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CONTENTS

OSUN GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW
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ASSESSMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES IN NIGER SOUTH, NIGER STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study was carried out to assess the types and contributions of cottage industries on the social and economic wellbeing of the people of South Senatorial district of Niger State, Nigeria. The South Senatorial district was stratified into eight political units with a total of 191 production points and 1452 cottage industries. A sample of 306 industries was determined using Krejeie and Morgan (1970) model for sample size determination for finite people. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics. Result on the types of cottage industries reveals that 29% of the respondents are engaged in sheabutter processing, 25.5% is blacksmithing 4.6% is Brass/Glass work,9.3% is palm kernel processing, 11.5% is locust bean, 9.5% cassava processing, 6.3% is pot making, while 4% is leather and tannery industries. The major sources of raw materials is market (56.5%), while 8.6% from dumpsites,7.3% from scavengers deport, and 15.4% inherited theirs. The activities of the cottage industries have created employment (7.5%), 14.7% development of roads, 7.5% education, 14.7% income, 4.9% tourism and 6.2% electricity and health care. The activities have some attendant problems such as low production and patronage of cottage goods, increase in cost of material, unavailability of loan scheme, competition for patronage, low quality associated with cottage products and scarcity of raw materials. The study recommends that the government need to support the youth in the development of cottage industries. Mechanism for mitigation of the menace should be implemented and enforced. This can be done through the utilization of environmentally friendly methods and also setting up more infrastructure and modern operational facilities to enhance the cottage industrial work.

Keywords: Development, Processing, Low income earners, Environment.

Introduction

Micro Small and Medium Enterprises have been accepted as the engine room of economic growth for promoting equitable development worldwide. The major advantage of the sector is its ability to provide employment potential at low capital cost. The Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) constitute over 90% of total enterprises in most economies and are known to generate the highest rates of employment, growth and account for a major share of industrial production and export (GOI, 2006). Small scale industries in Africa account for 95% of employment and about 43% of the value added of the entire industrial sector.

In Africa, small scale industries are mostly traditional and generate both a higher output and a large amount of employment per unit of scarce capital than large scale industries (Liedholm, *et al.,* 2010).Small scale businesses in Nigeria has made it very possible for firms to depend less on imported goods or materials, it also serve as a training school for indigenous entrepreneurs and provide the opportunity for acquisition of skills for a large number of workers.

Cottage industry deals with conceptual issues associated with indigenous technology and have specific implication for community empowerment and nation building. It also has implication for

sustainable development, capacity building and intellectual development in Africa in the 21st century. Indigenous knowledge has come a long way to challenge cottage talent and to encourage as well as develop them to the fullest (Mutabazi, 2013). The growing concern of cottage industry is about the conservation of cultural heritage which has become a profound issue of global importance. As a matter of fact, cottage industries have been widely acknowledged as the spring-board for sustainable economic development. The future of Nigeria depends on the rural communities and that is why it is important to have indigenous industry improved. The indigenous industries evolved over a period of time and are molded by the environment (Mutabazi, 2013).

The cottage industries use low level technology, in crafts production, most of which are now cherished as works of art, and are bought as presents and souvenirs by tourist. Each craft industry or cottage industry is a small size establishment which uses cottage raw materials and, until recently, non-electric pares and produces one or more simple articles sold locally (Iloeje, *et al.,* 2006)

Initially, the craftsman was responsible for obtaining his raw materials and the working tools, and also for the making and the marketing of his wares. Later as the demand for the craftsman's goods increased owing to the increase in production, they developed some form of division of labour, and consequently, leading to the emergence of middlemen. The middlemen would get the raw materials for the craftsman and would also market the finished products (Ofune, 2010).

In most parts of Africa, cottage manufacturing industry of various items has been an important economic activity by cottage craftsmen. The craftsmen use simple technology, less capital and produce all kinds of goods sold in their domestic market. Primary industries practiced are extraction of natural resources like lumbering, fishing or production of raw materials (Eno, 2007).

In many parts of Nigeria, Cottage manufacturing of various items has been an important economic activity long before the coming of Europeans and modern manufacturing (Ofune, 2010). Virtually all items needed at that time were produced cottagely by cottage craftsmen. This method of production still survives today and the items produced include cottage gin (called Ogogoro in Sapele area), brass making, glass and bronze ornaments (Emielu, 2007).

Cottage craft industries in Nigeria, on the other hand, are those industries engaged upon by craftsmen and women making use of the available raw materials found within their immediate environment. These industries equally make use of simple tools, thereby specializing in a particular product based on their artistic quality. The cottage industries in Nigeria are popularly known with the people of Abuja, Ilorin, part of Auchi (Edo) and Ikot-Ekpene (AkwaIbom) (Emielu, 2007). There are other areas yet to be discovered on their practices of small scale activities.

Small scale industries develop mainly out of the need for an additional source of income, because of the need to use one's spare time gainfully and because of the relative ease of acquiring the necessary raw materials to set up such industries. It is estimated that small-scale industries employ 22% of the adult population in developing countries (Iloeje, *et al.,* 2006). In Ghana the sector employs about 15.5% of the labor force (Parker, 1994), and has experienced higher employment growth than micro and large scale enterprises as their employment rate stands at 5%, accounting for 6% of GDP in 1998.

Many youths depend mostly on small scale industries as their main source of livelihood in the study area. Yetthe mechanism put in place to support them developing their various industries seems to be inadequate in the area. In addition to its importance as a key income source for rural people, cottage industries can significantly contribute to increasing the possibility of income generated being used for improving the living standards of cottages and their households. Not only can it provide income to alleviate the poverty level of the people, but could potentially evolve into a viable avenue for job creation, while slowing down the rural urban drift in Niger State. Even though this is the general situation the specific social and economic effects are yet to be investigated, it is against this context that this study is set to investigate the effects of these industries on the social and economic wellbeing of the people.

Materials and Methods

The South Senatorial district of Niger state is located in the central part of the country lying between latitude 8°10' and 11°8' north of the equator and longitude 4° 30'and 7°00' east of Greenwich meridian South Senatorial district of Niger state covers an area of 24, 741km^2 and the district is bordered by Paikoro,

Figure 1: Niger State Showing the Study Area.
Source: Niger State Ministry of Land and Survey.

Bosso, and Wushishi local government to the West, Suleja local government Federal Capital Territory to the East and River Niger to the south, the border between Niger state and Kogiand Kwara state.

Prior to data collection, a reconnaissance survey was carried out for familiarization. The information obtained from the reconnaissance survey was used in planning and costing as well as preparing materials needed for the study. The various forms of cottage industries in operation were identified, the population of the people involved was also found out, the physical environment was also observed.

The stratified sampling technique was adopted for this study on the basis of types of industries. There are a total of eight Local Government Areas in the study area, with a total of 191 production points and one thousand four hundred and fifty-two (1452) cottage industries in the study area. A sample of 306 industries was obtained using Krejeie and Morgan (1970) model for sample size determination for finite people. The random sampling was employed in the selection of the respondents. Descriptive statistics such as averages, percentages, tables and charts were used to present the results.

Results

There are different types of cottage industries in the area, these include brass and glass making, blacksmithing, shear butter, palm kernel, locus been, cassava, pottery, and Leather tannery. Table 1 presents the types of industries across the local government.

Results of the analysis shows that brass and glass making is only practice in Bida which is 14(4.6%). Blacksmithing being the second largest industry is 78(25.5%). Shear butter is the largest cottage industry and cuts across all the cottage government in the senatorial district with 89(29.0%), palm Kernel-oil

Table 1: Types of cottage industries in the area

Local government	Brass/glass		Black smiting		Shea butter		Palm kernel		Locust bean		Cassava processing		Pottery		Leather tannery	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Lapai	-	-	2	0.7	8	2.6	2	0.7	2	0.7	4	1.3	04	1.3	02	0.7
Agaie	-	-	2	0.7	13	4.2	1	0.3	19	6.2	2	0.7	01	0.3	02	0.7
Katcha	-	-	3	0.9	27	8.8	2	0.7	1	0.3	2	0.7	01	0.3	02	0.7
Bida	14	4.6	34	11.1	12	3.9	2	0.7	-	-	2	0.7	04	1.3	02	0.7
Gbako	-	-	10	3.3	14	4.6	6	1.9	2	0.7	16	5.2	01	0.3	01	0.3
Lavun	-	-	13	4.2	3	0.9	3	0.9	4	1.3	1	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3
Edati	-	-	2	0.7	10	3.3	6	1.9	5	1.6	1	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3
Mokwa	-	-	12	3.9	2	0.7	7	2.2	2	0.7	1	0.3	07	2.2	01	0.3
Total	14	4.6	78	25.5	89	29.0	29	9.3	35	11.5	29	9.5	20	6.3	12	4.0

Source: Field Survey 2021

processing is 29(9.3%), locust beans is 35(11.5%), cassava processing stood have 29(9.5%), 20(6.3%) of the industries is for pot making, while 4% that engaged on leather tannery industries.

Sources of Raw Materials

In locating an industry, sources of raw material is one of the major factors. The availability of raw materials determines the type and number of industries in an area. Table 2 presents the sources of their raw materials.

The operations at the respective industries relied upon availability of raw materials. The raw materials are sourced from different sources. Table 2 shows that 28(8.6%) of the industries sourced their raw materials from dumpsite, 23 (7.3%) sourced theirs from waste scavengers deports, majority of the industrialist 173(56.5%) sourced their materials from the markets, 48(15.4%) have their source of materials as inheritance and gift from friends and 35(11.3%) inherited their own raw materials mostly from the farm.

Table 3 Shows the type of raw materials used by the in the manufacturing industries within the study area. 14(4.6%) make use of broken bottle, brass and aluminum in the brass and glass work, 78(25.5%) make use of Fire blowing machine, power steel stand, iron steel, charcoal, car spare parts, and tractor plates in the blacksmithing industries, 89(29.1%) make use of Shea butter seed, iron pots and water, in Shea butter production. 31(10.1%) make use of Palm kernel seed, basket, pistol and mortal in palm kennel extracting industries, 35(11.4%) that involved in locust bean production uses Locust bean seed, fire wood and iron pot, 29(9.5%) of the respondents that produces cassava(gari) make use of Cassava,water and pressing/squeezing machine, 18(5.9%) of the respondents involved in pottery uses Clay, kneading area, pit and oven, while 12(3.9%) that engages in

Table 2: Sources of Raw Materials

Local government	Dump sites		Scavengers depot		Markets		Gift/inheritance		Farm	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Lapai	01	0.3	01	0.3	18	5.9	03	0.9	01	0.3
Agaie	01	0.3	01	0.3	31	10.1	04	1.3	03	0.9
Katcha	02	0.7	01	0.3	26	8.5	05	1.6	04	1.3
Bida	10	3.3	06	1.9	44	14.4	08	2.6	02	0.7
Gbako	03	0.9	08	2.6	14	4.6	03	0.9	22	7.2
Lavun	04	1.3	01	0.3	15	4.9	05	1.6	01	0.3
Edati	03	0.9	01	0.3	05	1.6	16	5.2	01	0.3
Mokwa	03	0.9	04	1.3	20	6.5	04	1.3	01	0.3
Total	28	8.6	23	7.3	173	56.5	48	15.4	35	11.3

Source: Field Survey 2021

Table 3: Types of Raw materials used

LGA	Brass and glass		Blacksmithing		Shea butter		Palm kernel		Locust bean		Cassava		Pottery		Leather tannery	
	Broken bottle, brass, aluminum		Fire blowing machine, power steel stand, iron steel, car spare parts, and tractor plates		Shea butter nut, iron pot, pestle and mortal and water		kernel nut, basket, pistol and mortal		Locust bean nut, fire wood, iron pot		Cassava,water and pressing/squeezing machine		Clay, kneading area, pit and oven		Animal skin, water, pot, knife and dyeing colours	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Lapai	-	-	02	0.7	08	2.6	02	0.7	02	0.7	04	1.3	04	1.3	02	0.7
Agaie	-	-	02	0.7	13	4.2	01	0.3	19	6.2	02	0.7	01	0.3	02	0.7
Katcha	-	-	03	0.9	27	8.8	02	0.7	01	0.3	02	0.7	01	0.3	02	0.7
Bida	14	4.6	34	11.1	12	3.9	04	1.3	-	-	02	0.7	02	0.7	02	0.7
Gbako	-	-	10	3.3	14	4.6	06	1.9	02	0.7	16	5.2	01	0.3	01	0.3
Lavun	-	-	13	4.2	03	0.9	03	0.9	04	1.3	01	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3
Edati	-	-	02	0.7	10	3.3	06	1.9	05	1.6	01	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3
Mokwa	-	-	12	3.9	02	0.7	07	2.2	02	0.7	01	0.3	07	2.2	01	0.3
Total	14	4.6	78	25.5	89	29.1	31	10.1	35	11.4	29	9.5	18	5.9	12	3.9

Source: Field Survey 2021

leather tannery work uses Animal skin, water, pot, knife and dyeing colours.

Result of the analysis shows that the presence of these cottage industries in their communities have above development in different aspects of social and economic wellbeing of the people. Their responses are presented on Table 4. 45(14.7%) of the respondents indicated that it brought development in terms of road construction, and electricity in some settlements, 89(29.1%) agreed that it brought about employment opportunities to their teaming youths, while 23 (7.5%) indicated that it brought about

Table 4: Socioeconomic Impact of Cottage Industry in the Study Area

Local government	Development and construction of road		Employment opportunities		Education		Financial institution		Communication network		Income		Tourism		Electricity and health care	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Lapai	04	1.3	08	2.6	02	0.7	02	0.7	02	0.7	02	0.7	03	0.9	01	0.3
Agaie	01	0.3	14	4.6	01	0.3	04	1.3	12	3.9	06	1.9	01	0.3	01	0.3
Katcha	01	0.3	16	5.2	08	2.6	01	0.3	08	2.6	01	0.3	01	0.3	02	0.7
Bida	22	7.2	20	6.5	04	1.3	04	1.3	04	1.3	04	1.3	04	1.3	08	2.6
Gbako	06	1.9	04	8.0	02	0.7	08	2.6	10	3.3	14	4.6	03	0.9	03	0.9
Lavun	01	0.3	10	3.3	01	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3	10	3.3	01	0.3	01	0.3
Edati	02	0.7	09	2.9	04	1.3	01	0.3	04	1.3	04	1.3	01	0.3	01	0.3
Mokwa	08	2.6	08	2.6	01	0.3	02	0.7	06	1.9	04	1.3	01	0.3	02	0.7
Total	45	14.7	89	29.1	23	7.5	23	7.5	47	15.4	45	14.7	15	4.9	19	6.2

Source: Field Survey 2021

Table 5: Challenges of Industrial Activities on Income of the respondents

Local govt.	Reduction in income and price of goods		Low production and patronage of cottage goods		Increase in cost of material		Unavailability of loan scheme		Competition and shortage of manpower		Lack of quality associated with cottage products		Scarcity of raw material	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Lapai	08	2.6	01	0.3	06	1.9	01	0.3	06	1.9	01	0.3	01	0.3
Agaie	20	6.5	06	1.9	07	2.2	02	0.7	02	0.7	02	0.7	01	0.3
Katcha	16	5.2	10	3.3	08	2.6	01	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3
Bida	10	3.3	22	7.2	14	4.6	06	1.9	10	3.3	04	1.3	04	1.3
Gbako	41	13.4	03	0.9	02	0.7	01	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3
Lavun	15	4.9	06	1.9	01	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3
Edati	18	5.9	03	0.9	01	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3
Mokwa	10	3.3	01	0.3	06	1.9	01	0.3	02	0.7	08	2.6	04	1.3
Total	138	45.1	52	17.0	45	14.7	14	4.6	24	7.8	19	6.2	14	4.6

Source: Field Survey 2021

Table 6: Means of reducingthe negative effects of the industrial activities

Local governm ent	Relocation of industries outside the community to industrial sites		Provision of modern industrial equipment with less noise and smoke		Provision of stable electricity to reduce dependence on firewood		Public awareness on dangers of exposure to industrial pollution/sites		Reduce animal exposure		Enforcement of principal forest officers to impose laws		Sand proofs on roofing	
	F	**%**	**F**	**%**	**F**	**%**	**F**	**%**	**F**	**%**	**F**	**%**	**F**	**%**
Lapai	05	1.6	08	2.6	02	0.7	04	1.3	02	0.7	02	0.7	01	0.3
Agaie	10	3.3	10	3.3	08	2.6	04	1.3	02	0.7	05	1.6	01	0.3
Katcha	04	1.3	26	8.5	04	1.3	01	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3
Bida	06	1.9	28	9.2	10	3.3	18	5.9	02	0.7	02	0.7	04	1.3
Gbako	22	7.2	09	2.9	04	1.3	03	0.9	01	0.3	01	0.3	10	3.3
Lavun	06	1.9	04	1.3	01	0.3	01	0.3	01	0.3	02	0.7	11	3.6
Edati	08	2.6	04	1.3	06	1.9	04	1.3	01	0.3	01	0.3	02	0.7
Mokwa	08	2.6	06	1.9	06	1.9	02	0.7	04	1.3	02	0.7	04	1.3
Total	69	22.5	95	31.0	41	13.4	37	12.1	14	4.6	16	5.2	35	11.4

Source: Field Survey 2021

educational development and 23(7.5%) attest that it improve their financial status. 47(15.4%) indicated that it improves their communication network. 15 (4.9%) said it attract tourism and educational visits. 19(6.2%) said it brought improvement on health care services. This study concurred with Emielu (2016) who revealed that industries can provide alternative and profitable employment to the large number of people who are underemployed in the non-industrial sectors of the economy. The development of the industrial sector brings about diversification in the economy and also enjoy favourable balance of trade.

The results on Table 5 showed the challenges of cottage industries on income of the respondents. The setbacks to advancement in the production processes of cottage processing industry in the study area are enormous. It is observed from the responses obtained from the field that 138(45.1%) of the respondents were complaining of reduction in the income and price of goods, 52(17.o%) were faced with low production and patronage of cottage goods, increase in cost of raw materials is 45(17.0%), unavailability of loan scheme to support the industries is 14(4.6%), 24(7.8%) are faced with the problem of completion and shortages of manpower, 19(6.2%) of respondents face with problems associated with low quality of cottage products and 14(4.6%) is scarcity of raw materials.

Ways of mitigating the effects of cottage industries in the environment is presented in Table 6. Results shows that 69(22.5%) of the firms of the cottage industries is with the opinion that relocatingthe industries out of the settlements to a suitable site for industries would help in reducing the negative effects on the environment. (31.0%) opined that provision of modern industrial equipment with controlled noise and smoke would help reduce the effects, 41(13.4%) indicated that stable electricity to reduce dependence on firewood and generator would go a long way to mitigate the menace, 37(12.1%) opined that public awareness on dangers of exposure to industrial pollution/sites, 14(4.6%) reduce animal exposure, 16(5.2%) were of the opinion of enforcement of principal forest officers to impose laws and 35(11.4%) explained that sand proofs on roofing would help reduce the risk associated with cottage industries.

Discussion of Results

The study population comprises of both males and females that are involved the activities of cottage industries in the study area. This is an indication that the cottage industries serveas a source of empowerment for the teaming youths in societies especially those from poor background and have never had access to any formal education.

The raw material used in the industries are sourced from various sources. For Brass, glass making, aluminum, and blacksmithing, the raw material are obtained either form dumpsites, scavengers deports or in the market. This implies that the cost for these raw materials is affordable and can motivate people to engage on such productions. The activities of cottage industries also contribute to waste management as the wastes are being recycled thereby reducing the volume of generated waste.

The shear butter, is obtained from the farms or gotten from the market as the case may be. All the local Government Areas have some reasonable number of the trees since the trees are wield trees grown in the farms. The palm trees could either be wield, cultivated or both. Probably this could account for the high number of the industries in all the study area.

The cassava is cultivated and sold to the industrial firms for processing. The cassava is processed into numerous products, cassava powder, flour, Gari, akpu among others and be sold. There is ready market for these products at any time of the year.

With the income generated from the industrial activities, they feed and clothe their families, also use it to sponsor their children education. This is in line with cottage development as postulated by Hart and Murray (2000), that cottage development is multi-dimensional; apart from job creation, growth of business, cottage development also covers a wide range of social actions; where these cottage industries served as avenue for the youths to share ideas, assist each other financially, expand their businesses and other aspects of their lives. Expansion in the cottage industries could also help to curb rural urban drift among the youths.

Intensive use of firewood produces smoke which might cause respiratory and other related problems such as severe cough, lung infections, running nose,

headache, fever, sneezing, and eye problems among the workers. This also might reduce their working effectiveness

Conclusion and Recommendations

It is obvious that there will be constructive development in the local government as well as Niger State at large if attention is given to the development of cottage industries and their related. Currently in Nigeria, small scale industries represent about 90% of the industrial sector in terms of enterprise; they also amount to about 70% of the national industrial development if the threshold is set at 10-70 employee and contributed 10% of the manufacturing sector output and a meagre of 1% of gross domestic. There is therefore, a great need for the government to support individual entrepreneur to established small scale business in the study area by creating the enabling environment and by making credits facilities available and affordable. The study reveals that majority of the cottage industries faces a major constraints militating against the profitability of cottage industries in the study area which include inadequate affordable credit facilities to finance their cottage industries, poor record and accounting procedures. The study recommends that efforts to get the youths move away from the use of fuel wood/charcoal and to adopt liquefied petroleum gas, as it could increase effective work hours and drastically reduce the scale of deforestation for the purpose of generating fuel wood. There is need for public enlightenment on the effective ways of exploiting the environment for raw materials.

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