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**MATRIC NO: CSC/15/4042**

**COURSE CODE: CSC 507**

**THE FUTURE EFFECT OF TECNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT IN THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY**

Technology is slowly creeping into the Nigeria’s untidy economy. Today’s technology is way beyond the scope of what anyone in the past would have imagined. So many of us are intimately familiar with this technology advancement we order rides (Uber) through an app, we also by airtime on A.T.M or our bank application etc. On the other hand Nigeria today is recognized as the economic giant of Africa, a country with the human material resources to shame others but deep down still lags behind in technology adoption. Recognizing the Factors Affecting Nigeria’s Technological Growth Recognizing issues that are responsible for the problem of technological growth is strategic to attainment of technological emancipation Nigeria deserves. The factors affecting Nigeria’s technological growth can be grouped into two, namely, internal and external factors

**External Factors**

Negative Influence Posed by Our Colonial Masters: The British came to Nigeria among other reason, for economic reason- as a ready market for their sprits, daneguns, mirrors and other goods. Before the advent of colonialism Nigerians were involved in many aspects of industrial and practical arts. They made their own hoes and other implements for farming, etc. According to the colonialists discouraged further development of Nigerian technology as they reasoned it was a threat to the smooth marketing of goods imported from Europe. He went further to assert that “ogogoro” was termed illicit gin by the colonialists, and whoever was caught producing, marketing, or consuming it was frustrated.

Relegation of Indigenous Knowledge: The advent of modern technology is largely thought by many agricultural experts to have impeded the development of local and indigenous knowledge in the fields of agriculture in Nigeria. The usefulness of this indigenous knowledge (technology) is however all encompassing as it is the basis for agriculture, health care, food preparation, education, environmental conservation and a host of other activities. This in essence means that indigenous technology is the basis of modern technology and should not have been relegated.

**INTERNAL FACTORS**

Taking an inward look it has been acknowledged that the attainment of technological growth will depend on the development of strategic industrial policy structure and infrastructural base for the implementation of such policy for global economic competiveness. This will in turn require the development of efficient, accountable, transparent, and participator. High Index of Corruption Nigeria ranks highly in the Corruption Perception Index. This has implication for investment and the flow of foreign investment into the country. Previous anti-corruption policies implemented  in  Nigeria  have  been  targeted  at  enforcement measures  rather  than  addressing  the  root  causes.  The  root causes  of  corruption  in  Nigeria  have  been  identified  to include social insecurity and  over-centralization of  resources at the center.  Even  though  there  are  suitable  laws  and  viable institutions  to  fight  corruption  in Nigeria, the greatest challenge is in formulating a strategic plan of action to deal with the root cause.

**Evidences of Lack of Technological Growth in Any Nation**

Any nation can be seen as suffering from effect of lack of technological growth when viewed against the following checklist.

(1) Is the nation able to produce heavy duty equipment such as tractors, lathe machines, drilling machines, cars, trains, and other equipment for executing her capital projects?

(2) Is she having the technological knowhow to explore and exploit her natural environment or rather depends on foreign technology and expertise to undertake the exploitation of her natural environment?

(3) Does she export her unfinished products to other countries abroad?

(4) Is she dependent on other countries for the supply of her spare parts for industrial machinery?

(5) Is her agriculture mechanized or crude implements are still used for agricultural activities by a large percentage of those who are involved in agricultural production?

(6) Is she able to produce her own military hardware with which to defend herself if the need arises?

**Recommendations for the Way Forward for Technological Advancement**

This section outlines the various recommendations, representing a careful research output for the way out of the present technological quagmire evident in the country. The following recommendations provide the way forward for the technological growth of this nation Nigeria.

1) Increase Funding for Our Research and Development Institutes To reverse the trend of technological backwardness, Nigeria has to learn from other countries who allocate high percentage of their GDP for research and development (R&D).  A good number of research institutions in Nigeria are not adequately funded. This implies a setback to the effectiveness of research work. According to  Ngozi  Okonjo-Iweala,  as  cited  by  Isioto Nte, expenditure  by  20  percent  annually,  since  1999.  China now accounts for 12 percent of global R&D expenditure, spending nearly 5 percent of its budget (or 1.76 percent of GDP) in 2010 on the sector.  Let’s compare this to Nigeria.  The Nigerian Engineer, revealed that over the past decade, government’s S&T expenditure has been less than 2 percent of the yearly budget (less than 0.3 percent of GDP per year) – a grossly  inadequate  figure.  Nigeria’s highest allocation figure was 0.43% in 1983, which went down to 0.05% in 1992 and 0.23% in 2003. This is very sad for a sector intended to research into areas that will enhance development in the country.

2) Invest into the Educational Infrastructural Facilities Investing into the educational infrastructural facilities is investing for the future growth and development of our children and by extension, investing for the future growth and development of technology. If our students cannot do basic practical how can we aspire to a technological breakthrough? It is therefore imperative that for us to overcome the problem of technological backwardness, we (the public and private sectors) must invest monumental resources towards upgrading our educational infrastructures