
Evaluation on the Contributions of Private Enterprises to the Economic Development of Lagos State. A study of MTN Nigeria Telecommunication Industry.

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Abstract

This study in its form was designed to evaluate the contributions of private enterprises to the economic development of Lagos State using MTN Nigeria as a study of evidence. Data utilized for the study were gotten from a survey conducted through the use of a well-structured questionnaire for the period under study. The analytical tool employed includes simple descriptive statistics, chi-square. Analysis of the personal data reveals that more than half of the respondents are male, between the age of 31 – 40 years and 60 percent agreed that they are satisfied with the performance of MTN Nigeria towards economic development and more than half of the respondents also agreed that MTN Nigeria support Lagos State Government in providing instructional facilities. The analysis showed that calculated value were higher than the critical value, hence the null hypotheses were rejected and the alternative hypotheses were accepted. The study was able to establish that MTN Nigeria is effective in contributing to the economic development of Lagos State. However, it was recommended that the government should ensure stable power supply for private enterprises to operate effectively and efficiently for a sustainable economic development.

Keywords: Corporate Social Responsibility, Private Enterprise, Economic Growth and Development

INTRODUCTION

The origin of private enterprises in human society is said to be as old as human civilization. This is because private sector was the traditional structure of the world's economy and private enterprises have been in existence in virtually all human societies in one form or the other.

Private enterprises are organizations setup specifically by private individuals or groups which often take the form of corporations, Limited liability or public liability company or other names depending on where and how they are established. These organizations are usually constituted as legal entities with the obligations and claims within the law of socio-economic settings. The main purpose of the establishment of any private enterprise is the maximization of profit and wealth through provision of goods and/or services. The concept of economic development refers to the process by which a community creates, retains and invests wealth and improves the quality of life. Since modern business is so complex, its success matters not only to the provision of goods and services but also, how

its operation contributes to the economic development in general which in turn will improve the standard of living and quality of life of the people in the environment in which the business operates.

Nigeria has been in the theories of development crises since the 1970s. The crises have been marked by rising debt burden, rising unemployment rates, poverty, collapsing standards of living, collapsing standard of education at all levels, deplorable state of public health care delivery system, deplorable state of vital infrastructure including roads and power supply, communication facilities, crises in housing and rising death rates among various categories in the population. It has also manifested in declining rates in the capacity utilization of the Industrial Core Project (ICP) in the country. These include refineries, fertilizer plants, paper plants, cement plants and sugar plants among others. Development, as proffered by Rodney (1972:9-11), is the continuous unending

improvement in the capacity of individuals and society at large to central and manipulate the forces of nature as well as themselves and other individuals and societies for their own benefits and that of humanity at large. It is the process of enacting mans' inherent capacity to live a better and more rewarding life. The indicators of development include, increasing skill and capacity to do things, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and above all material well-being. Simply put, development in contemporary world implies that successful mobilization of human and material resources for social well-being. The survival of man and continuous well-being largely depends on the extent of the survival of business environment. Based on the examination of the above, this research will therefore lay emphasis on the contribution of private enterprises to the economic development of Lagos State which will be addressed using MTN Nigeria as the case study for the research.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

An overview of the problem or problem definition depicts a vivid description of the problem envisaged or existing in the private enterprises as regards their responsibilities to the society. In Nigeria, local and foreign investors who are given the opportunity to set up business in the country, do so but have little or no impact on the society in terms of development. For instance, in the Niger Delta, the oil companies that drill and explore our crude oil, pollute the air, have caused the marine life to be nonexistent so that instead of actually adding value to the society, they are stripping the little there was before they came.

Generally, most private and public enterprises have these problems of contribution towards economic development. These problems could be among other things, the poor return on investment of the organization, mismanagement of funds by the enterprise or company, or even when the management intentionally decides to neglect

the society. This study is to determine the impact of private enterprises to economic development, their problems and prospects.

The statements of the problem are as follows:

1. How does private enterprises discharge their responsibilities/duties to the society in which they operate?
2. What impact does a private company have on the life of the people in the environment in which it operate?
3. What benefits are derivable by staff, customer and the nation at large?

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The aim of the study is to examine the reasons for the establishment of private enterprises and the role they play in economic development.

However, the specific objectives of the study include:

1. To examine the responsibilities/duties of private enterprises to the society.
2. To access the impact of private enterprises to economic development

in the environment which the organization exists.

3. To evaluate the contributions whether effective and efficient or not.

STATEMENT OF HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses are stated in their alternate form:

H_A¹: That private organizations contribute immensely towards economic development of a state or nation.

H_A²: That Lagos State is developing economically through private sector participations.

H_A³: That a number of constraints limits the ability of private organizations to function effectively and contributes towards economic development.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

CONCEPT OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Private enterprise as used in this research refers to the business enterprises established for the purpose of maximizing profit.

Basically, there are four main forms of business enterprises namely:

- i. sole proprietorship
- ii. partnership
- iii. the limited liability company
- iv. the co-operative movement

i. The Sole Proprietorship

This is a form of business owned and controlled by one person who is the manager and proprietor with the aim of making profit (Gbenga, 1998:29). This form of business is also referred to as 'one man business'. The ownership and control of the business rest in the hand of one person, who provides the necessary capital and does not share the profit or loss of the business with anyone.

Samuel (1999:36-39) states some of the features of the sole proprietorship, they are as follows:

- a. A single person owns and bears the risk of the business
- b. One person subscribes the capital of the business

- c. The proprietor reaps the profits associated with the successful operation of the business alone.
- d. The proprietor manages the business alone.
- e. The business is not a legal entity.
- f. This form of business does not have board of directors.

g. This proprietor takes all the major decision himself.

ii. The Partnership

This form of business can be referred to as an main corporate business formed by an association of two to twenty persons, who by an agreement (usually legal) decide to run the business together and share the risks and profit of the business.

The main features of this business are:

- a. It is owned by two to twenty people
- b. The liabilities of the partners are unlimited
- c. The capital of the business is contributed by the partner.

- d. Profit are distributed among partners in proportion to the amount of capital each invested in the business.
- e. The partners share all the managerial functions among themselves.
- f. It is not a separate legal entity.

iii. Limited Liability Company

This is a kind of business unit which a number of people agreed to form by each contributing their resources towards its initial capital under the condition laid down in the Company and Allied Matters Act (1998.32 Gbenga), a company may be private or public limited liability company.

Features of Private Limited Company

Samuel (1999:42) states the features as follows:

- a. Its members range from two to fifty shareholders
- b. Capital is raised through the sale of shares and debentures. It cannot invite the general public to subscribe for any of its shares or debentures as

its shares or debentures are sold to members of family and friends

- c. Share holders have no right to transfer their shares.
- d. Its shares are not floated on the stock exchange market.

Features of Public Limited Company

Samuel (1999:43) states also the features of this:

- a. It must have at least a minimum of seven shareholders; there is no fixed maximum number of share holders.
- b. It is entitled to appeal to the public at large for capital weather by way of additional shares or by loan.
- c. Share holders are free to transfer their share holding.
- d. Its shares are floated on the stock exchange.

iii. The Co-Operative Societies

These are business undertaken by people who have similar interests. They are self help organization formed either by consumers or producers who have common interest. It is therefore set-up for the benefit of its members who have pooled their resources.

There are three main types of co-operative societies.

- a. Producers' co-operative societies.
- b. Consumers' co-operative societies.
- c. Thrift and credit co-operative societies.

Features of Co-Operate Societies

- i. Any number of persons with common interest collectively owned and bears the risk of the business.
- ii. There is no limit to the size of the membership.
- iii. Members have to buy shares to form the initial capital.
- iv. Profits or dividends are shared according to the purchases from or

sales to the society within a given trading year that is according to the member patronage.

- v. The members have unlimited liability.
- vi. It is a highly democratic form of business organization.
- vii. The profits of co-operatives are not taxed.

CONCEPT OF DEVELOPMENT

The understanding of what development means is an important requirement. This is why an attempt will be made to establish the meaning of development.

Walter Rodney in his view sees development as a many sided process at the individual level. It implies increased skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self discipline, responsibility and material well being. At the level of social groups, development implies an increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relationships. Rodney however, noted that some of these are virtually moral, categories and difficult to

evaluate depending as they do in the age in which one lives, one's class origin and one's personal code of what is right and what is wrong. Therefore, development may be viewed as social change evolving both growth and structural change in the direction of modernity and particularly in the direction of nation building and socio-economic progress.

In conclusion, the researcher wants to point out the major indicators of development i.e. political, social, economic, health, etc.

CONCEPT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

This aspect of development depends very much on the advancement of the forces of production at a particular stage at a given time. Real society development should only lead to interpretation of one's environment but also remove those socio-cultural norms, values, etc.

Social development is concerned with the re-organization of social structures towards rationalism and objectivity.

Therefore, social development as defined by Rodney (1976) is the improvement in the quality of life through improved feeding mechanism, basic social amenities such as housing, roads, education, transportation facilities, faster and better communication system, etc. All these serve to put the individual at the right frame of the body and mind to contribute his best towards the production process of national development.

Some of the social indicators are:

- i. provision of adequate infrastructure
- ii. improved education
- iii. shelter

CONCEPT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development is concerned with the production and establishment of an economic system that could improve the standard of living through the effective utilization of resources, provision of basic infrastructures, higher productivity, high per capita income and net capital investment in productive

sectors of the economy which will in turn lead to a higher gross national development.

According to Rodney (1976), he defined Economic development as a process whereby the society develops economically as its members increase jointly their capacity for dealing with the environment. He however argues that development should not be seen as economic affair but rather as an overall social process which is based upon the outcome of man efforts to deal with his natural life.

Anyebe (2000) said, "No single definition of economic development is entirely satisfactory and it has been defined in various ways for the average person." The term economic development refers simply to achievement by poor countries of higher levels of real per capital income and of improve conditions of living for their people. In a technical sense, economic development refers to a process of economic growth within an economy. The central objective of the process being higher and rising real per

capita income for that economy which the benefits of these higher and rising income being widely diffused within the economy. Thus, economic development is seen as improvement in material welfare especially for persons with lowest incomes, the eradication of extreme poverty, etc.

The indices for economic development could be seen as follows:

1. The productive forces that lead to the production of goods and services are effectively used and mobilized for the peoples' welfare.
2. The use of technology for proper exploitation of resources. These implies that by virtue of the role of private enterprises if properly instituted will ensure that improved technology is used in exploitation of these resources thereby creating a situation whereby there would be growth in the country's GDP. Therefore, we can say that private enterprises are ensuring that

improved technology is used in speeding up economic activities.

3. The use of skilled and unskilled manpower through formal and informal institutions. The informal sectors cover such business concerns as retailing, artisan and other small scale processing. The formal sector is made up of domestic and foreign companies.

Other roles of private sector in manifesting promoting the goals of sustainable development manifest in:

- Capacity building which include long term vision, technical manpower/skills, managerial skills, etc.
- De-emphasizing contacts and distributive trade activities in favor of production.
- Fostering close linkages between the companies and smaller ones.
- Promoting specialization
- Strengthening the informal sector.

- Access to credit with discriminatory interest rates in favour of the informal sector.
- Provision of information on production process and about new markets.
- Stabilization of the local currency.
- Innovation training

Development implies change and describes the process of economic, political and social transformation. Economic development refers to the expansion of the economy due to activities of industrialist, foreign inflow of investments, entrepreneurial activities and infrastructural development (Zahradeen, 2003).

Economic development refers to sustainable growth and increase in countries per capita income accompanied by high standard of living and technological advancement. Development is understood here in the context proffered by Rodney (1972-11), it is the continuous unending improvement in the capacity of individuals

and society at large to control and manipulate the forces of nature as well as themselves and other individuals and societies for their own benefits and that of humanity at large. It is the process of enacting man's inherent capacity to live a better and more rewarding life. The indicators of development include, increasing skill and capacity to do things, greater freedom, self confidence, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and above all, material well being. Simply put, development in contemporary world implies that successful mobilization of human and material resources for social well-being.

In conclusion, with the definition and concept of private enterprises earlier given, it implies that it can bring about economic change. Therefore, a well managed and properly funded private enterprise with a well defined objective is duly bound to bring some measures of development.

On the basis of this relationship, it can be reasonably inferred that if a relevant private enterprise is properly constituted,

operated and managed, it would bring about social and economic development in the society. Therefore, this stands to verify the fact that private enterprises are vehicles or agents of economic change in society.

METHODOLOGY

POPULATION OF THE STUDY

The population for this study consists of the management of MTN NG Communication Ltd and the general public either with or without mobile phones with a total population size of 200 individuals.

SAMPLE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

For the purpose of this study, one hundred (100) individuals served as the sample size. Fifty questionnaires were randomly distributed to staff of MTN, while the remaining fifty (50) were randomly administered to the general public.

DATA ANALYSIS TECHNIQUE

Descriptive Statistics

Simple descriptive statistics which include measure of central tendencies such as percentages, frequency distribution, mean, mode and ratios were used to process answers to some of the research questions.

Such questions treated in this form are those that have Yes or No responses.

The responses rate is calculated in percentages by dividing the figures for “Yes”

responses by the total responses (i.e. Addition of Yes and No responses) and multiplying by 100%. The responses that have the higher percentage score is considered ACCEPTED as the population decision.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

RATE OF RETURN QUESTIONNAIRE Questionnaires to Respondents

Category of Respondents	Total distributed	Returned	Pending
Company	50	42	8

Public	50	47	3
Total	100	89%	11%
% Total	100%	89%	11%

Source: Field Work, 202

1
Table 1 shows that a total of fifty questionnaires were randomly distributed to the staff at Mushin (25) and Falomo (25) in Lagos State. Out of this number, forty two questionnaires (84%) were returned and eight

representing (16%) were not returned and eight representing (16%) were not returned. Of the fifty questionnaire administered to the public, a total of forty-seven (47) representing (94%) were completed and returned, while three (3) questionnaires

representing (6%) were pending by the respondents. On the whole, out of the one hundred questionnaires that were issued, a total number of eighty-nine (89) representing (89%) were returned, while the remaining

(11 questionnaires representing (11%) were not returned.

Personal Data Analysis (Company & Public)

GENDER	Company		Public		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Male	26	61.9	25	53.2	5	57.3
Female	16	38.1	22	46.8	38	42.7
Total	42	100	47	100	87	100

Source: Field Work, 2021

Age of Respondents

Category	Company		Public		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
≤ 20	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 – 30	21	50	8	17.0	29	32.6
31 – 40	12	28.6	32	69.1	44	49.4
41 – 50	6	14.3	6	12.8	12	13.5
51 – 60	3	7.1	1	2.1	4	4.5
Above 60	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	42	100	47	100	87	100

Source: Field Work, 2021.

Implications:

Table above indicates that about fifty seven point three (57.3%) of the respondents are male, while about forty two point seven percent (42.7%) are female. Table three also shows that none of the respondents were either below twenty (20) years or above sixty (60) years of age.

The modal age group of respondents fall between 31 to 40 years of age which accounts for about forty nine point four (49.4%)

percent of the respondents which could be attributed to the fact that the working age group falls within this range. Thirty two point six (32.6%) percent fall between 21 – 30 years of age. Thirteen point five percent (13.5%) fall between 41 – 50 years old and four point five percent (4.5%) fall between 51 – 60 years of age.

Working Experience of the Respondents

Years of experience	Frequency	Percentage
1 – 5	24	57.1
6 – 10	12	28.6
10 and above	6	14.3
Total	42	100

Source: Field work, 2021.

Implication:

In the table above, the respondents within the experience range of 1 – 5 years were 24 representing 57.1%. Those at the range of 6 – 10 years were 12 representing 28.6% and those at the range of 10 and above were representing 14.3 percent of the

population. However, the difference in working experience that those at the working age of 1 – 5 years are highly experienced like those in the working experience range of 6 – 10 years and ten and above. Going by the number of staff ranging from ten years back of working experience to date from table five above one will realize that as MTN is

growing older, it creates more job opportunities for the populace.

That private organization do not contribute immensely towards economic developments of a state or nation.

TEST OF HYPOTHESES

Some of the hypotheses formulated are hereby tested. Question 11 and question 15 were used and reproduced.

Variable	Yes	No	Total
Yes	32	-	32
No	-	15	15
Total	32	15	47

Source: Field work, 2021.

Using the formula $X^2 = \frac{(fo-fe)^2}{fe}$

$$fe_2 = \frac{32 \times 15}{47} = \frac{480}{47} = 10.2$$

where $X^2 =$ Chi-square

$$fe_3 = \frac{15 \times 32}{47} = \frac{480}{47} = 10.2$$

fo= Observed frequency

fe= Expected frequency

$$fe_4 = \frac{15 \times 15}{47} = \frac{225}{47} = 4.8$$

$$fe = \frac{rt \times ct}{gt}$$

gt

$$fe_1 = \frac{32 \times 32}{47} = \frac{1024}{47} = 21.8$$

The table indicates the analysis of the statistics below in a contingency table

R-1	fo	fe	(fo-fe)	(fo-fe) ²	$\frac{(fo-fe)^2}{fe}$
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					fe
1-1	32	21.8	10.2	104.04	4.8
1-2	0	10.2	-10.2	104.04	10.3
2-1	0	10.2	-10.2	104.04	10.3
2-2	15	4.8	10.2	104.04	21.7
Total					47.1

Therefore, calculated value = 47.1 and the degree of freedom (df) is

$$df = (r-1) (c-1)$$

$$(2-1) (2-1)$$

$$(1) (1)$$

$$= 1$$

Testing on 5% level of significance position value = therefore, under 0.05 in chi-square table 3.841

Decision Rule

If the calculated value is greater than that critical value, accept the alternative hypothesis and reject the null hypothesis.

Therefore, since the calculated value is greater than the critical value i.e 47.1 , 73.84.

Therefore, reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis that private ones contribute immensely towards economic development of a state or nation.

That Lagos state is not developing economically through private sector participation.

Variable	Yes	No	Total
Yes	32	-	35
No	-	7	7
Total	35	7	42

Source: Field work, 2021.

Using the formula $X^2 = \frac{(fe-fe)^2}{fe}$

$$fe_1 = \frac{35 \times 35}{42} = 29.2$$

$$fe_2 = \frac{35 \times 7}{42} = 5.8$$

$$fe_3 = \frac{7 \times 35}{42} = 5.8$$

$$fe_4 = \frac{7 \times 7}{42} = 1.2$$

The table indicates the analysis of the statistics below in a contingency table

R-1	fo	fe	(fo-fe)	(fe-fe) ²	$\frac{(fe-fe)^2}{fe}$
1-1	35	29.2	5.8	33.64	1.2
1-2	0	5.8	-5.8	33.64	5.8
2-1	0	5.8	-5.8	33.64	5.8
2-2	7	1.2	5.8	33.64	28.03
Total	47				40.83

(1) (1)

Therefore calculated value = 40.83 and the

= 1

degree of freedom (df) is:

Testing on 5% level of significance

df = (r-1) (c-1)

position value = therefore, under 0.05 in chi-

(2-1) (2-1)

square table 3.841

FINDINGS

From the analysis above, that is from the hypothesis tested above, it shows that the hypotheses are accepted and validated as alternative hypothesis rather than the null hypothesis. Because the calculated values outweigh the critical values i.e $47.1 > 3.841$ and $40.83 > 3.841$. Therefore, it should be concluded that private organizations contributes towards economic development of Lagos state.

CONCLUSIONS

This research work has accepted that MTN Nigeria has immensely contributed to the nation's economy at large by means of providing effective and efficient communication system and MTN Nigeria is also very active to its corporate social responsibilities with the aim of empowering the populace economically and improved their standard of living. Clearly, MTN Nigeria Communication Limited must on its part rise to challenges, develop its own

potential, embark on research and development in social responsibility.

The company must support government rather than depend on it. They must improve their effectiveness, build necessary financial and other capability while operating on the basis of best practices in the best societal interest. They should look at pressing issues that border the society or country at large like creating jobs, training of manpower, research on the effects of usage of mobile phones, research on the cancer of the ear and health care with direct bearing on the people unlike most companies in Lagos State who are socially irresponsible.

This research work has indeed attempted an intellectual analysis of the impact or contributions of private enterprises to economic development of Lagos State.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings made from this research, I wish to recommend the following:

- i. Government should ensure stable power supply throughout the country

so that private enterprises can operate effectively and efficiently for a sustainable economic development.

ii. MTN Nigeria must improve its effectiveness by supporting government rather than depending on it.

iii. A clear definition of objectives in terms of social responsibilities so that the populace can easily evaluate whether effective or not.

iv. Placement and promotion of staff in MTN has been based on whom you know and not on merit. This researcher recommends that both placement and promotion be based on merit.

v. That the training programme of MTN Nigeria Communication Ltd should seriously take the junior workers into consideration as it was established that for the past years, the percentage of workers sent for training is poor in

relation to that of those in the intermediate and senior cadre.

vi. Provision of service to the community like getting involved in rehabilitation of a few of many bad roads in Lagos State.

vii. Co-operation with local and state government in development of improved system of environment management and rural development.

viii. Development and sustaining of the national health system.

ix. Improve their high tariffs because around the world where all mobile GSM operators operate, our tariffs in Nigeria are the highest in the world.

x. Also, like other countries of the world where GSM is operated, there are almost or free weekend tariffs for subscribers, depend on how much you load your phone or how much you have talked for the week.

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