/technological-advances-in-the-textile-industry.html).

Textile materials are made from fiber, yarns, and fabrics. Textiles can be found in a variety of materials, ranging from the clothes in your closet to the air filters in your vacuum cleaner. So, these industries played a significant role in the socio-economic development long ago, which enable peoples and enterprises to capture economic opportunities by increasing process of efficiency, promoting participation in expanded economic networks, and creating opportunities for employment.

There are many industries that can serve as a tool for bridging the developmental gap in the

country, but this particular paper will focus mainly on printing, textile/fashion industries as a viable tools for bringing the developmental gap. The paper will also examine key concepts that highlight the role which printing and textile/ fashion industries played in bridging the developmental gap in Nigeria.

Concept of Developmental gap

The development gap is a term used for defining the differences between the most and least advanced countries. It is another way of referring to nations that enjoy first, second and third world statuses. It defines how far apart countries are in terms of development, economy and education. The development gap also refers to the hemispheric divide between the north and south.

The development gap refers to the space between nations demographically, economically and developmentally. This gap is measured based on the industrial progress and infrastructure capabilities of a country and ranks it in comparison to global standards. By putting this sort of ranking system in place, it is easy to determine the countries that are doing best and the countries that are in need of better management and updating.

There is a widening gap between the greatest nations in the world and those that are most impoverished and least developed. Many of these territorial splits are defined by positioning in relation to the equator such that the development gap is also referred to as the north-south split. Differentiating between first world nations and third world nations allows for better recognition of the areas most in need of assistance. This measurement is also useful in showing how some regions are improving while others are on the decline. (Reference.com, 2020).

Concept of industrialization

Industrialization is the process in which a society or country (or world) transforms itself from a primarily agricultural society into one based on the manufacturing of goods and services. Individual manual labor is often replaced by mechanized mass production and

craftsmen are replaced by assembly lines Cap (2002). The process by which traditionally nonindustrial sectors (such as agriculture, education, health) of an economy become increasingly similar to the manufacturing sector of the economy. Sustained economic development based on factory production, division of labour, concentration of industries and population in certain geographical areas, and urbanization. Friedman (2006).

Concept of printing

Printing: the concept of printing is all about the process of producing multiple number of printed copies of a documents using printing machines. Kipphan, H. Described the concept of printing as a reproduction process in which printing ink is applied to a printing substrate in order to transmit information (images, graphics, text) in repeatable form using an image-carrying medium (printing plate). Printing are categorized into publishing and packaging. Both contribute to the economic growth and development in the country for many years.

Concept of Textile

Textile: New World Encyclopedia (2022) defined textile to be a flexible material composed of a network of natural or artificial fibres often referred to as thread or yarn. In addition, the fibres themselves may be referred to as textile. Any filament, fibre, or yarn that can be made into fabric or cloth, and the resulting material itself (Abrahart and Whewell, 2016). In context to this paper, textiles are fibres that are spun into yarn or made into fabric by weaving, knitting, braiding, and felting, which is in confirmation with New World Encyclopedia (2022) that textile are formed by weaving, knitting, crocheting, braiding, knotting, or pressing fibre together.

Concept of Fashion

Fashion is a language which tells a story about the person who wears it. It is a means of self-expression that allows people to try on many

roles in life. It is a way of celebrating the diversity and variety of the world in which we live. Wikipedia describes fashion as a form of self expression and autonomy at a particular period and place and in a specific context, of clothing, footwear, lifestyle, accessories, makeup, hairstyle a body posture. Collinsdictionary.com (2022) defines fashion as the area of activity that involves styles of clothing and appearance. Fashion also alludes to the way in which things are made; to fashion something is to make it in a particular form. In context to this paper, fashion is the prevailing style of dress or behavior at any given time, with the strong implication that fashion is characterized by change.

Printing, fashion and textile industries as a viable tool for bridging the developmental gap

The best possible way for bridging developmental gap within and outside the country is to embrace industrialization. This sector has changed the way people live their life, interact and even communicate within themselves in a society. This industrial sectors has been helping the economic growth and national development of a nation. Printing, textile and fashion industries offered larger percentage of employment to the youth compared with other sectors every year, ranging from small scale, medium scale as well as larger scale. Not only that the sectors contribute immensely to the national GDP. Similarly, this industrialization influence on how countries organize and coordinate their economies in an international trade and enhance business operations as well as organizational efficiency which brought boundless opportunities for numerous businesses (Udo and Edoho 2000). Bello *etal* (2013) correctly argues that industrialization remains one of the catalysts for rapid growth and development for underdeveloped, developed and developing countries of the world.

Printing industry also trained printers to find a gainful employment in digital photography, sales of print equipments and materials,

printing ink manufacturing, paper making industry, publishing industry, print finishing industry, and plate making industry, information management, media planning and consultancy services.

While, Textile and fashion industries are the industries that they both provides gainful opportunities in sales of fabric materials, they provide employment opportunities in garment industry, manufacturer and sales of fabrics materials, sales of clothing materials, tailoring services, training services on designing different patterns. They also trained youths to find a gainful employment in designing fabric clothes for both men and females and also allows the youth to innovate new technique of designing different patterns.

The number of printer's, fashion and textile designers are always in increasing in many of our streets which there is no any streets across the country without having a shops of printers or fashion designers that are directly in connection with printing, textile and fashion business.

It is very important to look at printing and fashion /textiles industries through other developmental plans like a value-chain approach to see the contribution that these industries can make to Nigerian economies and beyond. These industries are expected to double their effort in terms of production which will positively aid the country to bridge the developmental gap which every country in the world is aimed at.

Conclusion

The paper deals with printing, textile and fashion industries as a viable tool for bridging the developmental gap between Nigeria and its contemporaries. The paper reveals that with sound policies, targeted investment and global partnerships, the printing, textile and fashion industries can have a significant impact on Nigerian and the Nigeria's economy.

This paper finally concludes that to bridge developmental gap there is need for the country to embrace industrial sector. This industrial sectors has been helping the economic growth

and development of the country for many decades ago. Printing, textile and fashion industries offered larger percentage of employment to the teeming youth every year, but not only that, the sectors contribute immensely to the national GDP. It reduces the percentage rate of social vices such as thuggery and conflict. It also reduces the percentage rate of poverty level in the country. Again, the unemployment rate is always at decline level, it changes the living standard of the citizenry in the country and many positives changes.

Recommendations

This particular paper recommends the following as recommendations for viable tools for bringing the developmental gap in Nigeria.

1. The government of Nigeria should take on bold steps to fund and diversify her economy to the industrial sector which printing, fashion and textile had once played a major role in boosting the nation's growth and development.
2. The government should provide an enabling environment for the printing and textile industries and fashion designers to thrive with the provision of critical infrastructure such as electricity and good transport system needed by the industries and designers should be made available to help them become truly productive.
3. Adequate funding and financial incentives should be given to members of the printing, textile and fashion industries as it is done in other countries. Financial institutions of government such as Bank of industry should endeavor to provide funds to both manufacturers and fashion designers as this would help in the long-term to grow the economy.

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