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COVID -19 PANDEMIC: THE NEW WORLD ORDER AND IMPLICATIONS FOR NIGERIA DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

This study examined New World Order and Implications for Nigeria Development. The methodology used is review of relevant and extant literature after which conclusion was made. Covid-19 pandemic exposes the technological advancement of the world and changes in relationships. The main objective of the study is to create awareness and policy initiatives to enable Nigeria fit into the new world order. It was revealed that the zero carbon emission policy will adversely change the economy landscape of Nigeria and most of the present skill will be obsolete. Accordingly, it was recommended that the government should initiate policies and institutions that add values to other minerals and re-skilled the people to effectively participate in the new world order.

Keywords: Pandemic, New world order, Nigeria, Development, Artificial intelligence.

Introduction

Nigeria was mainly an agrarian nation which stimulates its economic growths and enhanced its trade relation with the British who needed its primary products for the expansion of the British industries until oil was discovered in 1958, which paved the way for oil economy. The availability of many mineral deposits in Nigeria created the likely potential of one of the most successful economy in the world. The dynamic world conspiracies on technical capacity render the primary products at the mercy of the technologically advanced economy. Such arrangements plunged the Nigeria economy into structural Adjustment Programme in 1986. Attempts by successive government to revamp the economy yielded little returns. Prior to the pandemic, Nigeria economy was unstable, as the country battles with insecurity, falling oil prices, public deficit issues, un-employment and inflation that retard the economic and social progress of the country.

The zero net carbon emission policy of the advanced economies (that will make hydrocarbon irrelevant even when the new technology may cost more than the hydrocarbon) and the pandemic exposes the technological inadequacies of Nigeria economy which may impede effective participations in the new world order. Africa as a primary producer of raw materials

may not be able to compete in the new world order. The pandemic exposes the technological advancement of the world that has been ongoing slowly.

The objective of this research work is to create awareness and spur the necessary institutions to be put in place to address the technical deficit of Nigeria economy in readiness for the new world order after the pandemic. This work will expose the technological advancement of the world fueled by the pandemic and the danger of zero net carbon emission policy on Nigeria economy. A policy initiative in this direction will be required by the Nigeria government to propel economic growth in resilience to the gradual movement of the world from globalization to nationalization (self- interest) as shown by the pandemic. To achieve this, we will review relevant and extant literature on pre and post pandemic, precisely on artificial intelligence; digitalization, automation and virtual augmented policy and their implication on Nigeria economy. Such findings will help policy makers create institutions, relationships, systems and process that are different from the past. Second, develop new skills of best fit for the new world order. Accordingly, the research work is organized into introduction; which highlight the motivation for the research work, literature review; which explained the conceptual frame work, methodology; method of data collection and usage, findings, implication of findings, conclusion and recommendations.

Literature review

Climate change

In the past decades, the world has witnessed increase in the effect of emissions on the temperature of the world. Nations have come together to ensures that emissions that is responsible for the depletion of the ozone layer is minimized or possibly eradicated through the reduction of hydrocarbon usage in the world. The desire for cleaner and affordable energy spur the U.S.A., where president Biden's net zero emissions plan by 2050 provides two trillion dollars investment to reorient the car industry, increase electricity from clean energy and repair of the ecosystems damaged by resource extraction all of which will generate 250,000 jobs, there are also signs that China would wean itself of fossil fuel and other advanced economies are also investing billions of dollars to achieve low carbon emission (Glueck & Friedman,2021., Mishra, 2021). These are dilemmas that Nigeria must contend with.

Artificial intelligence

The pandemic has further expose the development in artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence (AI) is the ability of a digital computer or computer controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings (Copeland, 2021). Artificial intelligence encompasses digitalization, automation, virtual augmented reality. Artificial intelligence enabled the likes of Uber and Bolt to change the concept of taxies. In aviation; pilotless plane using image-recognition artificial intelligence, Airport like Changi in Singapore are partly run by robots, using cameras and AI to replace control towers (Reeves,2020., Park, 2021, Omotowa,2021). Robot doctors can now interact with patients and diagnose illness. AI is mining data from watches and providing medical solution (Shetz et al., 2020, Omotowa,2021). In education, robotic teachers are deployed to remote locations in China, thus enabling the education of rural dwellers (Xu et al., 2018, Xu & Sun, 2020)

Digitalization

In housing, 3D printing is revolutionizing the industry. Housing estate and high rise buildings have been printed in China in days. In medicines, human parts like the heart and limbs can now be printed with 3D, increasing number of heart surgeries in some countries are now done by robots. In Agriculture, Smart sensors are enabling real time monitoring of soil and weather to determine treatments to improve yield (Reichental, 2018., Murphy, 2018., Chins, 2020., Mendis & Rutschman, 2020., Arora et al., 2021)). Payment systems are by passing traditional banking system and Fintech and Blockchain are changing banking from what we known by using big data. Mobile approach to financial services rose 200% in April, 2020 (Sheng,2020), Blockchain speed up payment between individual, peer to peer loans, financial service provider are maximizing the use of cloud, AI and Big data to meet customer needs faster and make more customer-centric decision. Blockchain is starting to have an impact outside of crypto, making payment faster, more secure and enabling banking without intermediaries. Digital enabled video-conferencing platform, zoom and grocery delivery services.

Automation

With 5G we are moving to autonomous cars without the need for human drivers or owning a vehicle (Senders, 2019)

Virtual augmented reality

In transportation, Google maps have replaced paper maps(Reeves,2020). Prestigious universities are now becoming accessible to people across the world from villages and cities. Collaboration between researchers across countries can now be done virtually thus changing the concept of distance.

Dominance of China

In the new world order, the dominant of the West led by America over the world economy is likely to be challenged by China. Nigerians have to contend with shift from liberalism and rule of law which the West led by America is known for to a more guided political and economic system(authoritarian system). Global political, military and financial power may likely shift to China. The yuan may likely challenge the dollar. Chinese may likely challenge America in diplomatic posts around the world by expanding its influence in multilateral finance, global climate and trade institutions. Nigerians may likely appreciate China investment and infrastructural development curve. Nigerians may likely re-orient their belief that democracy resides with the state and not the people and guided human right as projected by the Chinese. Nigeria may have to contend with Chinese civilization and religion (Confucius). It is going to be complete political re-orientation that may leave Nigerians in a confused state in term of ideology.

Findings

The zero emission policy of the advanced economy will place Nigerian economy in dilemma that must be contended with. Nigeria has not been able to use her God given oil wealth to transform the economic landscape of the nation. Instead, the oil has left the nation at dagger edge. The zero carbon emission policy may be a catastrophe to Nigeria economic development. Technology is a moving train, those that choose to stand on its way would be left behind and condemned to dark world. How prepared is Nigeria in the new world order without hydrocarbon? The implication is that Nigeria must put in place policies and

institutions that will free Nigeria dependence from oil into participating technologically advanced society. Apart from adding values to the numerous raw materials, there is need for transparent and people focused leadership who are selfless and visionary. Ending hydrocarbon will worsen the poverty level of the country, as most Nigerians cannot afford the high cost of electricity and transportation and the subsequent inflation. It is going to be a tough time without hydrocarbon, I'm not a nay sayer but a call to develop other minerals and institutions of best fit in the new world order.

The growth in the use of artificial intelligence is a demonstration that many jobs may be lost to AI. How prepared are Nigerians to fit into the new narratives. Nigerians need to reskill to fit into the new world order. The need to urgently cultivate technology as best fit for the nation development cannot be over emphasized. Educational institution must re-define their curriculum to reflect the new reality. The use of robot may increase the poverty level in the country and put pressure of migration on advanced economy. Nigeria must develop their potential on skills the machine can't do, like creative thinking. There is likely going to be reduction in employment of human in robotic related job. Nigerians must think outside the box and specialized more on jobs the machine can't easily do. The people are more likely to be under pressure due to poverty and economic depression. The government should re-focus its policies to advert consequence as a result of robotic usage or growth in artificial intelligence.

Digitalization is having a huge impact in the development of the world after pandemic. The world is moving from complexity to simplicity. Human knowledge has increased and made life simple. Nigerian should embrace the new world order at all level of the economies. The youth should realize that these are the dilemma to contend with in their generation, the government should put in place adequate policies and institutions to put the youth in the know and preparation for the future to enhance global competition. Therefore, the youth should keep updating their knowledge and be alert to opportunities. Many Nigerian are doing well in most developed countries, we must be decisive in our leadership question, if we must fit into the new world order.

Though still not clear on China's world hegemony, Nigerians may likely have to learn the Chinese culture, language and values to fit into the new world order. This may be difficult as average Nigerians think America and are more likely to lay down their lives for America. Chinese infrastructural development curve may create unsustainable debt burden that may exacerbate loss of sovereignty over strategic asset. Despite challenges, Nigerians have to be more entrepreneurial and globally competitive in the new dispensation.

Conclusion

COVID-19 pandemic facilitate and exposes the rapid technological advancement of the world. Developing countries like Nigeria will suffer most from the new arrangement if adequate policies and institutions are not put in place to remain relevant in the new world order. Nigeria job seeking educational syllables needs to reflect creative and innovative job creation. The people need to be re-skilled to fit into the new job provision by the new world order. The reality is that the technological advancement of the world will provide new jobs that may be quite different.

Nigeria dependent on oil may be obsoletes, the policy initiative must be one that will prepare the citizens for the new world order. As the most populated black nation, a lot of resources are needed to pilots the economy, the government should create additional value for the nation's minerals. It is time to let go ethnic and tribal bigotry and enhance people focus governance where rule of law, Justice and equity prevails.

Recommendations

In order to survive in the new normal, Nigeria must develop policies, institutions, relationships, systems and processes that are different from the past where necessary to enhance its effective participation. One of such policies should deemphasized reliance on hydrocarbon into adding value to other minerals as alternative source of revenue. Nigerians must be re-skilled to participate in the new normal and evolve a more technological environment.

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