

## IDENTIFICATION OF THE ROLES OF CLOTHING INDUSTRIES IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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### Abstract

*The purpose of this study was to determine the role of clothing industries in national development. Four specific objectives with three null hypotheses guided the study. Design of the study was survey. A sample of 40 (20 clothing industry and 20 clothing and textiles traders) were used. Questionnaire was used for data collection. The data was analysed using mean and standard deviation, while  $t$  – test was used to analyse the hypotheses. The instrument was validated by three lecturers from the department of Home Economics and Hospitality management of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The study identified the role of the clothing industry in national development. The result shows that clothing industries are important in social and economic terms, in the short run by providing income, jobs, and foreign currency receipts and in the long run by providing Nigerians the opportunity for sustained economic development if there are appropriate policies and institutions to enhance the dynamic effects of clothing. Problems encountered by the clothing industries are also identified. To sustain the role of clothing industries in national development some strategies were identified to remedy the challenges which if implemented will make clothing and textile industries dependable asserts towards national development.*

**Keywords:** Clothing, Industry, National, Development

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### Introduction

The clothing industry for so long has played a dominant role in the Nigerian economy and national development. With a high record of over 140 companies, Nigeria witnessed a boom in the clothing manufacturing industries in the 1960s to 1970s with companies such as Kaduna textile, Kano textiles, Aba textiles, Texlon Nigeria Limited, United Nigeria Textile, First Spinners Limited among others employing about one million people, contributing about 15 percent of the manufacturing sector earnings to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Nigerian economy and accounted for 60 percent of the clothing industry capacity in Nigeria.

The Nigerian textile industry was well-established in the pre-colonial era for many years, various textile processes such as textile weaving, spinning and dyeing, ginning and carding were done with bare hands. At that time, the industry offered good support to the

economy because the country had adequate raw materials for textile production (Bello et al, 2013). The modern industrial production of textile was pioneered by the Kaduna Textile Mills that was established in 1956 and followed by the establishment of Nigerian Textile Mills in 1960. The clothing and textile industry is one of the oldest, largest and most global industries in the world. It is the typical ‘starter’ industry for countries engaged in export-orientated industrialisation (Gereffi 2012) and is labour-intensive. The technological features of the clothing and textile industry have made it suitable as the first step on the ‘industrialisation ladder’ in poor countries some of which have experienced a very high output growth rate in the sector, and have since become middle income for countries such as Nigeria.

In the words of Brenton (2007) there is a number of reasons why the clothing sector has played such an important role in economic

development. The sector absorbs large numbers of unskilled labour, such as homemakers and contract labour, typically drawing them from rural agricultural households to urban locations. Despite relatively low start-up investment costs, expansion of the sector provides a base upon which to build capital for more technologically demanding activities in other sectors. Growth of the textile industry allows imports of more advanced technologies by the garment makers and textile workers to be financed through revenues gained from garment exports.

However the characteristics of the textile industry (relatively low capital intensity; low investment costs; and use of low skilled labour) in Nigeria, also mean that the industry is relatively footloose and able to adjust to changing market conditions quickly (Nordas 2004). Trade policy regulations has such as maintenance of leading position in the domestic market, injecting competitive spirit by the liberalization of stringent controls made a major impact on the pattern of textile and clothing production and are likely to do so in the near future.

The textile industry plays a central role in the economic development of many developing countries and about one hundred and thirty (130) developing nations depend on the textile industry for employment and exports (Seyoum, 2010). Likewise, a report by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (2015) reveals that among the developing Asian economies, Pakistan's and India's growth rates are largely attributed to the growth of their textile industries (UNIDO, 2015). The Nigerian textile industry performed these roles as well, especially up to the 1980s. In this early period, the country's textile industry with over 250 functional

factories was rated the largest in Africa after Egypt and South Africa (Bello, Inyinbor, Dada & Oluyori, 2013). The industry was also the second largest employer of labor providing an estimated direct employment which was about 500,000 persons and indirectly about 1,750,000. The industry further served as a major source of revenue to the government (Aguiyi et al, 2011).

The Nigerian textile industry produces fabrics, some which are exported, these activities are expected to fit into the garment manufacturers' part of the global value chain. In other words, exports of Nigerian fabrics would provide materials to the garment factories in the global market. The extent of the exports by Nigerian firms is assessed by an examination of the exportation of fabrics in global fabrics exports. In value terms, the country is improving on its record of exports of fabrics (cling 2007).

It is unfortunate; however, that the current economic low-ebb in Nigeria has developed adversarial forces clamping the proper functioning of the clothing industry as a resourceful economic contributor. It becomes germane at this point to briefly trace the history of this development overtime. Nigerian traditional clothing can be classified as woven, non-woven, dyed or patterned which are decorated and designed structurally at the surface. These include; "Aso Oke" (Yoruba) Akwete, (Igbo) "Okene, (Ebira) Ashiasha (Tiv) and Adire (Yoruba) among others. Basically, these clothes are structurally decorated and produced on both vertical and horizontal looms that are exclusively handled by women and men weavers in the society. These fabrics have age long qualities such as high durability, unique textures and traditional designs. They are traditionally used on special occasions such as burial,

wedding, naming, house warming and chieftaincy installation ceremonies among others. The surface decorated ones like Adire are produced by the process of dyeing, printing and direct application of other elements of finishing unto the surface of the locally woven fabric. These fabrics are often used as daily wears and in rare cases for casual and social outings. Sometimes they equally serve as commercial and domestic items, (furnishing) such as window blind, bed spread, pillow cases, table cover, fashion and school bags, and the likes. These surface decorated fabrics appear in a variety of complimentary, cool, warm, harmonious and contrasting colours with designs that are mainly from traditional sources (Makinde 2015).

Over the years the performance of the fabric or clothing industry in Nigeria has dwindled considerably. According to Eneji, et al. (2013) the dependence of Nigeria textile businessmen on liberal imports from China and other countries led to the dismal performance of the Nigerian textile industry. Likewise, while many Nigerians blame the Chinese textiles industry for the collapse of Nigeria's local textile industry, some argued that the major factors that contributed to the dwindling performance of the clothing industry in Nigeria is the lack of government policy implementation in the industry, which created an avenue for the infiltration from textiles industry, as well as a corresponding reduction of the exportation of the Nigerian textiles products which invariably affects the economic development of Nigeria (Gado & Nmadu, 2011; Muhammad, 2011; Eneji et al.,2012; Maiwada & Renne, 2013).

Development, as explored in this study, refers to gradual growth of indigenous knowledge and technology, harnessing the natural

resources for industrial expansion that will provide for psychological, socio-economic and environmental needs of the society (reference). In economic terms, the above definition connotes that for the population of a country, there are employment opportunities, satisfaction -at least-of basic needs, and the achievement of a positive rate of distribution and redistribution of national wealth. Also in a political sense this definition emphasizes that governmental systems have legitimacy not only in terms of the law, but also in terms of providing social benefits (employment) for the majority of the population towards national development.

National development can therefore be actualized when a nation's total resources: human, environmental or material are appropriately and effectively harnessed to move the country from the status quo to a higher stratum. The development of a nation cannot be discussed without the factors that contribute to such development. These contributions are usually embedded in diverse areas of a nation's economy. The need to actualize and stabilize Nigerian economic development implies harnessing all resources and factors that can reshape its economy to achieving a purposeful growth. In this regard, clothing industries have been identified as a dependable employer of labour and a source of financial security for most Nigerian youths (Aremu, 2014). Development has to do with the identification of basic needs to the individuals, families, interest groups, communities as well as their competencies or abilities to meet these needs, which are channeled or targeted towards gradual growth (Ogunduyile, 2012).

Development according to Alvin (2011) is governed by many factors that influence the result of developmental efforts. Alvin states further that there must be a strong driving

motive and essential conditions for that change to occur. Development - capital, technology, and supporting infrastructure - to achieve targeted change. In response to the above; one needs to ask and provide answers to the following questions; does Nigeria have resources (human and material), capital, technology and supporting infrastructure? How has it been able to harness the resources, has Nigeria been able to develop her indigenous technology. Looking at the current social and economic situation in Nigeria, one will readily agree that Nigeria is endowed bountifully with materials (human and materials), and technology but failed to organize them for her development. Adam (2005) refers to development as a social condition within a nation, in which the authentic needs of its population are satisfied by the rational and sustainable use of natural resources and systems. This utilization of natural resources is based on a technology, which respects the cultural features of the population of a given country.

In affirmation, Afuye (2014) examines the state of Nigeria's economy and queries the country's refusal to develop like the United States, China, Australia and other established economies. Afuye remarked that "despite the fact that the country is endowed with diverse and infinite resources, both human and material, long years of negligence and adverse policies have led to the underutilization of these resources. These resources have not been effectively utilised in clothing and textile industry in order to yield maximum economic benefits through clothing construction. The closure of more than 80% of Nigerian textile industry in the late 1980s and the 1990s is a validation of the above assertion, which unfortunately, constitutes the fundamental factors of unemployment and poverty in Nigeria.

Likewise, Faley (2013) identifies some of the causes that are responsible for the dwindling fortune and closure of a large number of Nigerian clothing and textile industries. The massive importation of textiles in the pre and post independent Nigeria, even till now, has adversely affected the existing market for textile industries at cottage and technological advanced levels. This of course led to capital increase and low savings, thereby eroding the pre-condition for the industrial revolution in the sector (Adisa, 2013).

The above summarizes the status and growth of Nigerian clothing and textile industries today. Can the industry grow without developing its operational structure and how significant can this growth be to national development. Growth and development are often slumped together. When industry grows, it shows an increase in size, number and workers, which result in more employment opportunity for the unemployed. Economic growth is typically just a number, often GDP (gross domestic product), but it is often the only thing that is touted as a measure of success which translates to development.

With the increasing level of unemployment in Nigeria, the opinion of Asaju (2014) is very relevant. According to Asaju (2014) "Growth is quantitative and a significant level of measure for or an indicator of national development. Therefore, when clothing and textile industry develops, it might improve competition among the industries and their products, what kind of influence it holds in its community, or it can streamline certain processes to meet the overall needs of the people that are involved. If an economic situation develops, not only can profits increase, but, for industries, the workers conditions are improved, difficulties in

operations get resolved, individual employees can be trained beyond their current station, which in turn helps the industry. Economic development in a community or country leads to better overall living standards and opportunities to improve the economy. Thus, meaningful development is achievable if only it is based on effective and optimum utilization of available human and material resources with adequate and appropriate technology that respect individual culture such as Nigeria. The Nigerian clothing and textile industry (both traditional and modern) has the potentials for national development when properly harnessed and protected through the production of adequate clothing.

Clothing is a general term which refers to any material made of interlacing of fibers such as fabric, cloth, carpet, and belt among others. Generally, it is a flexible woven material consisting of a network of natural or artificial fibers which are often referred to as thread or yarn. The importance of textiles to human sustenance, and the socio-cultural and economic development of a nation cannot be over emphasized. Apart from food and shelter, textile (clothing) has been identified as the most important in the hierarchy of man's need. In Nigeria, the production of textiles had flourished at both cottage and industrial levels. Studies by Asaju, (2014), Oloyede.( 2014), Makinde,( 2016), show that the industry had been a major employer of labour (about 60% of the labour force) in the manufacturing sector and contributed immensely to the socio-economic and cultural development of the country. These developments, as noted by Okeke (2012) might not be separated from Nigeria's contact with foreign culture and materials in her developmental history which is affecting the clothing and textile industry in Nigeria.

Clothing and textile industry in Nigeria, once a vibrant sector of the Nigerian economy, is gradually grinding to a halt, from being an economic goldmine to an economic quagmire, despite the Federal Government's promises to rejuvenate the sector from its present moribund state. Nigeria's reliance on imports has gone a long way in worsening the sector's development. In 2010, the then government responded to the deteriorating state of the sector by placing a ban on importation of Clothing fabrics which, like most protectionist trade policies, failed to bring about the relief that was intended but rather gave way to smuggling.

The smuggled imported Clothes accounted for over 85 per cent of fabrics sold locally, accruing no revenue to the government. The injection of a N100 billion Intervention Fund for the industry in the same year did not do much in revitalizing the industry.

Accordingly, the present administration's desire to restore the sector with monies earned from crude oil exports equally failed, thus making it difficult to provide state loans or improve the power supply that has led to closure of many Clothing industries in Nigeria.

Nigeria today can no longer boast of being a hub for Clothes, as all but twenty five of its Clothing mills have been shut down, with most of them running on less than 40% percent of installed capacity. The decline of the industry, which majorly started from 2003, has also resulted in Nigeria spending over \$2billion annually on imported Clothes till date.

Between the year 1985 and 1991, Nigeria's Clothing industry recorded an annual growth of 67%, it employed about 25% of the workers in the manufacturing sector but dejectedly, this once cherished national cash

cow is now at the verge of collapse, due to a number of issues.

According to most industry participants, the changes in fortunes of the sector is attributed to the influx of cheaper fabrics from China and India, unfavorable economic policies, people's perception, poor marketing strategies, smuggling of Clothing goods, poor access to financing, energy problems and other technological as well as infrastructural problems.

Another key problem attributed to the falling sector is the country's membership with the World Trade Organization (WTO) from 1995, which has adversely affected the sale of locally produced Clothes as it could not withstand foreign competition. The misfortune of Nigerian clothing and textile industry is linked to over-dependency on oil (the black gold), which equally and simultaneously opened up the country for sudden economic fortune. At the sight of 'unexpectedly overflowing economy', the leaders of the day became prodigious in spending and less innovative and strategic in planning and policy implementation. The oil boom of the 1970s injected a lot of money into the economy which increased the purchasing power of the government and citizens who gradually developed a cultic taste and hedonistic tendency for comfort as an expression of wealth and class. It suddenly became a burden for the government to plan and work towards the development of other sectors of Nigeria's economy such as agriculture and the clothing industry; while it became easy to promote an oil-based economy which later jeopardized the economic viability of the country by neglecting and eventually crippling other sectors of the economy. Consequently, a country that cannot provide gainful and sustainable employment for her teeming

population like Nigeria stands the risk of perpetual economic instability and dependency on established economies of the world. In the light of the above, this paper asserts that Nigerian clothing industries became dysfunctional because of the narrow and myopic economic policies that promote oil and gas industry at the expense of other sectors of the economy. Over-dependency on foreign goods and services, an unpatriotic attitude particularly promoted by the ruling class and elite's death the final blow that wrecked the dwindling fortune and viability of the Nigerian clothing industry

In solving the sector's menace, it has been recommended that the Federal Government should help explore the market beyond Nigeria, adding that with regard to trade liberalization, the president of the nation with its economic and legislative experts should take decisions that benefit the economy, and not follow the economic drives of the developed nations. Our leaders should have the will to say 'no' to economic measures that resist growth and development, it is therefore necessary to encourage Nigerians to diversify investment and to consider investing in the Clothing and allied industry. At such, the industry would not only provide job opportunity to the people but provide various products for the local communities as well provide satisfactory income to the investors.

Clothing industry in Nigeria used to employ over 300,000 workers when all the Clothing mills in the country were functioning, but the nation got it wrong by opening the market to cheap Clothing materials from some foreign countries. This killed the local industry. The government can generate more jobs by reviving the ailing Clothing industry.

If strategically revamped and repositioned, the clothing industry promises to be an alternative means of promoting economic

stability and effective tool for taming the wild tide of unemployment among the youth in the country. The paper therefore examines the role of clothing industries in national development. Specifically the study sought to;

- a. Determine the economic impact of clothing industry to Nigeria national development.
- b. Determine the problems encountered by the clothing industries in Nigeria.
- c. Determine the strategies for curbing the problems encountered by the clothing industries in Nigeria.

The study will form a baseline data on the role of clothing industry in National development in Nigeria. The industrialists and the policy makers in Nigeria will find it appropriate focusing on the viability of the Nigerian clothing industries as an alternative for revenue generation and a tool for economic empowerment. It will also examine factors that are responsible for the dwindling and near extinction of the clothing industry in Nigeria and its implications for national growth and development.

## **Methodology**

### **Design**

Survey design was used in carrying out the study. A sample of 20 clothing industry staff was randomly selected out of 56 clothing industry staff in a clothing industry in Aba, Abia State were a random sample of 10 clothing traders each was selected from Nsukka and Onitsha main markets.

### **Area of the Study**

The study was conducted in South East Nigeria. South East comprises five State Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo State. Aba is in Abia State where there is a clothing industry while Nsukka and Onitsha were used for clothing and textile traders.

## **Instrument**

The researcher used a questionnaire titled: Identification of the Roles of Clothing Industry in National Development Questionnaire (IRCINDQ) which is made up of 24 items arranged in three tables. Table one consisted of seven items on the economic impact of clothing industry to Nigeria national development, Table two consisted of 11 items problems encountered by the clothing industries in Nigeria, Table 3 consisted of 6 items on the strategies for curbing the problems encountered by the clothing industries in Nigeria.

Items with mean score value of 2.50 and above were regarded as agreed while items with mean scores below 2.50 were regarded as not agreed. Three clothing and textile experts, from university of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) validated the instrument. 10 clothing and textile staff from Portharcourt clothing industry and 10 clothing and textile traders in Ogbete, Enugu which were not part of the study were used for test reliability: The cronbach alpha reliability analysis of the data yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.88. This coefficient was considered adequate for the study.

## **Method of Data Collection**

A note containing the main and specific purposes of the study was attached to each copy of (IRCINDQ). The researcher distributed the (IRCINDQ) and collected them the next day. All the (IRCINDQ) were correctly filled and completely collected, giving a 100% rate

## **Method of Data Analysis**

Mean and standard deviation were used to analysis the collected data. t-test statistics was used to test hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

**Result**

**Table 1**

Mean scores and Standard Deviation of responses of the respondents on the economic impact of clothing industry in Nigeria national development

S/N	ITEM STATEMENT	$\bar{X}$	SD	SIG	DECISION
1	Provide Job security to its teeming population	3.03	0.18	0.00	AGREED
2	Improves steady economic growth	3.20	0.66	0.01	AGREED
3	Steady increase and stability in its political	2.73	0.45	0.00	AGREED
4	puts Nigeria ahead of other developing countries in Africa and beyond	3.30	0.74	0.00	AGREED
5	Improves the potentialities of the country and its people	2.83	0.38	0.00	AGREED
6	It gives surplus natural resources	3.33	0.61	0.00	AGREED
7	Physical and infrastructural development	3.43	0.63	0.00	AGREED

Key words, Mean  $\bar{X}$ , SD – Standard Deviation, SIG, level of significance

Table 1 reveals that all the seven items are the economic impact of clothing industry on Nigeria national development, since the mean scores are above 2.5 cut-off point set for the study. This shows that these items are the contributions of clothing industry to national development. Table 1 also reveals that there is no significant difference between the mean responses of the respondents and the

economic impact of clothing industry on Nigeria national development. Since the probability values for all the items is less than 0.05 level of significance for testing the hypothesis, this means that the null hypothesis ( $H_{01}$ ) will not uphold. Thus there is statistically significant economic impact of clothing industry on Nigeria national development.

**Table 2**

Meanscores and Standard Deviation of responses of respondents on the problems encountered by the clothing industries in Nigeria

S/N	ITEM STATEMENT	$\bar{X}$	SD	SIG	DECISION
1	Low Patronage and Low Quality Products	3.13	0.43	0.00	AGREED
2	Dependency on foreign technology	2.76	0.42	0.01	AGREED
3	Low Manpower Development	3.43	0.56	0.00	AGREED
4	Inadequacy of Locally Produced Raw Materials	3.50	0.82	0.00	AGREED
5	Nigeria’s policy on clothing imports	3.10	0.76	0.00	AGREED
6	Desire for foreign clothing over home-made ones which lead to Poor patronage	2.93	0.63	0.00	AGREED
7	Neglect of agricultural sector	3.50	0.57	0.00	AGREED
8	Unstable power supply	3.73	0.51	0.01	AGREED
9	Lack of technical proficiency	3.03	0.32	0.00	AGREED
10	Porosity of Nigeria borders	3.23	0.32	0.00	AGREED

Keywords, Mean  $\bar{X}$ , SD – Standard Deviation, SIG, level of significance

Table 2 reveals that all the ten items are the problems encountered by the clothing industries in Nigeria, since the mean scores are above 2.5 cut-off points set for the study. This shows that these items are the problems encountered by the clothing industries in Nigeria. Table 2 also reveals that there is no significant difference between the mean responses of the respondents and the

problems encountered by the clothing industries in Nigeria. Since the probability values for all the items is less than 0.05 level of significance for testing the hypothesis, this means that the null hypothesis ( $H_{01}$ ) will not uphold. Thus there is statistically significant problems encountered by the clothing industries in Nigeria.

**Table 3**

Mean score and Standard Deviation of responses of the respondents on the strategies for curbing the problems encountered by the clothing industries in Nigeria.

S/N	ITEM STATEMENT	X	SD	SIG	DECISION
1	Government needs to help by providing a proper technical and marketing infrastructure	3.20	0.76	0.00	AGREED
2	Taking effective measures to enforce the ban on the importation of certain textile products, which are already in place.	3.13	0.81	0.01	AGREED
3	the government needs to create an enabling environment for the branding of Nigerian cotton and other textiles like multinational companies are doing for their own products.	3.40	0.56	0.00	AGREED
4	The government must provide the enabling environment for the clothing manufacturers to thrive. Provision of critical infrastructure such as electricity	3.10	0.42	0.01	AGREED
5	Good transport system needed by the manufacturers and designers should be made available to help them become productive.	3.41	0.57	0.00	AGREED
6	All stakeholders in the country to ensure that they undertake a comprehensive study and solutions on how to modernize, strengthen and get the industry to perform competitively locally and ultimately globally.	3.26	0.47	0.00	AGREED

Key words, Mean  $\bar{X}$ , SD – Standard Deviation, SIG, level of significance

Table 3 reveals that all the six items are the strategies for curbing the problems encountered by the clothing industries in Nigeria, since the mean scores are above 2.5 cut-off points set for the study. This shows that these items are the will help to reduce the problems encountered by the clothing industries in Nigeria. Table 3 also reveals that there is no significant difference between the mean responses of the respondents and strategies for curbing the problems encountered by the clothing industries in Nigeria. Since the probability values for all the items is less than 0.05 level of significance for testing the hypothesis, this means that the null hypothesis ( $H_{01}$ ) will not uphold. Thus there is statistically significant strategy for curbing the problems encountered by the clothing industries in Nigeria

### Discussion

The present study identifies the role of clothing industry on national development. The study revealed that clothing industry has

strong impact on the economic development of Nigeria. The finding in tables 1 revealed that with clothing industry there is a serious improvement in national development. It shows that the clothing industries Provide Job security to its teeming population, improves steady growth and promising steady increase and stability in its political economy, puts Nigeria ahead of other developing countries in Africa and beyond, improves the potentialities of the country and its people, gives surplus natural resources, Physical and infrastructural development. This is in line with the view of (Ahmed 2014) which say s that if all hands are on deck to ensure that consistent and concerted efforts with adequate machineries put in place to ensure optimum production of textile raw materials (cotton, silk, and indigo leafs) locally by empowering farmers to go back to the land. There would be more jobs for the youths. The findings in table 2 revealed that most of the clothing industries in Nigeria are faced with poor electricity supply , low Patronage, low

quality Products, Dependency on foreign technology, Inadequacy of Locally Produced raw materials, inadequacy of locally Produced raw materials, Nigeria's policy on clothing imports, desire for foreign clothing over home-made ones which lead to neglect of agricultural sector, unstable power supply, lack of technical proficiency, Porosity of Nigeria borders, these hampers the growth of clothing industry in Nigeria thereby limiting the national development. The findings as buttressed by (Oloyede, 2014) revealed that availability of raw materials is the major factor of consideration when proposing the establishment of a textile industry. The basic raw materials for effective textile productions like cotton, silk, dyestuff, chemicals among others are not readily available at home. Where available, the quality is low, inadequate and not of commercial quantity for the industry's full production capacity. Even the petrol chemical based products such as polymer, dyes and other synthetic materials (which were later introduced and now being used in Nigeria) are scarcely available despite the fact that Nigeria is a big oil-producing nation.

The findings in table 3 revealed that the following strategies, Government needs to help by providing a proper technical and marketing infrastructure, Taking effective measures to enforce the ban on the importation of certain textile products, which is already in place, the government needs to create an enabling environment for the branding of Nigerian cotton and other textiles like multinational companies are doing for their own products, the government must provide the enabling environment for the clothing manufacturers to thrive. Provision of critical infrastructure such as electricity, good transport system needed by the manufacturers and designers should be made available to

help them become productive, all stakeholders in the country to ensure that they undertake a comprehensive study and solutions on how to modernize, strengthen and get the industry to perform competitively locally and ultimately globally. This is in line with views of (Ohiorhehuan,2001) who noted that There is need to intensify efforts in Nigeria's technological development with special focus on the ones needed in the industrial sector. The implication of this present study underscores the need for proper management of clothing industries in Nigeria for effective national growth and development.

### **Conclusion**

The clothing industries form a major part of manufacturing production, employment and trade in Nigeria. The clothing industry is one of the oldest, largest and most global industries in the world. It is the typical 'starter' industry for countries engaged in export-orientated industrialisation and is labour-intensive. Clothing offers a range of opportunities including entry-level jobs for unskilled labour in developing countries. The technological features of the clothing industry have made it suitable as the first step on the 'industrialisation ladder' in poor countries some of which have experienced a very high output growth rate in the sector and have since become middle income countries (Vietnam, Mauritius).The sector absorbs large numbers of unskilled labour, typically drawing them from rural agricultural households to rural locations. Despite relatively low start-up investment costs, expansion of the sector provides a base upon which to build capital for more technologically demanding activities in other sectors. Growth of the sector allows imports of more advanced technologies to be financed through revenues gained from garment exports. However the characteristics of the industry (relatively low capital intensity; low

investment costs; and use of low skilled labour), also mean that the industry is relatively footloose and able to adjust to changing market conditions quickly (Nordas 2014). Trade policy regulations have had a major impact on the pattern of clothing production and are likely to do so in the near future.

### Recommendation

The government must provide the enabling environment for the clothing manufacturers to thrive. Provision of critical infrastructure such as electricity and good transport system needed by the manufacturers and designers should be made available to help them become productive. There is a need for all stakeholders in the country to ensure that they undertake a comprehensive study and solutions on how to modernize, strengthen and get the industry to perform competitively locally and ultimately globally. Only by enacting all these would the Nigerian people and economy will truly benefit from a thriving clothing industry.

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