



Energy (Electricity) Crisis, Industrialization and Socio-Economic Development In Nigeria: An Analysis

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Abstract

This study examined the impact of the energy (electricity) crisis on Nigeria's industrialisation, human, and rural development. The study mainly applied qualitative approaches such as explanatory research design, document and content analysis to X-ray the major problems emanating from Nigeria's electricity disaster, such as increasing de-industrialisation, poor human and rural development index. In view of these, the paper recommended among others, the need for federal and state governments to declare a state of emergency in the electricity sector, consider other alternative sources of energy such as solar power, as well as seek the partnership of private investors in the construction of power plants and solar energy industries.

Keywords: Energy, Electricity, Crisis, Industrialisation, De-industrialisation, Human Development, Rural Development, Energy Inequality, Energy Poverty.

Introduction

Industrialisation and socio-economic development is often defined around the concept of energy consumption. This is because the quantity and quality of energy available to man can limit what he can do. Energy, like power, is the ability to do work, involving most often a change in physical relationships resulting in the production of heat, light, sound, radio, radar, television, electricity, and so on. Thus, we can safely say that there can be no development, or specifically put, industrialisation, without the right quantity and quality of energy. Therefore, industrialisation calls for integrated development and use of high amount of energy (Unanka, 2001).

Energy is the powering force behind everything that happens or moves. It refers to the resources and systems that power societies, like electricity, gas, oil and renewables, plants, grids, transmission lines, and the whole gamut of engineering structures that keeps the lights and industries on and running. It is so basic to industrial investment, to industry itself, to economic growth and indeed to human development that the nature, the amount, the cost and the efficiency of energy or power supply provided in a country determine the type, scope, intensity and rate of growth of industrial activity, to the extent that it can be said that without energy, there is no industrialisation, economic growth or development. In other words, any lack of these infrastructures will inhibit investment, as well as increase both the initial and operating costs of industries and reduce their viability and profitability (Nwosu, 2000).

Nigeria is blessed with abundant energy sources such as petroleum (oil), gas and coal. It has excess capacity and great potential for massive energy generation, yet it is still engrossed with high and unimaginable level of energy deficiency. Nigeria is one of the highest producers

of crude oil in the world but petroleum energy is difficult to access by Nigerian citizens. Petroleum energy is the main energy source in Nigeria. Sixty six (66) percent of the fuel used to power electricity generating plants comes from the petroleum and gas industry (Ubani & Adeyemi, 2024). So invariably, the two most relevant energy markets in Nigeria are petroleum and electricity.

In view of the above, the Nigerian energy supply crisis refers to the ongoing and persistent failure of the Nigerian power sector to provide adequate electricity supply to domestic households, and industrial producers despite a rapidly growing economy. Nigeria has some of the world's largest deposits of coal, oil, and gas. She occupies the status of Africa's largest oil producer, yet only forty five (45%) of Nigeria's population is connected to the energy grid, while power supply difficulties are experienced around 85% of the time and almost non-existent in certain regions or communities. At best, average daily power supply is estimated at 4 hours, although several days can go by, without any power at all. Neither power cuts, nor restorations are announced (Ubani & Adeyemi, 2024).

The consequence of power supply crisis or difficulties in Nigeria is that it has crippled the agricultural, industrial and mining sectors, as well as impede Nigeria's ongoing economic development. Many companies have left Nigeria, and relocated to neighbouring countries mainly because of severe power shortages characterized by inadequate infrastructure, with only 3000 – 6000 Mega Watts generated for over 200 million people, leaving nearly 85 million Nigerians without electricity. The few companies now operating in Nigeria largely depend on the off-grid supply using diesel / gas/petrol – powered electricity generators, thereby running at huge overhead costs, and contributing to greenhouse gas pollution among other harmful environmental problems (Olaoye, Ajilore, Akinluwade, Omole & Adetunji, 2016). According to Adebayo (2014), over 13 billion (US dollars) is spent annually to import and fuel generators. From the above, its clear now that the severe energy crisis in Nigeria has indeed led to de-industrialisation and discouragement of foreign investment, affected negatively human and social welfare or development of the people as well as impeded rural development, national security and foreign trade.

Statement of the Problem

Energy in its ramification is a key component of human existence. From domestic appliances and usage, to industrial and manufacturing sectors . In all these, energy plays a pivotal role. However, despite the abundance of energy resources in Nigeria, yet she is still very backward in energy supply compared with most third world countries.

The poor energy supply particularly in the area of electricity generation and/or production is a major contributor to increasing de-industrialisation in Nigeria. It is also responsible for the poor human development indices as well the increasing cost or uncompetitiveness of Nigerian made goods in global trade. And very importantly too, is the non – or sluggish development of rural areas in Nigeria.

Over the years, the industrial and manufacturing sector has been under the attack of de-industrialisation. Many companies previously operating in Nigeria have closed down their factories, and relocated abroad, sometimes to neighboring countries, and usually they have

always pointed to poor electricity as one of the major reasons they left, relocated or shut down their businesses in Nigeria. For example, between 2000 and 2008, Nigeria experienced its worst situation in manufacturing as about 820 companies shut down or suspended production. Worst hit was the textile and garment sub-sector. At its peak, the textile industry alone employed nearly 700,000 people (making it the second largest employer of labour in Nigeria after the Government), and had a turnover of about \$9 billion US Dollars. The industry witnessed a catastrophic collapse from 175 firms in the mid-1980s to 10 factories in stable condition in 2004 (Ekundayo, 2018, Adebayo, 2013). In 2016 alone, about 272 firms were shut, while some reduced their production, staff strength and remuneration of workers. The industrial capacity utilisation has also been badly affected. More than half of the surviving firms were classified as ailing which posed serious threat to the survival of the manufacturing sector (Sotinwa, 2017). Even, till date, many companies are still shutting down and/or relocating their factories abroad. This is mainly because of the power and /or energy crisis which Nigeria is undergoing for several decades now.

Beside its impact on Nigeria's industrialisation, poor energy supply is a major obstacle to human development in Nigeria. For example a World Health Organisation (WHO) report notes that standard operating procedures for most hospitals require energy use, for water supply, temperature control, lighting, ventilation, and clinical processes. Primary health centres (PHCs) are supposed to be the first place to go for health services in rural areas, but many of these facilities in Nigeria under-perform due to lack of energy access. (Ayobami & Jimoh, 2015). A recent report by Sustainable Energy for All (SEFOR ALL) estimates that 40 percent of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in Nigeria lack access to electricity. This lack of reliable access to energy continues to undermine the coverage and quality of basic healthcare and social welfare services delivered to millions of people in the country. Pregnant women still give birth to their babies in the dark, and critical surgeries are carried out using candlelight and torch-lights. It's literally a matter of life and death for many poor, sick children because there is no capacity to preserve vaccines in an unrefrigerated environment. Moreso, lack of access to electricity to do homework after school force most of these pupils and students to use candle lights and other forms of locally made lamps that damage their sight overtime (Ayobami & Jimoh, 2015). From the above, it is clear that Nigeria's electricity /energy crisis is a major obstacle to human development with far reaching consequences for the country's economy, healthcare, education and overall well-being, increasing poverty and industrial development.

Another way the energy crisis is affecting the social and economic development of Nigeria is in the area of rural development. Over eighty percent (80%) of Nigerians live in the rural areas which has limited or no access to electricity, thereby hindering business growth, access to good medicare and education. The limited electricity in these areas is also mainly responsible for their stunted economic growth, lack of investments, limited job opportunities and the high level of poverty. These reasons account for why many young school leavers make every effort to leave the rural areas after graduation for urban areas where there is more likely to be stable electricity, more job opportunities and so on. This mass exodus of young people from rural areas to the urban areas has led to the high rate of urbanisation and the attendant negative socio-economic consequences in Nigeria today.

Research Questions

The questions that will guide this research are:

1. How does the energy crisis and/or lack of electricity in Nigeria cause de-industrialization in Nigeria?
2. How is the energy crisis and/or lack of electricity, a major obstacle to human development in Nigeria?
3. To what extent is it true that lack of electricity in the rural areas is responsible for their underdevelopment?

Research Hypotheses

The hypotheses of this research are;

1. The major cause of de-industrialization in Nigeria is the energy or electricity crisis?
 2. Poor human development in Nigeria is exacerbated by lack of adequate energy and/or electricity.
 3. The poor development of rural areas in Nigeria is mainly due to lack or absence of adequate infrastructures like electricity.
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1. **Objectives** To assess the impact of the electricity or energy crisis on Nigeria's industrialisation process.
 2. To examine how the energy crisis and/or lack of electricity contributes to poor human development in Nigeria.
 3. To X-ray how the electricity or energy crisis in Nigeria contributes to poor rural development.

Objective of the Study

The general objective of this study is to assess the impact of the electricity or energy crisis in Nigeria in the areas of industrialization, human and rural development. Specifically, this study intends to achieve the following:

Literature Review

The Nigeria Energy Crisis

The Nigerian energy supply crisis refers to the ongoing failure of the Nigerian power sector to provide adequate electricity supply to domestic households and industrial producers despite a rapidly growing economy and population. Despite the fact that she has some of the world's largest deposits of coal, crude oil and gas, as well as her status as Africa's largest crude oil producer, and the sixth largest producer in the world, yet she is still engrossed with high level of energy deficiency. This has invariably affected development and impinged negatively on socio-economic growth, with some parts of the country, especially the rural areas lacking access to modern resources which come with the availability of electric power (Ubani & Adeyemi, 2024).

According to Tunde, Titlayo, Kunle, Femi and Adelana (2016), Nigeria is renowned to have the lowest electrification per capita in Africa, as electricity generation, transmission and distribution account for less than one percent of its gross domestic product (GDP), but fifty

four (54) percent of the share of utilities. The electrification rate in Nigeria is estimated at forty one (41) percent indicating that the demand far outweighs the supply. According to them, the two most relevant energy markets in Nigeria are petroleum energy and electricity.

According to Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/nigerian-energy-supply-crisis>), only 45% of Nigeria's population is connected to the energy grid, whilst power supply difficulties are experienced around 85% of the time and almost non-existent on certain regions or rural areas. At best, average daily power supply is estimated at 4 hours although several days can go by without any power at all. Neither power cuts nor restorations are announced. They noted too, that power supply difficulties cripples the agricultural, industrial, mining sectors, as well human development and the rural areas. It also impedes Nigeria's ongoing development efforts.

The Nigerian energy sector is facing severe crisis characterised by inadequate infrastructure and incessant grid collapse, with only 3000 – 5000 MW generated for over 200 million people, leaving nearly 85 million without electricity (Wikipedia). According to This Day Newspaper (2026/02/01), the national grid has collapsed over 100 times since 2015, despite the trillions of Naira invested in the sector. The national grid reportedly has a production capacity of 12,000 MW, but the power generation companies have only been able to produce between 3000 and 5000 MW, which is insufficient to cater for a country's over 200 million population. Experts estimate that Nigeria needs a minimum of 30,000 to achieve sufficient power supply.

Persistent grid collapse and the erratic power supply have continued to disrupt businesses and households across the country forcing many Nigerians to rely on alternatives such as generators and solar power. These power outages/failures inflict high economic and social costs estimated to be upto the tune of one billion (USD) US dollars annually. Many industries that depend on consistent electricity supply have been forced to shut down, while small businesses and manufacturers of heavy machineries bear the brunt of the power companies failures. Citizens also suffer socially, psychologically and physically. Overall, the chronic instability of the power sector has been a major factor in Nigeria's socio-economic and industrial stagnation (This Day, Feb. 1, 2026). Nigeria is one of the most under powered countries of the world with actual consumption eighty percent (80%) below expectations based on current population and income levels. Compared with other African countries, South Africa with a population of 59.39 million generates a staggering 58,095 MW, while Egypt with a population of 109 million, produces over 59,000 MW. It's obvious that Nigeria's power generation falls far short of its potential, hindering socio-economic development and industrialization (This Day, 2026/02/01).

Concept of Industrialization

Industrialization according to Nwosu (2000: 10) can simply be described as “the widespread use of machines or technological devices for the production of capital and consumer goods, as well as services, which allows for the achievement of higher levels of productivity and consumption”. Broadly speaking, Nwosu also defines industrialisation as “the continuous ability to entrepreneurially and managerially organise to make use of machines, or of technology and other material inputs and factors of production, with the aim of achieving

more efficient or productive manufacturing of more and more quantities of industrial, agricultural and other capital and consumer goods that are of higher quality and newer variety.

The definition above tries to portray industrialisation as a continuing and dynamic process that stretches interminably into time and natural space, and not as a spontaneous or a sporadic or a once-and-for-all dumping of a few industrial plants here and there as happens in most African countries like Nigeria. Moreso, Nwosu (2000), notes that the forerunner of industrial revolution (industrialisation) is scientific and technological revolution, and agricultural revolution. These two forces are the pre-conditions for any industrialisation process that is sustainable and enduring.

Industrialisation, according to Nwosu (2000), can be encouraged and promoted through the following: high levels of savings and investment, level of human capacity building, mental attitudes of the leaders and the population, social and physical infrastructure, and the level of agricultural development. However, it is also important to note here that the above mentioned factors, in their reverse conditions, impede industrialisation, as is the case in Nigeria.

Unanka (2001:95) sees industrialisation “as a process – the course of transition from the preceding agricultural or commercial society toward the industrialised society. Specifically, Unanka also notes that industrialisation process entails the accumulation (through internal capabilities or importation) of machine technology, factory methods and artifacts, machine engineers, furnaces, mines, computers, vocational education system, and other similar tangible technological objects”.

An industrialised society may not necessarily be a technologically developed society, but every technologically developed society is an industrialised society. Thus, while technological development is a sure guarantee to true industrialisation, industrialisation per se does not necessarily guarantee technological development (Unanka, 2001).

Industrialisation according to Unanka, can be measured quantitatively through energy related measure and manufacturing related measure. In simple terms, industrialisation could be measured by the amount of energy consumption per capita (in kilogram coal equivalent) of a country. This could be measured as total amount of electricity consumption by millions of kilowatt hours per capita, kilowatt hours, or by the total amount of commercial energy use (oil equivalent) by 1000 metric tons per capita (kg). This measure must be used with caution since it may lead to re-assignment of countries traditionally classified as non-industrialized into the industrialised group.

Beside the energy-related measures, the level of industrialisation of a nation could also be measured by the percentage of manufactured goods relative to exports. By this measure, a country that operates in the world economic system by depending on the export of agricultural raw materials (including crude oil) cannot claim any level of industrialisation. Industrialised nations are those with significantly higher share of manufactured goods in its total export (Unanka, 2007).

Finally, Anyanwu, Oyefusi, Oikhenan and Dimowo (1997) describe industrialisation as “the process of building up a nation’s capacity to convert raw materials and other inputs to finished goods, and to manufacture goods for other production or final consumption.

Concept of Human Development

The concept of human development was introduced in the late 1970s as a result of the dissatisfaction with gross national product (GNP) and gross domestic product per capita (GDP) as the measure of economic development. Certain economists began to measure development in terms of social indicators, also referred to as the basic needs for development. Basic human needs focus on the alleviation of poverty through the provision of such basic needs as health, education, food, water, sanitation, and housing. Through the provision of these basic needs, these economists believed that people's choices could be enlarged and their human capabilities expanded so that they can function properly as human beings (Jhingam, 2005).

In view of the above, these economists, led by Prof. Amartya Sen, are of the view that at the core of human well-being is freedom of choice by enhancing people's capabilities for attaining higher standards of health, knowledge, self-respect, and the ability to participate actively in community life. Take, for example, the case of education and health. When a person acquires good quality education, that person is most likely to have a good life and health. Then she can freely make informed choices because she has acquired the capabilities to do so (Jhingam, 2005).

Having briefly explained what human development is all about, this paper will therefore go back to its central theme or argument, which is that poor energy or electricity supply to Nigerians is a major obstacle to their human development, with far-reaching consequences for their health, education, and overall well-being.

Concept of Rural Development

Rural development is defined as the process whereby concerted efforts are made to facilitate significant increases in rural resource productivity with the overall objectives of enhancing rural income, increasing employment opportunities, and upgrading rural community life (Abakara, 1977).

Rural development is an integrated process involving several components which include agricultural development, industrialisation, and improvement in social and physical infrastructure facilities in sectors such as healthcare, education, transportation, water, electricity, etc. (Nwaru, 1997).

The strategy of rural development focuses on rural industrialisation, and emphasis is usually placed on small-scale industries because this category of industries are recognised as having the potential for generating employment and income among rural dwellers, stemming rural-urban migration, modernising economic structural production, and fostering an even spread of development. However, rural areas are often at a disadvantage in attracting industries

mainly as a result of infrastructural deficiencies, particularly in the area of electricity (Nwaru, 1997).

Nigeria is a developing country, predominantly rural in its basic setting. Approximately over 80 percent of the population of this country live in rural areas. The underdevelopment of these rural communities generates economic set back most of the rural dwellers are poverty-stricken.

Energy/Electricity Crisis and Industrialization in Nigeria

Nigeria's electricity crisis is a major roadblock to industrialisation. Manufacturing companies are struggling to operate with unreliable power, leading to high production costs, reduced competitiveness, and stunted growth. This is why many companies previously operating in Nigeria have closed down their factories and relocated abroad, in most cases, to neighboring countries. Recently the Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG) in their 2025 (Q4) GDP alert noted that although Nigeria's economic growth is gradually improving, it remains too slow to generate significant jobs or significantly reduce poverty. The 'Group' noted that persistent structural bottlenecks such as poor infrastructure and unreliable electricity supply continue to increase operating costs and disrupt business activities. The NESG observed that Nigeria's manufacturing sector has remained sluggish for quite some time, reflecting what it described as a persistent de-industrialisation trend.

As reported by Kolawole (2025), the rebasing of Nigeria's economy exposed structural weaknesses of the manufacturing sector. The report noted that the gap between the real and service sectors contribution to the economy is widening in favour of the later (the services sector), and therefore consolidating the country's economic structural defect which subdues progress towards industrialisation as the real sector and is considered the bedrock of economic growth. According to Kolawole, available official data indicates that while the manufacturing sector recorded a 8.8% average contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) between 2020 and 2024, the services sector recorded average contribution of 54.9%. Available data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows that the manufacturing sector's contribution to the economy in 2020 stood at 8.99% and 8.99% in 2021, it declined to 8.91% in 2022; 8.64% in 2023, and 8.41% in 2024. Comparatively, the services sector contributed 52.44% to GDP in 2020 and rising to 53.56% in 2021; 55.40% in 2022; 56.18% in 2023; and 56.89% in 2024 (Vanguard, 25/08/2025).

According to Chete, Adeoji, Adeyinka and Ogundele (2015), the structure of the Nigerian economy is typical of an underdeveloped country, and after over 60 years of political independence, there seems to be no deliberate and determined effort to restructure the economy and industrialise. They note that between 2011 and 2015, the primary sector, in particular, the oil and gas sector dominated her gross domestic product (GDP), accounting for over 95 percent of export earnings and about 85% of government revenue. The industrial sector accounts for 6% of economic activity. In 2011 alone, the manufacturing sector contributed only 4 percent to the GDP.

Confirming the argument that Nigeria is still largely a mono-cultural economy, the Index Mundi Report (2018) which shows Nigeria's Manufacturing Value Added (MVA) annual

percentage growth 1982 – 2016 showed that the MVA reached a maximum value of 26.22 in 1985 and a minimum value of -30.93 in 1983. However, throughout the 1990s and 2000s, the manufacturing value added dropped significantly from a percentage point of 26.22 in 1985 to 7.5% in 2010 before crashing to 4.32 in 2016. This is a clear demonstration that over the years, the Nigerian manufacturing industrial sector has been experiencing de-industrialisation.

According to the Punch editorial board of 11th June, 2025 titled: "Nigeria's Manufacturing; a call for revamp", the statistics below summarises the fact that Nigeria's manufacturing sector faces significant challenges leading to de-industrialisation:

- i. 767 manufacturing companies shut down in 2023, with over 18,000 jobs lost in 2024;
- ii. Manufacturing capacity utilisation plummeted from 73.3% in 1981 to 57% in 2024;
- iii. Contribution to GDP declined from 29.9% to 8.6% over the same period.
- iv. Real growth decelerated from 14.7% in 2014 to 1.38% in 2024.
- v. Non-oil export contribution tanked from 82.37% in 2019 to 25.13% in 2024;
- vi. Unsold inventory surged to ₦2.14 trillion in 2024, a 87.5% increase from the previous year.
- vii. Manufacturing sector lost ₦1.2 trillion between 2019 and 2023.

The root causes of this decline are no doubt complex. But poor infrastructure or deficit, and particularly the unstable and epileptic power supply remains a significant obstacle and aggravates these difficulties, as manufacturers are forced to allocate nearly 40% of their operational costs or budgets to alternative energy sources (Punch, 11/06/2025).

Energy/Electricity Crisis and Human Development in Nigeria

The energy/ electricity crisis in Nigeria is severely impacting human development in several aspects. The most obvious aspect is that it has affected the provision of basic services such as water, sanitation, healthcare systems, and education. For example, reliable electricity is an essential component of any country's healthcare system. A lack of electricity can lead to the failure of medical equipment and treatment facilities. According to a report from the Sustainable Energy for All (SEFOR ALL), at least 40% of hospitals and clinics in Nigeria lack access to reliable electricity, and approximately 40,017 healthcare facilities are affected by energy challenges. This energy crisis has severe consequences, such as surgeries being postponed, vaccines getting spoilt due to inadequate refrigeration, and emergency care being compromised. In this reality, hospitals and clinics are left with few generators which are both costly and environmentally unfriendly. These costs are eventually passed on to patients who, in most cases, cannot afford these hospital bills, thus making them resort to quacks, prayer houses, herbalists, and self-medication, and etc. This is part of the reason why there is low life expectancy in Nigeria (Andersen, 5/27/2025).

In addition to the above, the electricity crisis is also a major component of the education sector: According to the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, 65% of the 74,280 public and private primary and junior secondary schools lack electricity, and as a result, cannot guarantee technology-based education. Even when students are in their homes, most of them lack access to electricity to do their homework. They resort to using candle lights and other forms of makeshift oil lamps that may damage their eyesight over time (The Sun, 19/07/2017). The Coordinator noted that the energy crisis in Africa has, and will

continue to be, the greatest threat to the continent of Africa, stating that out of the 1.5 billion people who lack access to electricity globally, 57 percent (amounting to 622.6 million) are in Africa. He said, the facts have shown that students who have access to electricity have been found to perform better because they are likely to have access to modern facilities (The Sun, 18/07/2017).

The high cost, constant interruptions, and daily power outages lasting for several hours or weeks pose difficult challenges to those involved in education in many African countries. Power shortages interrupt learning processes, impede children's access to information, and deprive staff of effective learning management systems. In tertiary institutions, unstable power supply slows down administrative activities, teaching and research programmes, leading to poor academic performance and the production of half-baked graduates.

According to the 2023/2024 United Nations Development Report (UNDP), Nigeria's Human Development Index (HDI) is 0.54, categorising it as a country with low human development. This score reflects achievements in health, education, and income per capita. The country's life expectancy is approximately 54.9 years. This score in summary portrays the general standard of living in Nigeria. It is very low compared with other African countries, Nigeria is placed 29th. The rankings are as follows: Seychelles: 0.848 (very high), Mauritius: 0.806 (very high), South Africa: 0.754 (high), Ghana: 0.628 (medium), and Kenya: 0.6 (medium).

The above rankings show that Seychelles and Mauritius have high human development while Nigeria falls into the low/ medium category. All these indicate that the general standard of living has been poor in Nigeria compared with most countries in Africa. Part of the reason for this, is the crisis in the energy and electricity sector.

Energy/Electricity Crisis and Rural Development in Nigeria

Apart from poor industrialisation and human development in Nigeria, poor electricity supply also significantly hinders rural development in many diverse ways. For example, the Renewable Energy Association of Nigeria (REAN, 2024), in one of their reports titled "Bridging the Gap: Addressing Energy Poverty, Inequality through Renewable Energy", noted that lack of electricity in Nigerian cities affects the overall development of the economy. The country has the world's largest absolute electricity access deficit, with 45% of the population (90 million people) lacking access to the electricity grid. Citing a recent worldwide report, REAN notes that large disparities exist in access to electricity between urban areas (84%) and rural areas (26%). The report adds that the deficit has increased by over SEVEN (7) million citizens, over the last decade as the pace of population growth has overtaken the pace of electrification. This disproportionately affects vulnerable groups, particularly women and children (most of whom live in rural areas).

The rural areas have continued to remain underdeveloped because of several factors, prominent among them being poor or absence of electricity and this is part of the reasons many of the rural dwellers are trapped in a state of poverty, because the small cottage industries there, have either collapsed or relocated to urban areas where there is more likely to

be a relatively more stable electricity. Rural dwellers also do not have access to reliable and good medical care and education because, as already noted elsewhere in this paper, many of the public primary and secondary schools in rural areas also do not have electricity. The same applies to the Primary Health Care (PHCs) Centres in these areas, which should be the first bus -stop in accessing good medical care in these rural places. The high level of insecurity in these rural areas is also partly attributed to lack of, or poor electricity.

The lapses above mainly account for the high level of rural-urban drift in Nigeria. The rural areas have suffered from poor investments as well as poor policy commitments. This is why many young people make every effort to relocate to urban areas immediately after school, where you are more likely to have stable and more reliable electricity, job opportunities and internet facilities.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework applied in this study is the socio-cultural theory of the modernisation school of development and underdevelopment. The modernisation school of thought was developed by the orthodox school basically to highlight Third world underdevelopment, its nature, causes and remedies, as well as serve as a guide or blueprint for swift change from the present state of affairs to a modern and glorious life which the new pattern would bring.

The central theses of the modernisation school is that underdevelopment in the Third World is internally generated and perpetuated. This school has within it several theories or theoretical perspectives seeking to explain the causes of development and underdevelopment. These perspectives are: the economic theory; the psychological / idiosyncratic theory; the institutional theory; and the socio-cultural theory (Okereke & Ekpe, 2010).

The socio-cultural theory or perspective of the modernisation school holds that development is not exclusively related to the economic and political terrains but is also intertwined with social and cultural factors. The outstanding features of this perspective which are critical for development in any society are:

- (a) The level of social mobilization in that society.
- (b) The extent of cultural secularisation.
- (c) The prevalence of universal norms.
- (d) The extent to which recruitment is based on achievement rather than ascription.

In view of the above, the proponents of the socio-cultural theory believe that it is changes in the social, cultural, and institutional systems that create the necessary conditions that usher in economic development (Okereke & Ekpe, 2010). In other words, what the socio-cultural theorists are saying is that the developed countries are developed because they exhibit cultural traits characterised by universalism, achievement, specificity, affective-neutrality, and self-orientation, while developing countries exhibit their opposites – that is, particularism, ascription, diffuseness, affectivity, and collective orientation.

Stressing further, Kendall (2002) notes that the socio-cultural perspective holds that Third World (poor countries) are underdeveloped because they lack crucial prerequisites for development, such as positive cultural traits like self-discipline, emphasis on savings, devotion

to hard work, and a spirit of entrepreneurship. In these countries, they have more affective and ascriptive orientation, rather than achievement orientation, they lack functional integration, complex division of labour, as well as the capacity for strong organisations, political stability, and technological means of production.

The modernisation school of thought, and particularly the socio-cultural theory, has attracted a great deal of criticisms from radical and dependency scholars such as Okereke, Andre Gunder Frank, Claude Ake, Samir Amin, and others. However, despite these criticisms, the fact still remains that this theory is very relevant to this study or paper.

The electricity and energy crisis in Nigeria is mainly a product of excessive corruption and gross economic mismanagement, and recklessness and not necessarily a result of external constraints or interference. It is essentially a domestic, internal, or locally made condition due to excessive greed, selfishness, and lack of patriotism. It is a result of poor leadership and governance issues or failures, indolence, and incompetence, and not as a result of external or foreign manipulations. If South Africa and Egypt can generate over 50,000 watts of electricity, what reasons does Nigeria have, that after nearly 60 years of political independence, it is still struggling to produce or achieve 4,000 / 5,000 watts of electricity if not the hyper-level corruption and leadership incompetency. What else explain this level of failure? Therefore, rather than sweep under the carpet these errors in our governance and political settings, and blame foreign or external forces for our gross underdevelopment, this paper chooses rather to call a spade a spade. The socio-cultural theory argument is very plausible and relevant to this study.

Okereke (2003) has already concluded that some of the reasons why several national plans (projects) have failed in Nigeria are: corruption, poor planning, institutional weakness, plan indiscipline, unclear plan goals, political instability, lack of qualified personnel, and lack of information or data. These issues mentioned here by Okereke are internal or domestic issues, not external constraints. We play politics with virtually everything, including human lives, and then turn around to blame our poor performance on external constraints or imperialism. There is excessive official corruption and mismanagement of national resources, in addition to political impunity. Corruption has become endemic. It has been institutionalised to the point that the problem is not only that officials are corrupt, but that corruption is now official (Okereke, 2003). Similarly, there is ethnicity, favouritism and discrimination even in the award of contracts and sharing of national resources, and appointments. This is the bane of the electricity crisis in Nigeria.

In view of the foregoing, it is clear that though under development and poverty in Nigeria was fundamentally a creation of European imperialism and colonialism, but beyond these, underdevelopment and poverty has worsened in Nigeria since after political independence mainly as a result of internal factors or contradictions.

Research Method

This study explored the use of qualitative approaches. The researcher conducted an ex-post analysis of the energy/electricity crisis and its impact on industrialisation and socio-economic development of Nigeria using explanatory research design. Document/ content

analysis and ex-post facto analysis were used to examine how the energy/electricity crisis causes de-industrialisation, poor human development, and underdevelopment of the rural areas.

Conclusion

This study applied qualitative research design in order to analyse the impact of the energy/electricity crisis on Nigeria's industrialisation and socio-economic development. The findings clearly show that the energy/electricity crisis is causing de-industrialisation, poor human development, and underdevelopment of rural areas and its inhabitants. This paper therefore concludes that if Nigeria must industrialise, improve its human development index, as well as hasten the development of rural areas, she must be able to generate sufficient energy and capacity that will ensure and guarantee constant, reliable, and quality electricity that is not only accessible to majority of the people but also available. This will no doubt boost investment (both local and foreign), promote the development of rural areas, create massive employment and reduce the high rate of rural-urban drift or migration and insecurity, among others.

Recommendations

In view of these findings above, this study makes the following recommendations:

1. The federal and state governments must declare a state of emergency in the energy and electricity sector. This will help them to devote the required resources as well as formulate relevant and critical policies that will help to attack the hydra-headed crisis.
2. Since the use of electricity is now on the concurrent list, both the federal and state governments can use public-private partnerships to attract increased investments in the sector.
3. The federal and state governments must consider other alternative sources of energy such as solar energy. They must look into ways that can be explored to attract industries that can set up factories where solar panels and batteries can be manufactured locally. This will help in no small measure to reduce the high cost of solar panels and make them affordable to the average public servant and many other Nigerians as well as create jobs for the youths. It will also help to drastically reduce the inequality and energy poverty prevalent in the country.

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