

Full Length Research

The Environment, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Developmental State: Confronting the 21th Century Development Challenges in Nigeria

^{1*}Dr. Anthony Rufus & ²Mr. Jonah Sinivie

^{1,2}Department of Political Science, Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State.

*Corresponding author 's E-mail: rufusanthony50@gmail.com, siniviej@gmail.com

Accepted 31 January 2022

The persistence of poverty in Nigeria and the deepening failure of development initiatives have reopened the search for viable development strategies. This is due to the inability of the pro-market changes (SAP) under the Washington consent to take Nigeria out of its economic strangulations and fundamental structural defects. Indices of poverty, inequality, unemployment and environmental degradation have continued to grow worse. Available literature blames it on low technology, poor data system, sequential healthcare worker's industrial actions and Bokoharam insurgency and kidnapping in the south. However, the successes of the developmental states of North East Asia in the achievement of the sustainable development goals has renewed interest in policy circles and academic discourse in replicating the idea of the developmental state in Nigeria. It is based on the above premise that the researcher intends to investigate the place of the state as a key institutional factor in the development process. To achieve this, the study employed the developmental state theoretical model as a tool of analysis with keen interest on state institutions. The approach considers the state as the basic actor in economic growth and development. The study was conducted through a documentary research design. It's purely qualitative. Data was gathered through secondary source while comparative and institutional analysis was used to analyse data. The work showed the impact of state autonomy and its capacity on market growth, stabilization, economic growth and development. This in turn impacts on poverty, wealth creation and environmental conservation/protection especially from the very poorest, who are left with no choice but to destroy the environment. It recommends that the Nigerian state should champion her development policy designs and execution, create a strong, autonomous, small, less expensive, trained and competent state bureaucracy on the basis of merit, build a strong consensus relationship between the state and the market to accelerate economic development and purposeful politics through an effective state capacity and capability expansion. These are recommended as most likely means for the birth of a developmental state. Thus, confronting the 21th century development challenges and by extension achieving the sustainable development goals in Nigeria.

Keywords: Environment, Sustainable Development and Developmental State

Cite this article as: Rufus, A., Sinivie, J. (2022). The Environment, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Developmental State: Confronting the 21th Century Development Challenges in Nigeria. *Int. J. Polit. Sci. Develop.* 10(1): 1-12

INTRODUCTION

There has been a clear interest in academic circles, scholars in development studies, leaders as well as development cooperatives in recent years in the practicality and viability of the concept 'developmental states' for governance situations within the African continent. The debate is linked to the accomplishment of the Asian Tigers economic miracle which was a state-led economic development since the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's and the notion of the 'developmental states', which became the scholarly foundations of their success. The question for African countries is the possibility of imitating the economic and political structure of the Asian Tigers and perhaps copy their achievements to solve her continues development challenges and achieve the sustainable development objectives (Meyns and Musamba, 2010).

Economic problem of the 1980's particularly in Africa, Nigeria inclusive was hinged on the incapability of states to help pilot the helm of economic development and prosperity (Wade, 1990 cited in Ukwandu, 2019). This led to a loud focus that government let-down instead of market failure is liable for the lack of progress and development in the globe (Ukwandu, 2019). By the early 1990's, faithful supporters of capitalism such as the world bank accepted the significant duties of the state in developing extraordinary growth rates and increasing the quality of life of the Asian Tigers. On this note, 'rethinking the state' was the key conversation of the 1997 World Development Report which recognized the central position of states in economic and social development engineering (Hung, 2012). The birth of sustainable development and its goals were built on the podium of states as the driving vigour for the suppression of poverty. This remains the core of development and also at the heart of sustainable development goals. Poverty is most noticeable in least developing societies, where about half of its the populace lives in abject poverty (The United Nations, 2017).

In the context of this study, a developmental state is a state that has shown commitment and capability to chasing nation-wide development with a clearly defined ideological and institutional obligations (Nwapi and Andrews, n: d). It is featured by small, low-cost, autonomous and professional bureaucracy. It has high level state capability, production oriented private sector and political leadership with an ideology of development. Sustainable development is the type of development that takes care of today's needs and also the needs of the future generations (Ogunji and Francis, 2002; Barry and Bass, 2002; Kates, Parris and Leiserowitz, 2005; Godfrey, 2012 and Vienna, 2014). At the core of its meaning is the belief that socioeconomic and ecological objectives should harmonize and co-dependent in the development planning process which entails balancing the socioeconomic and ecological objectives of society

(Emmanuel, 2009). The stimulation and sustainability of economic growth and creation of employment opportunities in the less developing countries would quicken the structural revolution of their economics. And this would be crucial to achieve the sustainable development goals.

More so, the growing indices of poverty, inequality, unemployment and environmental squalor in Nigeria has called for the need to duplicate the developmental state approach in Nigeria. The UN Report states that about 60% of the global 1billion abject poor people lived in just four (4) countries in 2011: India, Nigeria, China, Bangladesh and Democratic Republic of Congo. Also Nigeria contributed highly to more than 42,000 people who were forced to flee their place of abode and seek cover due to yearly conflict in 2014 (Obinna, n: d). This state of affairs is due to her inability to achieve economic growth and by extension sustainable development. Available literatures (Obinna, n: d & Jaiyesimi, 2016) for instance, blame it on low technology, poor data system, sequential healthcare worker's industrial actions and Bokoharam insurgency and kidnapping in the south.

However, in Korea a mounting body of evidence (Denise, 2016 & National Voluntary Review, 2016) highlights the achievement of economic growth and by extension sustainable development goals through strategic and institutional efforts. This success is credited to the National Action Plan initiated by the state with focus on power, water security, gender equality issues, societal welfare, land, climate change and conflict management (National Voluntary Review, 2016). Appropriate ministries responsible for the execution of the sustainable development objectives includes the ministry of foreign affairs, ministry of environment and statistics with emphasis on economy, society and environment (National Voluntary Review, 2016).

It is in view of the above that this study seeks to argue in favour of replicating the ideals of a developmental state to Nigeria's economic and political conditions hindering the achievement of the sustainable development goals. Thus, the paper argues such a replication would present a positive outcome. This would be done by interrogating the role of state as key actor in the development process particularly its ability in mobilizing financial resources to pursue sustainable development goals in Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria has wide human and capital resources still her level of poverty has increased between 1980 to 2005. This means Nigerian conduct of its economic activities is inadequately done (Joseph, 2009). Joseph shares the position that nobody would say Nigeria is properly governed. Also nobody would contest the erroneous ways in which public affairs and its institutions are managed as its contribute negatively to development

processes (Joseph, 2009). The post-colonial leadership in Nigeria has been aware of the need for nation building and development. However, the structural-adjustment and good governance interventions of the 1980's and 1990's were concerned with bringing back the state in Africa. Spearheaded by Bretton woods institutions, the state was seen to be swollen, incompetent, severely managed and shady and the implications of the implementation of the neo-liberal economic reforms programmes (SAP) were negative.

The 1980's popularly called the SAP- inspired decade in Africa are today often known as the 'lost decades'. Thus the recurring poverty cases prompting global givers to necessary sacrifices in form of help programs and debt relief-funded poverty tactics. The general let-down of SAP's and the expanding failure of development programmes and by extension sustainable development goals have renewed the need to pursue a workable growth policies and plans at the last quarter of the 1990s, gave rise to the led to the current developmental state debate in the African continent (Meyns and Musamba, 2010).

In Nigeria, the increasing indices of poverty, inequality, unemployment and environmental squalor has called for the need to replicate the developmental state model in Nigeria. The UN report states that about 60% of the global 1billion exceedingly poor populace lived in four (4) countries in 2011. These countries are India, Nigeria, China, Bangladesh and Democratic Republic of Congo. Worst still, Nigeria contributed immensely to more than 42,000 people who forcefully abandon their homes and seek safety because of yearly conflict in 2014 (Obinna, n: d). This state of affairs is due to her incapability to cultivate the economy holistically and by extension achieve sustainable development. Available literatures (Obinna, n: d & Jaiyesimi, 2016) for instance, blame it on low technology, poor data system, sequential healthcare worker's industrial actions and Bokoharam insurgency and kidnapping in the south.

It is in view of the above that this study seeks to join this debate (Meyns & Musamba, 2010, Osimiri, 2013 & Ukwandu, 2019) in in favour of duplicating the ideals of a developmental state in Nigeria. This would aid in fixing its economic and political conditions hindering the achievement of the sustainable development which has birthed a growing indices of poverty, inequality, unemployment and continues environmental degradation in Nigeria.

Research Questions

- i. How can a developmental state impact on sustainable development in Nigeria?
- ii. What is the impact of developmental state on wealth creation?
- iii. What effect does developmental state have on environmental conservation?

Study Objectives

The wide objective of the study is to investigate how a developmental state can contribute to sustainable development in Nigeria.

- i. To explain the impact of developmental state on poverty
- ii. To explain the impact of a developmental state on wealth creation (economic growth).
- iii. To explain the impact of a developmental state on environmental conservation.

Propositions of the Study

- i. Markets do not exist in isolation of politics.
- ii. Developmental output of any society are largely determined by state organization (politics) and an effective public bureaucracy.
- iii. State capacity influences the rate of economic growth and stability.

Methodology of the Study

The study was done through a documentary research design. The research depended on qualitative methods of data collection through documentary observation (Jashim, 2010) which involves the collection of data from existing materials /documents (books, journal articles, conference proceedings etc.). Data was gathered through the secondary source.

The study used both the comparative and institutional methods of analyzing data. Comparative in the sense that successes and achievements of other states (developmental states) were drawn and shown how such can be replicated in Nigeria. Also, the use of the institutional method was due to the nature of the study. The justification for the use of institutional method of analysis is due to the fact that research questions borders primarily on discourse involving state and its institutions particularly the role of effective and efficient bureaucracy in ensuring economic growth and achieving sustainable development goals in the developmental states.

Conceptual Review

Environment:

There is an overwhelming agreement that the environs are at the heart of development (Ejumudo and Nwador, 2014). However, the concept of environment as explained by Singh (2003) has been seen in diver's perceptions. For example, Bain, sees the environment as all the peripheral and non-personal circumstances and stimulates the well-being of the populace in a given society (Adedeji and Eziyi, 2010). While Akin (2012) sees

the environment includes both living and non-living things happening naturally on earth or some region. Hagget, sees the environment as the totality of circumstances within man's surrounding at a particular point in time (Adedeji and Eziyi, 2010).

Other scholars, Hanes (1980) sees the environment as the totality of elements that influence organisms and include non-living components (Ebiaki, 2016). He further presents a broader view of the environment to include the complexity of physical, social, cultural, economic and technical factors which influences their surroundings and determine their civilization and existence.

However, this paper sees environment from the perspective of Keller who defined it as the "totality of conditions that surrounds a person or a society, these conditions are made up of air, water, climate and landforms. The socio-cultural features such as ethics, economics, aesthetics and such conditions influence the value system affects an individual or a society". (Efobi, 1994 cited in Adedeji and Eziyi, 2010).

This includes continually interrelating groups of physical features and non-physical, living and non-living (e.g. social, cultural, religious, political, economic) features that determines the characteristics, advancement and sustenance of all the elements of the environment and the environment itself (Johnson, 1992 cited in Adedeji and Eziyi, 2010).

A healthy environment is vital to poverty suppression and economic advancement. Rachel Kyte, noted that environmental safety could not be detached from the type of growth the globe wishes to have and that common fortune will hinge on nature and the services it provides. In a world bank report, she noted that 'defending, preserving and advancing the natural resource space is indispensable for sustained economic progress. Lacking clean air, land, food, water, without oceans, the source of life and economic fortune is and will be gone she added (John, 2012). Therefore, the environment is part and parcel of any development initiative and must hence, be considered and incorporated in the planning process.

Sustainable Development

The right to a healthy environment has been the foundation of sustainable development's concept and principles (Nicholas, 1996). However, the concept was decisively presented to the politics of global thinking after the acknowledgment of the connection between economic advancement and environmental sustainability. The growth of its meaning and arrival as a universal challenge was greatly molded by four major conferences; The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972; the establishment of the World Commission on Environment and Development in Rio De Janeiro in 1992 and The Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 (Jonah, 2020). The above conferences brought to

attention the linkage between the quality of the environment and development (Ibaba, 2009).

The Brundtland Report defined sustainable development as the type of development that considers today's needs and also that of future needs (Ogunji and Francis, 2002; Barry and Bass, 2002; Willard, 2010 and Vienna, 2014). However, the capacity to meet the desires of present-day as well as the future generation hinges on our ability to balance all three elements, so that a lone one is not neglected. Petkeviciute and Svirskaitė (2001) sees sustainable development in another perspective to mean the process of economic advancement and institutional structural variations that aids the growth of human potentials (Bronislovas, 2009). This advancement is as a result of facts relating to growth and is seen best through a continuous and stable growth of human makings and capability to shelter government accountability for oneself, the society and generation unborn (Bronislovas, 2009).

However, the wording of the sustainable development goals makes it obvious that for growth to be a continuous process, it has to be a combination of all sides of the three elements of sustainable development which must interface and complement one another. They are socio-economic and environmental pillars. Social sustainability means that harmony, social fairness and fullness are unavoidable for continued economic growth and long-lasting advancement. Social disturbance due to risky contradictions in the principles of living of different segments of the populace-including poverty and all its symptoms-could greatly carry economic growth to standstill and cause the standard of the natural ecology. Ecological continuity implies that the worth and security of the natural environment, as well as positive coping to climate variations, affects the scope for extensive social/growth and economic advancement. Economic continuity on the other hand implies that national-economic and financial steadiness, and also prevention of balance of payments setback are a basic prerequisite for a continuous economic and social advancement. It further means that human and monetary resources must be used in a manner that warrants unending and permanent advancement in the quality of living (The United Nations, 2018).

However, this paper adopts the definition offered by Akpomovie (2011). He sees sustainable development as a development model that creates economic progress but allots its benefits fairly, that renews the environment rather than terminates it, and that empowers people rather than marginalize them (Duru, 2014).

Developmental State

The developmental state is one of the few ideas that rose outside the western world but have expanded in recent times and provided global dispute among scholars, commentators and policy making institutions.

This was showed by the kick off and results reported on the East Asian Economy (World Bank, 1993 cited in Takagi, Kanchochat and Sonobo, 2019). Chalmers Johnson of blessed memory developed the concept 'developmental state to refer to the characteristics of organizational and program structures of the before now fast-growing Japanese economy. The Japanese economy trailed neither state socialism or capitalism and which later stirred a bunch of scholars to discover the region (South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore) and have motivated serious academic research agendas on the developmental state (Takagi, Kanchochat and Sonobo, 2019).

However, the meaning of a developmental state helps us understand more about the beginning of East Asian countries. It further provides a logical model that helps to discover differences among the developing countries in diver's regions (Tagagi, Kanchochat and Sonibo, 2019). The developmental state concept was used by Chalmers Johnson to mean solid interventionist strategies effected by Japan that produced a continued, speedy industrialization and lasting financial growth (Jewellord and Jesse, 2018). On a simple term, a developmental state is a state that has great assurance to trailing nationwide growth with an obviously defined ideological and organizational structure (Nwapi and Andrews, n: d).

Mkandawire (2001) explained two components of a developmental state: one focuses on the ideological angle while the second part is seen from the structural perspective. In his view, the ideological and structural interface makes it different from other forms of states. In ideological perspective, a developmental state is one whose ideological foundations is 'developmental' because it sees its 'mandate' primarily on economic progress, generally understood to refer to great increase and development. States as such has a high ethics of acceptability and capability to stimulate sustainable improvement (Castells, 1992 cited in Mkandawire, 2001).

The country perspective of the meaning of a developmental state explains ability to implement economic strategies successfully and cleverly. Such capability is not independent of other factors which include institutional, technical, administrative and political influences.

This state of affairs is due to the independent nature from other social forces so that it can use its ability to generate sustainable economic policies not checkmated by narrow-minded private attention. The assumption here is that a developmental state must enjoy some 'relative independence' from significant societal groups (Mkandawire, 2001).

The understanding of a developmental state in this paper is centered fundamentally on Mkandawires (2001) definition: a society build on the foundation of development with administrative and political resources tailored in this direction solely for economic advancement (Nwapi and Andrews, n: d).

Theoretical Framework

The study adopts the developmental state approach as a theoretical guide. One of Asia's very important impact to international model and practical aspect in the last century. It provided a framework for the comparative investigation of the East Asian Miracle. The model also provided a global paradigm of how countries can aid in socio-economic advancement (Evan and Heller, 2008). The developmental state model provided a great change in global perspective on the role of the state in economic growth. This arose from the analysis of Asian countries, particularly North- East Asia. (Evans and Heller, 2008).

The late Chalmers Johnson's (1982) explanation of the growth of the Japanese economy in the 1970's was used as a parameter of analyzing the developmental state model (Evans and Heller, 2008; Charlotte, 2008; Meyns and Musamba, 2010; Hung, 2012; Mollaer, 2016 and Jewellord and Jesse, 2018). He used the concept to explain the features of how Japanese public organization were structured and their policy programs that made her economy blossom outside state capitalist and socialist configuration. Thus, he called it a third category of state (Takagi, Kanchochat and Sonobo, 2019).

Johnson used the term to explain powerful interfering policies executed by the Japanese government that produced an enduring, speedy and long-term economic advancement (Jewellord and Jesse, 2018). However, it was the small East Asian countries of Korea, Taiwan and Singapore that became directly linked to the model (Evans and Heller, 2008).

The theory of a developmental state is premised on Ricardian theory, which states that all states are better off in economic specialty. This is well articulated in Richard's theory of comparative advantage (Ukwandu, 2019). The developmental state model is a new approach in developmental studies which dared the leading neo-liberal ideas that the market was the singular element of the miraculous economic success, hence the model was refined to capture the alternative developmental framework (Afolayan, 2014). The model sees the state as an essential tool to the growth process, with the capability and plan to settle issues of market inadequacies, capital lack and inefficiency and lack of cooperation among public and private elites (Jewellord and Jesse, 2018). Several nations with the precise kind of management that followed the policy of developmental state can maximize new wealth and increase the value of their production. For societies to map new routes and move up their production, it needs an effective and efficient state. This is due to the vital role of the state in building the industrialization and growth process of a society as seen the iconic Asian states of Thailand, Singapore and few others (Ukwandu, 2019).

What differentiates a developmental state model from their counterpart's strategy? There is a debate among scholars that a developmental state focuses on

productivity advancement. It relies less on its market size or resources as a driving factor for economic advancement. The rationale behind this situation is because scholars are focused not on simple economic advancement but more on an overhaul political economy in particular countries (Takagi, KanchooChat and Sonibo, 2019). Developmental states do not follow the same direction towards economic growth. A big difference exists in areas of gain among countries.

Countries such as Chile recorded high growth rate thanks to their natural resources. China, Brazil and India on the other hand became economically successful thanks to their large markets while countries like Korea, Singapore and Taiwan became prosperous because of productivity improvements (Takagi, KanchooChat and Sonibo, 2019).

Two variants are identified within the developmental state theory by Benfine (2008): the political school and the economic school. The political school focuses on the nature and character of the state. This is to know and understand the main features of the state, hence, allowing it to be developmental.

The economic school of thought has to do with plans and public policies that generate state public-led industrialization and economic advancement. The political school of thought is focused on state-society interfaces particularly the relationship between public private partnership, giving room for the state to mediate in the market mechanism efficiently. The economic school basically focuses on what plans and policies that would generate developmental goals (Mollaer, 2016). Hypothetically, Evans (1995) came up with the idea of 'embedded autonomy' to demonstrate the relationship politics and economics (Hung, 2012). Evans (1995) who is seen as the foremost character in the political school explained that a developmental state is made up of lucid and bureaucracies based on merit in the core notion as propagated by Max Weber. This means been independent from the powerful groups and pressures from different segments of the society. One outstanding character of a developmental state is its outside interaction joining the public and private. This serves as the collective interface between public and private sector in combination of the inner consistency of a reasonable and a bureaucracy based on merit.

The proponents of the developmental state from the economic viewpoint rely on institutionalist framework of public-society linkage on economic policies propagated by the state and how it promotes industrialization and economic advancement (Mollaer, 2016). Thus, for a state to be referred to as a classic developmental state, it must have engrossed on some issues which includes:

- The state must have a complete attention on high economic advancement, which would involve thoughtful safety of local industries from external competition
- The remolding of the state-society relation. Its

bureaucracy should be based on meritocratic staffing; as opposed to engaging workers on anything other than merit.

The relevance of the developmental state model to this paper stems from the adoption of its helpfulness in the political circumstances in Africa and by extension Nigeria. There is need to rethink the role of the state, learning from the skills (developmental state) and perhaps even imitate what exemplifies their states in order to overcome our recurring developmental difficulties. Hence, the need for a formation of a capable state developmental stat which is crucial for the application of sustainable economic advancement and development with focus on productivity expansions. This a creation of man and can be easily replicated than natural resource availability, abundance and internal markets. By adopting this model, this study intends to explain how state capacity and its interventionist policies can stimulate economic growth and hence reduce poverty, create wealth and conserving our environment against the very poorest who over exploits the it for survival.

Sustainable Development Goals and Developmental State: Confronting the 21th Century Development Challenges.

The Discourse

Literature in development evidently shows that the environment is central to the sustenance and existence of man (Opukri and Ibaba, 2008). Thus, a healthy environment is fundamental to poverty suppression and economic growth (John, 2012). Rachel Kyte (World Bank Vice President), argues that environmental safety could not be disconnected from the type of progress the globe seeks to have. In her words, 'sustainable development is not a choice between poverty abolition and environmental defence. Collective success will hinge on nature and the services it renders' (John, 2012, p:13). She further noted that, 'shielding, preserving and advancing in the natural resources space is indispensable for sustainable economic growth. Deprived of clean air, land, food, water, deprived of healthy oceans, the foundation of life and economic success is and will be gone" (John, 2012, p:14).

Sustainable development is a term that has gained much acceptance in current times. One essential premise for sustainable development is the understanding that environment and development are not separated of one another but are complementary and interdependent and in a long run mutually reinforcing (Ahmad and Samry, 1987 cited in Emmanuel, 2009). Safeguarding the ecosystem is not the only focus of sustainable development but how best societies can maximise natural resources to reduce poverty and promote high quality of living (Aluko, 2004 cited in Emmanuel, 2009). Primary to the meaning of sustainable development is the

notion that social, economic and environmental aspects should be interrelated in the development processes. By implication, it means bringing together socioeconomic and ecological aspects of a given society (Barry and Bass, 2002).

Public reply to environmental harms is one crucial matter of our universal era. During the periods of rapid growth rates of the Asian miracles of Japan (1970), Korea and Taiwan (1980's) and China (currently), their central government parastatals directed, monitored and managed society to the right direction. However, the paradox is that industrial growth produces growth and also hurt the ecosystem. This paradox presents contemporary civilization with a great dilemma. That is, keeping a balance between economic prosperity and ecological safety. The solution to this dilemma lies not only physical growth but serious issues of governance and implementation in complex societies. Some level of public participation in setting guidelines and organizing some other societal actors becomes a necessity (Broadbent, Jin, Yu-ju and Yoo, 2006).

The accomplishment of such objectives would entail a considerable amount of governmental expenditure. Deprived of a vigorous rate of economic growth, all that is attained cannot be sustainable. Both the Development/millennium development goals argue that this is the key motive why some of the major developing countries fell short in achieving the objectives (Charlotte, 2008). Quicker economic growth in the less developed nations is at the core of sweats to accomplish the sustainable development goalmouths. Not only is the occurrence of lack and undernourishment the highest in this group of nations, but the collection of effective policies to overcome these problems (The United Nations, 2018). Some sustainable development goals are important for reference points.

-Goal (1): Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Third world countries have the highest number of people living in abject poverty. The ultimate purpose of ending poverty with the explicit bull to eliminate abject poverty by 2030, must be main locus point of policy creation in less developing nations. Attaining this goal mouth matters for improving well-being, satisfying incomes and aiding peace. It also will reinforce local progress and encourage organisational renovation in less developing nations. To achieve this, productivity growth and employment creation must be enhanced considerably (The United Nations, 2018).

-Goal (8): Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Realising nearly all the sustainable development

objectives involves economic progress at a meaningful speed quicker than in previous times. From 2010 to 2016, average annual GDP growth in Less Developing Countries was 4.8% significantly less the clear sustainable development target of 7%. Accordingly, average annual growth per capita in Less Developing Countries fell from 5% in 2002-2008, to 2.6% in 2012-2017, a pace far too sluggish to reach the resolute sustainable development goals aims, let alone meet up with developed societies (UNCTAD, 2008 cited in The United Nations, 2018). Therefore, good nation-wide development tactics must be powerfully pushed towards a non-stop quickening of result progress. It must also conglomerate productivity intensifications with the making of productive employment prospects and an enlargement of supply capabilities with demand growth (The United Nations, 2018).

Sustainable development identifies that eliminating poverty in all its forms and magnitudes, including extreme poverty, is the utmost international challenge. This is a crucial prerequisite for sustainable development and its objectives. Its target will direct development plans (The United Nations, 2018). Stimulating, non-stop and sustainable economic progress and employment generation in countries like Nigeria and quickening the organisational renovation of her economics, will be crucial to accomplishing the sustainable development objectives (The United Nations, 2018).

How? The Nigerian government can stimulate the course of organizational transformation and decrease her peripheral weakness by selecting suitable strategies. It is also vital that she take the top in her development policy schemes and execution. Hence, the call for developmental state in Nigeria. A developmental state is characterized by small, inexpensive, autonomous and professional bureaucracy, high level state capacity, production oriented private sector and political leadership with an ideology of development. It is these characteristics that become the driving force for development.

For purpose of emphasis, our understanding of a developmental state here is based fundamentally on Mkandawires (2001) definition: a country with an ideological foundation based on growth oriented and keen towards deploying available managerial and political resources to the task of economic advancement. Also, the existence of prospects for citizen's input in the development process is a crucial requirement of a developmental state. While the state itself sets the policy agenda and organise the developmental efforts, it is the citizen's themselves who are to create that development (Nwapi and Andrews, n: d). To achieve sustainable development (environmental, social and economic) in Nigeria, the developmental state scholarship drawing on state interventions in economic growth and environmental sustainability are re-examined here.

Chalmers Johnson's first publication on the

developmental state was majorly concerned with the speed of growth and successful-post-war renovation and development process from 1925 to 1975. Chalmers Johnson projected the term developmental state as a third category outside liberal capitalism and socialism conceptions. According to Johnson (1982:19 cited in Hung, 2012, p: 10) 'in countries that were late comers to industrialization, the state led the industrialization process; that is, it took on economic growth function' The developmental state is a plan-rational system, which is differs from the U S market-rational system. Johnson also emphasizes that the developmental state is different from the command economy which is characterized as a plan-ideological system (Hung, 2012). Johnson makes three point as it concerns the Japanese developmental state.

Firstly, he argues that markets do not exist on their but that they are a making of the state and politics. He further stated that 'spectators coming from the capitalist system most times perceive wrongly the developmental state workings because they fail to see clearly its political undertone rather they see it from the economic viewpoints. The most fundamental component of the developmental state is not its economic plans but rather its capability to make the state economically viable within the confines of capitalist system (Meyns & Musamba, 2010). The market plays an important role in wealth making and by extension poverty reduction. Developmental state literature (Takagi, Kanchochat & Sonobo, 2019) clearly explains the role of market in economic growth citing states like China, Brazil and Chile.

Johnson also noted that the Japanese developmental state model was characterized with a small but low-cost, specialised and well-organized state bureaucracy. In the case of Japan, its Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) was the core piece of Japan's developmental approach, mainly its bureaucratic coordination of the economic processes. Johnson further points to the existence of political circumstances that delivers satisfactory assurance for this pivot agency to retrain a high degree of status, acceptability and authority in nurturing productive ties between the agency and the private sector. This observation is aptly captured in the following remark:

It must be pointed out that the success of the developing state entails that its bureaucracy directing economic growth must be different from all the most powerful interest individuals so that it can set and achieve large range economic targets. (Meyns and Musamba, 2010, p:2).

Finally, the state must ensure that bureaucrats gets its extra right to create state participation in the economic process without destroying market mechanism, i.e. 'perfection of market-conforming means of state interference. Johnson, hence, sees a developmental

state as one that is strong enough to effect the course and rate of economic growth by involving directly in the economic process, rather than depending on the uncontrolled impacts of market mechanism in the allocation of state resources (Johnson 1982 cited in Meyns and Musamba, 2010, p: 2).

Peter Evans (1989) also constructed the two-dimensional meaning of embedded autonomy to demonstrate his debate. He argued that the structure and form of a particular country as reflected in their civil service and its nature of relationship with the powerful forces largely determines the development outcome of a particularly state. He further explained that the state is independent in so far as its civil service cannot be controlled by strong self interest groups outside the state. It is also embedded (state capacity) in so far as the state has the ability to preserve close relationship with powerful interest groups with the sole purpose of assigning and imploring available resources input need in the advancement process (Evans 1989 cited in Meyns and Musamba, 2010). Validating Johnson's point on the basic function of an able and bureaucracy based on merit system, he added that the efficacy of a developmental state is hinge on a bureaucratic system build on merit. It also has a sense of exceptionality and a thick sense of organization linked with the private sector. The capability of the state is very important in maintaining the link between the public and private sectors in bringing about the developmental duties of the state (Evans, 1989 cited in Meyns and Musamba, 2010). With regard to this capacity, he wrote

The emblematic link between the public and private capital is seen in the fact that the state has contact to capital in a capital rare environment. Through its capacity to distribute capital, the state inspires consciousness of economic stimulus in its hands and aggressively (Evans, 1989 cited in Meyns and Musamba, 2010, p; 10).

Adrian Leftwish introduction of the primary of politics in the developmental state economic advancement based his thoughts on political consideration. He highlighted that politics is the main factor which defines the nature of a developmental state, its developmental results or inability in all human societies. In his words, 'development is inescapably political'. As he puts it.... the clarification for the diverse expansion capabilities and chronicles of third world democracies turns critically on the key role of politics in influencing the personality and capability of the country'. In his opinion, suitable politics in the sense of background, changes and movement have been important in moulding the configuration of developmental state, their developmental goals as well as their inspiring show (Leftwish, 2000 cited in Meyns and Musamba, 2010).

According to Leftwish (Musamba, 2010) the genesis and positioning of a developmental state is made possible by the following factors emergence and consolidation of a developmental state is conditioned by the following major factors:

- 1- Developmental state is administered by leaders which is developmentally-concerned and which validates great assurance and zeal in reaching economic growth. The country must have adequate ability to effect, guide and set the terms of procedure for private capital.
- 2- The developmental state is administered by an influential, specialised, very capable, insulated and career based bureaucracy.
- 3- Every developmental state possesses great capability for effective economic organization of both internal and external private economic concerns (leftwish, 2000 cited in Meyns and Musamba, 2010).

Scholars (Meyns and Musamba, 2010 and Jewellord and Jesse, 2018) have argued that an effective developmental state must have the ability to stabilize capitalist and state intrusions. The private sector creates more jobs and constitute the basis for well-organized resource distribution as result of market forces. However, the persistence of poverty and growing environmental difficulties proposes that the market instruments unaided cannot be depended upon for an economically, socially and environmentally sound development process towards attaining the sustainable development objectives. The latter needs harmonising the creative changes in the private segment with a developmental state that is planned to complement private initiative, not to replace it (LDCR 2009:1 cited in The United Nations, 2018, p: 6)

How is this done? The developmental state involves government policies to back market forces, encourage economic action and guide the economy to results that profit the nation as a whole not overlooking the role of the environment. The case of the Petroleum Industry Bill in Nigeria is used as a reference point here. This is because the bill fails to clearly address the environmental challenges and its impact in the Niger Delta region. Ordinarily, the petroleum industry bill should be used as a tool of environmental protection and punishment of criminal pollutants within the Nigerian State. However, no real answers are being provided to this problem. Hence, it is seen as an inadequate policy for environmental management due to its incapability to provide strict criminal drawback sanctioning oil contamination and gas flaring (Chukwuemeka, 2018). This changes sharply from the developmental state of South Korea.

The Republic of Korea's green growth policies have changed the way the country has confronted its environmental challenges. Stimulating the idea that economic development and environmental protection are

interlinked and that safeguarding human ecology can become a major stimulus for economic growth. Hence, recognizing environmental limits in policy making (United Nations, n: d). Development policies must take into cognizance that environmental protection is the basis for sustainable development. Hence, efforts must be focused in protecting natural resources and safeguarding ecosystems (Denise, 2016). Also, there have been a massive expansion in the use of renewable energy in China and Japan. Installed capacity of solar and wind energy accounted for 33% of global capacity (640GW) in 2015. In considering the world-wide scale of the sub-region's GHG emissions and climate mitigation technology, it may be seen that the East and North Asia have a significant role to play in aiding the fight against global climate change (The United Nations, 2017).

It is due to the above that the developmental state performs the function of both an earner and aimed civic services. They also act as guide as it helps to stimulate suitable incentives and disincentives for non-governmental sectors. Lastly, the state performs economic functions by herself particularly in sectors where the non-governmental sectors seems weak. It also comes in where local entrepreneurship is fragile or non-noticeable and where missing activities in key economic areas in the sub-structure of the local economy (The United Nations, 2018).

By and large, a successful developmental state comprises a non-stop scholarship by programme architects about the plans and organizations that can best couple the chase of private profit to produce national developmental vision. More so, the idea of the developmental state suggests. Interdependence of socioeconomic plans. Economic renovation unavoidably has consequences on social structures and social acceptance. The continuity of the system thus needs affirmative policies aimed at social togetherness. Hence, it is a *sin-qua-non* that sweats to reinforce the legal, administrative and regulatory frameworks for structural renovation do not generate excessively tedious bureaucratic processes that slows the motivation to invest and initiate productive activities (The United Nations, 2018).

Lastly, substantial investment in education is utmost for the sustenance of state capability as it builds the ability for citizens to add to economic development. No amount of money can be compared to the human capital. In this regard, Sen (Evans, 2008) argued that we must evaluate development in terms of the enlargement of the competences of the people to live the kind of lives they desire- and have reason to value. Sen's focus on welfare as the lively exercise of capabilities dovetails effortlessly with insights of the 'New Growth Theory'. The New Growth Theory explains importantly a society's ability to create necessary goods and services it desires and above all, on the basis of its citizen's abilities.

The Asian Tigers were forerunners in capability

growth, well-known for their great investment in human capacity building. They started their eras of enhanced economic progress with massive investment in education that made them outliers for countries with the same economic levels continuously in the enlargement of education throughout the period of their quick growth overtime, they became even more involved in capability expansion, building for example, more inclusive systems for provision of health care (Evans, 2008).

The point of emphasis is that the increase in human ability is both the basic solution and at the heart of every development goal. Logically, it implies that the gratification of capability expansion services and growing their source should be a development focus. However, in reality, capability- expanding services like health and education are less-supplied as well as being poorly paid. The debate here is that state capacity is the conduit between market rationality and the demands of the 21st century development. When the 20th century state focused on industrial transformation, the search for private profits complemented state capacity. Once capability growth becomes the basis of the development programme, private capital is no longer a dependable ally (Evans, 2008).

To produce actual state-society relations, the state must aid the organization of counterparts in 'civil society. Just as the 20th century development states assisted the industrial elites into a more coherent class, a capability-expanding state must do the same for a wide cross-section of society. Embeddedness must aid communities to build shared goals whose concrete execution can then be co-produced by government agencies and the communities themselves. Without actual, hostile action by entrepreneurial public institutions, citizens of the south will be impotent to realize their probable productivity and enjoy the levels of well-being that the 21st century economy is capable of providing. Human well-being becomes both the goal and driver of development. 20th century developmental states brought state capability to the front of developmental debates. A focus on capability expansion ensures that it will stay there (Evans, 2008).

CONCLUSION

The quality of the environment occupies the fore of economic development which is tailored towards improving the standard of living of the people through poverty eradication. Poverty eradication occupies a key place in both environmental and development discourse. However, the persistence of poverty crisis in Nigeria particularly in the 1980's birth the SAP-inspired decades places emphasis on the Washington census of economic/market liberalization with no positive result plunging the economy into more woes. Hence, the call of a developmental state in Nigeria (plan-rational economy) to regulate and stabilize the market. By so doing, creating jobs by directly intervening in the economy through a

state strong bureaucracy to tackle poverty. By so doing, creating wealth and conserving the environment from the very poorest who sees the environment as their only means of survival and sustenance. This serves as the core of sustainable development discourse located within the context of the state institutions as its major driver.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are recommended below based on the findings of the study.

- Building a strong relationship between the government(state) and the market (private) to accelerate economic development. This can be achieved by a strong link between government bureaucracy and the business class. Thus, creating wealth, reducing poverty and safeguarding the environment from been overexploited.
- The state should drive the will of her development policy designs and execution.
- Creating a strong, autonomous, small, inexpensive, professional and efficient state bureaucracy on the basis of merit. This automatically reduces the cost of government and makes room for more investment into capital projects. This would to create employment and thus reduce people dependence on the environment.
- Purposeful politics. Development driven politics among elites.
- Building an effective state capability.
- Expanding the capacity of citizens through quality education, skills and a comprehensive health care system since human is both the goal and driver of development.

REFERENCES

- Afolayan, G.E (2014) Debating Developmental States in Africa: Reflections on Culture and Civil Society in Botswana. Researchgate.com
- Akin, A (2012) Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection in Adedeji (edt) Sustainable Development, Clean Technology and Environment Sustainability International Conference on Sustainable and Environmental Protection.
- Adedeji, D & Eziyi, O. I (2010) Urban Environmental Problems in Nigeria: Implications For Sustainable Development. Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa. Vol. 12. No. 1
- Barry, D.C & Bass, S (2002) Sustainable Development Strategies. A Resource Book. The International Institute for Environment and Development.
- Bronislovas, M (2009) The Concept of Sustainable Development and its use for Sustainability Scenarios. The Economic Conditions of Enterprise Functioning
- Broadbent, J, Jin, J, Yu-ju, C and Yoo, E (2006) Environmental States Limits: Regime Response to Environmental Activism in Japan, Taiwan, South Korea

- and China.
- Chukwuemeka, C.E (2018) The Petroleum Industries Bill; a Deficiency Policy for Environmental Management in Nigeria's Oil and Gas Sector. *Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation*. Vol. 2, Issue 2
- Duru, C.U (2014) *Environmental Degradation: Key Challenge to Sustainable in the Niger Delta*. Walden Dissertation and Doctoral Studies. Scholarworks@waidenu.edu
- Denise, Y (2016) *Starting Strong on the SDGs in Asia: Readiness in South Korea*. Institute for Global Environmental Strategies.
- Evans, P & Heller, P (2018) *The State and Development*. United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research. Wider.unu.edu
- Evans, P (2008) 'In Search of the 21st Century Developmental States'. The Centre for Global Political Economy. University of Sussex, Working paper. NO. 4
- Ebiaki, O (2016) *Socio-Economic Effects of Oil Exploration and Extraction in Oporoma, Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State*. A Research Project.
- Emmanuel, O (2009) *Forestry for Sustainable Development in Nigeria*. *International Journal of African Studies*. Pp. 11-16
- Ejumudo, K.B.O & Nwador (2014) *Environmental Management and Sustainable Development in Nigeria's Niger Delta*. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*. Vol. 5. NO. 15
- Godfrey, L (2012) *What Does Sustainability Means?* Googleweblight.com
- Hung, H.P (2012) *The Developmental State, the Evolving International Economic Order and Vietnam*. A Thesis Submitted to the University of Birmingham for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Department of Political Science and International Studies.
- Ibaba, S.I (2009) *Violent Conflicts and Sustainable Development in Bayelsa State*. *Review of African Political Economy*. Vol. 36. NO. 122
- Jewellord, N.S and Jesse, S.O (2018) *The Theory and Practice of Building Developmental States in the Global South*. *Third World Quarterly*. Vol. 39, NO. 6
- Jaiyesimi, R (2016) *The Challenges of Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa: The Way Forward*. *African Journal of Reproductive Health (Special Edition on SDGs)*, 20(3).
- Jashim, U. A (2010) *Documentary Research Methods: New Dimensions*. *Industrial Journal Of Management Social Sciences*, 4(1): 1-14
- John, P (2012) *Environmental Degradation Holds Back Growth, Says World Bank* climatechange.com
- Jonah, S (2020) *Non-Oil Related Environmental Degradation and Sustainable Development in Bayelsa State*. An M.Sc Thesis Submitted to the Department of Political Science, Niger Delta University.
- Joseph, R (2009) *Economic Transformation and Developmental Governance in Nigeria: The Promise of the Obama Era*. Business Day. Brookings.edu
- Kates, R.W, Parris, T.M and Leiserowitz, A.A (2005) *What is Sustainable Development? Goals, Indicators, Values and Practice*. *Journal of Science and Policy for Sustainable Development*. Vol. 47
- Mkandawire, T (2001) *Thinking About Developmental States in Africa*. *Cambridge Journal of Economics*. Vol. 25 (3).
- Mollaer, O (2016) *Developmental State: A Theoretical and Methodological Critique*. *Bulletin of Economic Theory and Analysis*. Vol. 1, No. 1-2
- Meyns, P & Musamba (2010) *The Developmental State in Africa. Problems and Prospects*. Institute for Development and Peace.
- Nwapi, C & Andrews, N. A (N: D) *A New Developmental State in Africa? Evaluating Recent States Interventions Vis-à-vis Resource Extraction in Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda*. Vol 13, No. 2
- National Voluntary Review (2016) *Year One of Implementing the SDGs in the Republic of Korea: From a Model of Development Success to a Vision for Sustainable Development*.
- Nicholas, A. R (1996) *Evolving Legal Principles for Sustainable Development in Steven (edt) Principles of Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Development: Summary and Survey*. A study in the Field of International Law and Related International Reports, Prepared for the Earth Charter Project.
- Ogunji, J. O & Francis, L (2010) *Fish Production, Sustainable Development and the Aquatic Environment*.
- Opukri, C.O & Ibaba, S.I (2008) *Oil Induced Environmental and Internal Population Displacement in the Nigeria's Niger Delta*. *Journal of Sustainable Development In Africa*, Vol.10, No.1
- Obinna, O. O & Simon, D.T (n:): *Before Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): Why Nigeria Failed to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*.
- Osimiri, P (2013) *An Ethical Critique of Neo-liberal Development in Africa*. *Covenant Journal of Politics and International Affairs*. Vol. 1, No. 1
- Takagi, Y, Kanchochat, V and Sonobo (2019) *Developmental State Building: The Politics of Emerging Economy*. *Emerging Economy State and International Policy Studies*. <http://hdi.hnadle.net/104/193996>.
- The United Nations (2018) *Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in the Least Developed Countries*. A Compendium of Policy Options. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
- United Nations (2017) *Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in East and North East Asia*. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- Tokpo, C.E (2020) *Restructuring Without Democratization": Interrogating the Federalism - Development Questions in the Niger Delta*. Ph.D.

Dissertation presented to the Department of Political Science, Niger Delta University
Ukwandu, D.C (2019) South Africa as a Developmental State. Is it a Viable Idea? School of Public Management, Governance and Public Policy. University of Johannesburg South Africa.
Vienna, (2014) Theory to Practice: The Scope, Purpose and Practice of Pre-Feasibility Studies for Critical Resources in the Era of Sustainable Development. Alett Group.

Woodall, B (2014) The Development of China's Developmental State: Environmental Challenges and Stages of Growth. <https://www.chinacenter.net>