

EMPIRICISM

Volume 1

2013

Published by

**ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING ACADEMIC
RESEARCHES AND DEVELOPMENTS IN NIGERIA
(APARDN)**

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND THE GROWTH OF BUSINESS ORGANISATION IN NIGERIA

DIBIE, K. ESTHER AND DIBIE, N. EDWARD

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, AGBOR.

ABSTRACT

Environmental analysis is an all embracing event; usually organized by a multi-disciplinary field of study, in order to ensure that the carrying capacity of the environment does not collapse. The primary focus is to identify and implement measures that would contain, remediate or mitigate the adverse consequences of man's exploration and- exploitation of the Environment. The paper X-rayed the Environment focusing on the impact of the Environment on business organization. The business and its physical environment was equally critically evaluated. The paper recommended inter alia that greater environmental awareness programme should be embarked upon by managers so that future generation be better for it.

INTRODUCTION

Industrialization remains the vital engine for propelling economic growth in most developing countries (Osibanjo, 1999). Perhaps in recognition of this fact, successive government that have ruled Nigeria, made remarkable attempt to make Nigeria an entrepreneurial society, by encouraging industrialization.

The significantly low environmental standards in Nigeria, which incidentally is unfortunate, could be part of government's incentive to attract foreign investors, as well as encourage indigenous ones. Taking advantage of this, and the diverse economic potentials which the nation Nigeria is endowed with, investors have over the years, exploited the Nigerian environment with little or no recourse to ecological consequences. Emphatically, we wish to say that there is no business organization in Nigeria that adopts the concept of best practicable environmental option. That the country is confronted presently with a host of environmental problems; including losses of productive land, ecological sensitive areas, biodiversity, air pollution, damage

to surface and ground water resources; in addition to devastating socio-economic, are eloquent testimonies to the fact that our environment is fast being degraded.

Dibie and Dibie (2006), are of the view that today the vulnerability of our environment to imminent extinction cannot be over emphasized. Wrong environmental practices do not only have the potential to reverse the gains of previous years, but pose treat to man's existence on earth.

Failure to build enduring relationship with the environment is disastrous. Heightened interacting variables such as resource availability, population growth, level of environmental pollution, industrial production, social attitudes, national and international politics, climatic pattern etc, are indicative of an over stressed environment.

The development and growth of all economies are based on the exploitation of the environment, which apparently, is the principal capital base. Ensuring that the environment remains "healthy", and thus able to provide the resources needed for business development and growth: as well as act as sink for all of our wastes are the objectives of environmental analyses. According to Owen and Chiras (1995), a healthy land has the "capacity for self - renewal".

This paper attempts to bridge the gap between environmental analysis and the growth of business organization in Nigeria, if partly. Some concepts were used for which. definitions and explanations are given herein.

Environment According to the definition of Shell Petroleum Development Company East (1998), the environment is defined as "every other thing minus you". Thus, the environment consists of:

- water (surface/ground water)
- soil
- air
- humans
- socio- economics
- flora and fauna

Pollution

Holdgate (1979), defined pollution as “the introduction by man into the environment of substances or energy liable to cause hazards to human health, harm to living resources and ecological systems, damage to structure or amenity, or interference with legitimate uses of the environment”. According to Martin (1976), pollution is “the presence in the environment of significant amounts of unnatural substances or abnormally high concentrations of natural constituents at a level that causes undesirable effects, such as bronchial irritation, corrosion or ecological change”.

Greenhouse Effect

This is defined as “the progressive warming up of the earth’s surface due to the blanketing effect of certain man - made gases called greenhouse gases in the atmosphere”

Ozone Layer Depletion This is the reduction or destruction of the Ozone, which forms a layer in the atmosphere protecting the earth from the sun’s ultraviolet rays.

Sustainable Development This is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to benefit from the common wealth of resources that is, the environment.

The Environment The environment can be classified thus:- Biotic and chemicals, abiotic, and socio- economics. Each of these has defined attributes.

In the group of biotic and chemicals are animals, plants, human, marine life, vegetation; as well as soil, air and water chemistry. With respect to the Nigerian environment, the abiotic class includes such features as coastal zone, surface and ground water, air, lowland/wetland, upland, and aridly and. The socio-economics sector of the Nigerian environment comprises religious and historic places, artifacts/culture, tribal settlements, public health, employment, food sufficiency, host community/industry relationship; as well as national parks and sanctuaries.

The nature and composition of the environment leaves no doubt that the environment holds all needs for human development and existence; as well as business growth. It is therefore, pertinent to say that environmental matters are too important to be left out, in the overall business planning. There is no gainsaying that the only condition that can sustain the present human developmental activities, and ensure the accomplishment of the dreams of future development, is for the environment to remain healthy. This, and the health implications of living in a polluted environment, are the bases for the global initiative on environmental protection. Remarkably, environmental problems are trans boundary.

Development has the potential to modify existing environmental processes in any area where it takes place. It is worth mentioning that many processes contributing to the health of the environment; in addition to ensuring that resources are available for man and business development, are biological in nature. Consequently, they are easily disrupted, or even destroyed by adverse environmental conditions. The damaging of these processes by man for short-term economic gains, is fast creating problems which may be generational in nature.

For the environment not to become bankrupt, the erroneous perception that the environment has infinite resources must change. The earth offers a limited supply of resources, we ignore this imperative at our own risk (Owen and Chiras, 1995).

Environmental Analysis

Environmental analyses are all embracing events, organized by a multi-disciplinary field of study, to ensure that the carrying capacity of our environment does not collapse. Thus, identification and implementation of measures that will contain, remediate or mitigate the adverse consequences of man's exploration and exploitation of the environment, are the primary focus of environmental analysis.

It is imperative that business organizations integrate environmental analysis into their overall business planning. Reason been that environmental analyses are the vital organs for determining whether the positive externalities associated with any developmental activity out weighs the negative externalities or vice versa.

Business Organization In Nigeria And The Physical Environment

Nigeria in attempt to achieve certain level of economic advancement, made remarked progress in many areas of economic importance. Notably, the country has invested in the fields of agriculture; manufacturing; solid minerals; petroleum exploration, production and refining; petrochemicals; iron and steel; energy production; transportation etc. But this is not without unpleasant environmental consequences.

The manner of exploration and of exploitation of our resources in Nigeria, coupled with poor waste management systems, - have the potential to adversely affect the stock of natural resources required to attain and sustain economic reliance. Dibia and Dibia (2006), are of the view that the river Orogodo in Agbor and others under constant pollution may become biologically inactive, and not being able to support economic activities, if pollution remains unabated.

The massive exploration and exploitation activities taking place in the Niger Delta, the solid mineral regions, and other parts of Nigeria where industrialization is taking place, puts one in doubt whether the present generation of Nigerians will bequeath to posterity, a sustainable environment. Suffices to mention that the Niger Delta environment where crude oil is produced in Nigeria, is fragile; and its lands traversed by rivers has highly permeable soil (Pawariso Samuel - Horsfall, 1999). There is no doubt that a number of coastal environment in the Niger Delta, are at risk to oil spillage and its attendant consequences. Predictably therefore, in the Niger Delta environment, beyond the immediate national gains, the sartorial nature of business development and the associated environmental consequences; could have long term devastating socio-economic effects.

Some environmentally harmful technologies and hazardous chemicals, including certain preservatives, herbicides, insecticides, pesticides and fertilizers used in agricultural practices; made the sector one of the culprits responsible for environmental degradation. Suffice to mention that some of the problems of eutrophication and decimation of some sensitive species could be consequences of

environmental pollution arising from unwholesome agricultural practices.

The problems of environmental pollution arising from the activities of the manufacturing industries, and the transport sector are worthy of note. Besides the effluents which are of environmental significance, plants and vehicular emissions consist of gases which are hazardous to life; in addition to contributing to acid rain and acidification, Ozone layer depletion, and greenhouse effect (Mason, 1993; Schwartz et al; 1994; Owen and Chiras, 1995). These environmentally unsound events have the potential to adversely affect the availability of resources; and thus the growth of business organization in Nigeria, and the world in general.

The persistent eroding of the nation's life support system is worrisome. It in fact indicates that Nigeria is on an unsustainable course. Sadly if any, the nation's natural resources inventory is poorly kept.

Solar Radiation And The Earth's Energy Balance. The source of the earth's energy is the sun (Schwartz et al, 1994). The sun emits radiation consisting of wave particles of different energy levels, and thus forming the electromagnetic spectrum, Fritz and Schenk (1977), recorded that the electromagnetic spectrum consists of the following regions: gamma rays, x-rays, vacuum ultraviolet, near ultraviolet, visible, near infrared, far infrared and microwaves; arranged in the order of decreasing energy level. Light is the radiant energy in the spectral region that is visible to the normal human eye (Fritz and Schenk, 1977).

With regards the sun's energy emission, over half of the emission are within the infrared region of the spectrum. Consequently, the major source of heat for the planet earth, is infrared radiation, otherwise referred to as the heat rays. The rest of the sun's energy emission comes from the visible light and the ultraviolet; with the visible light contributing about 39% and the ultraviolet 8% respectively. But in spite of its small percentage, the sun's ultraviolet radiation is potentially the most damaging to living things (Schwartz et al; 1994).

The earth's atmosphere consists of a mixture of gases. Some of these gases play the fundamental role of regulating and determining the amount and type of the sun's radiation that gets to the earth, as well as the amount and type of radiation that are allowed to leave the earth. It is the regulatory role of the atmospheric gases otherwise called greenhouse gases, that ensures the earth's energy balance.

In addition to the earth's energy balance, other mechanisms exist that enable the earth to attain conditions suitable for live support, as well as the support to other biological activities. Remarkably, Owen and Chiras (1995), reported that only 66 percent of the incoming solar energy is absorbed by the earth's atmosphere, land, water, and vegetation. The absorption of radiant energy by the earth, is accompanied by a subsequent emission of radiant energy by the same earth. Ordinarily, this should make the earth cooler than necessary. However, Schwartz et al (1994), noted that almost 84% of the heat the earth radiates, is absorbed by the atmosphere, and then reradiated back to the earth's surface. This process known as greenhouse effect, is carried out by the greenhouse gases. The greenhouse effect prevents the earth from becoming bankrupt with regard to energy.

Man's environmentally unsound activities are fast disrupting most of the natural mechanisms that maintain the earth's energy balance. The change in climatic pattern including global warming attest to this.

In adaptation to a polluted environment as we have presently, many physical, biological and chemical changes have taken place. Unfortunately, some of these changes, and those that are currently taking place due to unabated pollution, are harmful to biological activities, physical and chemical settings, as well as socio-economic parameters. The unprecedented problems of species extinction; biodiversity losses; corrosion of metal works; defacing of statues and collapse of structures occasioned by limestone dissolution in acid rain, and desertification are few examples worthy of note.

Energy Supply in Nigeria

Energy supply in Nigeria is bedeviled with lot of crisis, the energy crisis confronting Nigeria today is a form of environmental crisis, and it is inimical to the growth of business organization. Except a holistic approach is given to environmental issues, even newer crisis are bound to occur.

Benedict XVI (2007), observed that in recent years, new nations entered enthusiastically into industrial production, thereby increasing their energy needs. This led to an unprecedented race for available resources, thereby creating serious problem of energy supplied (Benedict XVI, 2007). The result of this is that prices of energy procurement went up. In Nigeria where most of our fuel needs are satisfied by importation, increasing global energy prices will tremendously affect the growth of business organization.

Energy supply from the Power Holding Company of Nigeria is grossly unsatisfactory. As a way out, the use of private plants that utilize fossil fuel is widespread. However, the inconsistent nature of fuel supply with attendant hike in price, further frustrates the effort of business organizations both in terms of energy generation and transportation.

It is worthy of note that the running of plants constitute another form of pollution which can further hamper the growth of business organization in Nigeria. Significantly, in addition to noise pollution associated with the running of plants, the gaseous emissions lead to increase in the level of air pollution. In particular, the associated increase in carbon dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, will lead to a corresponding increase in global warming due to increased greenhouse effect, and various forms of acid deposition.

Host Community- Industry Relationship

The destruction of the environment, its improper or selfish use, and the violent hoarding of the earth's resources cause grievances, conflicts and wars, precisely because they are the consequences of an inhumane concept of development (Benedict XVI, 2007). Furthermore, Benedict XVI (2007), noted that if development were

limited to the technical - economic aspect, obscuring the moral- religious dimension, it would not be an integral human development, but a one- sided distortion which would end up by unleashing man's destructive capacities.

Industries are the principal contributors not only to environmental degradation and pollution, but very often their activities endanger lives of industrial employs, neighborhood settlements and ecosystem health (Osibanjo, 1999). It should be emphasized that the various conflicts between host communities and the guest industries, either wholly or partly, can be traced to environmental considerations.

Host communities are beginning to realize that some of their woes, including loss of productivity land, economic and herbal plants, decline in fish production, and other socio - economic consequences of environmental' pollution; as well as some health related problems, are aftermath of the activities of the industries operating in their communities. Worse still, most of these industries neither pay due compensation nor have in place, environmental management plan that will be implemented, so as to remediate or mitigate the consequences of their environmentally unsound behaviour. Rather, they have continued to pollute the environment unabatedly. The widespread news of environmentally induced fury emanating from the Niger Delta, is therefore not surprising. Remarkably, Godwins (1989), noted that the simmering conflicts between the different communities and industry operators in the Niger Delta, have manifested in the current spate of youth restiveness, violent disruption of industrial operations and breakdown of law and order.

The increasingly host community- operators clashes in the Niger Delta with their attendant consequences on socio-economic aspects and lives, depict the implication of sour relationship between both parties. Conflicts of this nature have the potential to retard the growth of business organization not only in Nigeria, but in the world at large.

CONCLUSION

Some aspects of the environment as they relate to the growth of business organization in Nigeria, were studied. Findings indicate that environmental factors have the hallmark to promote or disrupt the growth of business organizations.

It is therefore imperative, that business organizations in Nigeria, strive to create enduring relationship with the environment, so that its potential to give support to their growth can be fully harnessed

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The environment should be seen as part of the team that will foster the growth of business organization in Nigeria, by all stakeholders.
- Adequate reward in the form of efficient and appropriate mitigation and remediation measures should be visited on the environment, in order that business organizations can continue to enjoy its support.
- Greater environmental awareness programme should be embarked upon by business managers, so that the present generation should be able to bequeath to future generation a sustainable environment.

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