

## **Religiosity and Industrialization in Nigeria: Survey Data Evidence based Analysis**

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### **Abstract**

Drive for industrialization has remained the goal of most governments of the world. The Nigerian government on its part has equally pursued this goal since independence. Despite decades of the efforts to achieve this goal, it has remained a mirage. Most analysts have argued that the reason for the non achievement of the goal were lack of political will, corruption, poor policy implementation and monotonous nature of the Nigerian economy. Apart from these, it has been argued at the micro level that the religiosity level of Nigerians affects their perception, acceptance and adopting of modern technologies. Also, it has equally been argued that the religiosity level has affected the drive for value creation and productivity in the country. This means that the level of productivity in the country is influenced by the level of religiosity in the country. The impact of this has remained overwhelming and is evident with the conversion of many previously used premises for production to religious houses. Using primary data of 250 randomly selected Nigerians in the South East, the study focused on the micro level to examine the extent religiosity has affected the drive for industrialization in Nigeria. The result from the analysis showed that to a high level there is religiosity in Nigeria. Also, the level of religiosity to a very high extent has negatively affected industrialization in Nigeria. Based on these the study among others recommends the channeling of the money used for pilgrimage to boost the infrastructural deficiencies in Nigeria.

Keyword: Industrialization, religiosity, industry, modern technology adoption, productivity

### **1 Introduction**

The drive for economic sufficiency has made countries to adopt different economic programmes and policies aimed at achieving economic growth and development. In implementing these programmes and policies, efforts are made by different governments to move away from becoming mere producers of primary goods (raw materials) to setting up of industries which use the primary goods as raw material. It is argued that the growths which are achieved with the development of industries can easily lead to industrialization and economic development. The world over, different efforts are made at different stages to not just develop the industrial sector but to sustain the development. The latter being championed by the developed countries like US, Britain, Japan among others, the developing countries are not left out (UNIDO, 2017). They are making different efforts aimed at developing their industrial sector and achieve industrialization. To achieve this, adoption of modern technology is prioritized because of the increased

productivity it brings (Boddin, 2016). It is believed that through industrialization, economic sufficiency and food security will be achieved.

In Nigeria, the government has adopted different development plans, policies and programmes to achieve industrialization at different times. The notable recent ones being the; National Economic Emancipation Strategy (NEEDS), Vision 2020, 7 Points Agenda, Transformation Agenda (Chete, Adeoti, Adeyinka & Ogundele, 2013). However, none these yielded the desired result. Analysts attribute the inability of these policies to help the nation achieve industrialization to lack of political will, corruption, poor policy implementation and monotonous nature of the Nigerian economy. Away from these, many have argued (though at the micro level) that apart from the level of religiosity level of Nigerians affecting peoples' perception, acceptance and adopting of modern technologies, it has affected the drive for value creation and productivity. Visible evidence in Nigeria shows dominance of religious beliefs over value creation and productivity. This has led to proliferation many religious houses with many of them now using the warehouses or offices of collapsed industries for their religious gathering. Also, the government is not left out of this religiosity behavior. The government both at the federal and state levels spends billions of Naira on over hundred thousand Nigerians for pilgrimage to Jerusalem and Mecca with no economic value or gain. Despite not having any positive impact on the country's drive towards economic development and industrialization, the government continues to engage in this expenditure yearly (Ashiegbu & Achunike, 2014).

It is therefore worrisome that despite the dilapidated nature of our infrastructure and the technological backwardness of the country, the country still engage in such expenditure. This has made the ease of doing business ranking for Nigeria to be abysmal. More so, despite the drive for entrepreneurship development with varying degrees of supports from the governments of other countries, the Nigerian government has continued to sponsor her citizens to pilgrimage at the detriment of her economy. This study therefore examines the extent to which the level religiosity in Nigeria has affected the nations drive towards industrialization.

## **2 Methodology**

This study employed survey research design with a well structured questionnaire to elicit information from randomly selected adults in Enugu state. The age chosen for the study was 18 years and above. The choice of this age range was to ensure the respondents must have finished secondary school education and should be able to understand the effects of religiosity on industrialization. The choice of Enugu state was based on her proximity to Northern Nigeria. The questionnaire had two sections and two clusters. The first section showed captured the personal information of the respondents while the second section captured the level of religiosity and its effect on industrialization. Also, section two has two clusters; the first captured the level of religiosity in Nigeria while the second captured the effect of the level of religiosity in Nigeria affects industrialization. The elicited information were coded and Analysed with STATA. The personal information were answered with percentages while the section two were addressed with

real limit mean. The choice of this method is based on the likert scaled nature of the questionnaire items. The decision for the real limit mean was such that an item with mean of 1 to 1.4 was categorized as Very Low Level/Very Low Extent, 1.5 to 2.4 as Low Level/Low Extent, 2.5 to 3.4 as High Level/High Extent and above 3.4 as Very High Level/Very High Extent.

### 3 Results and Discussions

**Table 1 Personal information of the respondents**

<b>Response options</b>	<b>Frequencies</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
<b>Sex of respondents</b>		
Male	198	79.2
Female	52	20.8
<b>Age of respondents</b>		
18 to 30 years	77	30.8
31 to 40 years	94	37.6
41 to 50 years	49	19.6
Above 50 years	30	12.0
<b>Marital status of respondents</b>		
Single	103	41.2
Married	139	55.6
Divorced/separated	2	0.8
Widowed	6	2.4
<b>Location of residence of the respondent</b>		
Urban	125	50.0
Rural	125	50.0
<b>Religious affiliation of the respondents</b>		
Christianity	182	72.8
Islam	19	7.6
Traditionalist	33	13.2
Others	16	6.4

**Source: Researchers Computation**

From the result on table 1 showed that 79.2% of the respondents were male while 20.8% were female. Also, more than 50% of the respondents were not more than 40 years. More so, 55.6% of the respondents were married. Furthermore, 50% each of the entire respondents came from urban and rural locations. On the religious affiliation of the respondents, 72.8% were Christians while 7.6%, 13.2% and 6.4% were Muslims, Traditionalists and other religious affiliations respectively.

**Table 2 Means, Standard Deviations (SD) and Decisions for the Level of Religiosity in Nigeria**

<b>Level of Religiosity items</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>S D</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Level of government spending for religious purposes.	3.2	0.5	HL
Level government prioritizes religious activities over infrastructure.	3.4	0.6	HL
The society prefer children to become Reverends, Pastors or Imam,	3.7	0.2	VHL
People believe success is based on Gods' plans or hard work.	3.9	0.2	VHL

Religion influences choice of businesses activities people engage in even despite being legal.	2.9	0.8	HL
<b>Cluster summary</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>HL</b>

**Source: Researchers Computation**

Table 2 depicts the level to which religiosity exist in Nigeria. From the result, the items used had mean ranging from 2.9 to 3.9 showing high level and very high level. This means the respondents accepted that to a high level and very high level the items occurred. Also, the result for the cluster mean of 3.4 showed that to a high level religiosity exist in Nigeria. This result was expected considering the way religious matters are being prioritized such that people attribute winning election, doing well in business, getting the right wife among others to the number of times and the men of God they visited as well as their level of donation to religious occasions.

**Table 3 Means, Standard Deviations (SD) and Decisions for the Extent the Level of Religiosity in Nigeria has affected Industrialization**

Extent of effect items	Mean	S D	Decision
Government spends the money that would have been used for development for religious purposes like pilgrimage.	3.8	0.2	VHE
Nigerians have shifted attention to becoming priests/pastors/imams than engaging in businesses.	3.8	0.3	VHE
The proliferation of religious houses has taking up the houses previously used by collapsed industries.	3.9	0.4	VHE
Religious belief influences adoption of modern technologies and innovations	3.7	0.2	VHE
People seek opinion of spiritualists before making investment.	3.2	0.4	HE
<b>Cluster summary</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>VHE</b>

**Source: Researchers Computation**

The result on table 3 showed that the respondents to a very high extent accepted that four of the items occurred. On the other hand, the respondent accepted that the remaining item occurred to a high extent. The result for the cluster mean of 3.7 showed that to a very high extent, religiosity has negatively affected industrialization in Nigeria. This result was expected considering the neglect of the Nigerian government towards putting up the right infrastructure to would propel the nation towards industrialization, they prefer spending money sending Nigerians to Jerusalem and Mecca. On the part of Nigerians, their focus and believe that everything depends on religion instead of hard work.

#### 4 Conclusion and Recommendations

This study examined the extent to which religiosity in Nigeria has negatively affected the Nigerian drive towards industrialization. With industrialization, Nigeria will achieve food security, become self reliant and also avoid her vulnerability to shocks. This is why many governments prioritize industrialization and thereby implement policies that will drive their economies toward it. The same could not be said about Nigeria where the non industrialization of

her economy has made them vulnerable to oil price shock such that the implementation of the nations' 2020 budget is in jeopardy. This study discovered that to a high extent there is religiosity in Nigeria and this religiosity to a very high extent has affected negatively the industrialization of the Nigerian economy. Based on the results, the government should utilize her annual budgetary allocation for pilgrimage for the provision of adequate infrastructure which includes power, good roads, good transportation system among others. The government need to ensure there is rigorous processes to go through before registration of religious organizations and ensure that a minimal number exists in every location. There is equally the need for value re-orientation of Nigerian to ensure their mindset and believe system about religion is changed.

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