Global Financial Meltdown: An overview on the effects of the Ban on Commercial Motorcycles in the North-Eastern States of Nigeria

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Abstract **- Socio-economic development is an indispensable part of an individual's livelihood. This paper critically analyzed the socio-economic effect on the ban of commercial motorcycles in the North Eastern States of Nigeria. Data were collected through questionnaire, interview and observation. Statistical and non-statistical methods of data analysis were employed. Hypothesis was tested using Pearson's product correlation coefficient. It was recommended that government should establish Youth Training Centre and the creation of entrepreneurial atmosphere for the unemployed to tackle any form of economic recession.**

KEY WORDS: commercial motorcycle, North Eastern States, socioeconomic status, Achaba.

I. INTRODUCTION

Commercial motorcycles had been an occupation that employed a great number of our Youths in not only the North Eastern States but also in the country as a whole.

"Poverty has been identified as a persistent economic problem in the economy of Nigeria for more than three decades, today hundreds of people are riding or involving in commercial bike for means of survival or to sustain livelihood (Abdussalam and Wahab, 2014).[12]

Before the emergence of commercial motorcycle in the North – East, a lot of people have engaged in various types of occupation, ranging from truck pushing, and water selling and carrying loads by donkeys, etc. It is believed that in the early 1990s people of the North Eastern States began to engage in commercial motorcycles as a step forward to the above mentioned occupations.

Many truck pushers pooled their resource together and purchased motorcycles, Married women at home sold their property, or engaged in either monthly or weekly contributions in order to buy motorcycle for business purposes. Similarly, some civil servants bought motorcycles and gave it out to youth in order to consolidate their incomes.

A survey made by the chairman of the registered commercial motorcycles riders association discovered that in the early 2012,[5] the registered commercial motorcycle riders in each Local Government of any of the three States exceeded 1500. These numbers did not include those that were not a part of any registered associations or those that often came from neighbouring villages. As such, youth are very much employed by this trade this indeed, has not only brought about a bloom economy to the North - Eastern States but also a stable social co-existence. Spare parts dealers made a regular stock replacement even motorcycle repairers are always looking for a new apprentice as helping hands. Vulcanizers are always "as busy as ants". The economy is experiencing a rapid growth; youths are busy engaging in business activities. However, on Wednesday, 12/3/2011, a statement signed by the special adviser to the Yobe State Governor on Public Affairs and Information Abdullahi Bego, on banning commercial motorcycle paralyzed the economy as put forward by Hajiya Aishatu, a food seller. She argues that (Yan-Achaba) commercial motorcycle riders buy food from her restaurant. This enables her to sell within a short time. The ban of this occupation made her sell less food. Owing to this, she reduced the quantity of what she cooked each day.[8]

Malam Usman Muhammad zonal social welfare officer, Nguru when interviewed confirmed "that a lot of matrimonial cases are on the increase; Hitherto, the reason is attributable to the ban of commercial motorcycle. He justified his claim by asserting that "it is common to receive a family social case work relating to "No feeding" or absence of the provision of some basic necessities of life. It is therefore, very often to hear a report of a postponement of a date of marriage or a complete termination of the whole contract."

Similarly, to overcome the challenges of insecurity of lives and property in the state and end the serial attacks and killings by suspected Boko Haram sect members, the Borno State Government has banned all motorcycles from plying the roads and street of Maiduguri metropolis and Jere councils of the States with immediate effect. Governor Kashim Shettima of Borno announced.[15]

Furthermore, as part of measures to contain the messy security situations in Adamawa, the State Governor has banned the operation of commercial motorcycle in seven Local Government Areas. On November 4th, 2014 a statement by Phineas Elisha, the Director Press and Public Affairs to Governor Bala Ngilari, urged the public and the security operatives to ensure compliance.[14]

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

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Many communities in the North Eastern States rely on commercial motorcycles as a source of their livelihood. The paper investigates the extent to which the ban on commercial motorcycle influences the broader economic position of these communities, and as a result had an effect on their social status.

The purpose of undertaking this research work is to analyse the effect of the ban on commercial motorcycles on job creation, sustenance of livelihood and economic growth in North Eastern States of Nigeria.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the socio economic status commercial motorcycle riders.

2. To find out whether the ban on commercial motorcycle increased poverty.

HYPOTHESIS

H_o The ban on commercial motorcycles affects the socio economy of the riders.

H_i The ban on commercial motorcycles did not affect the socio economy of the riders.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

As parts of its effort to end security challenges rocking the area, diploma holders engaged by the Yobe State under the Youth Empowerment Programme, initiated to address the problems of unemployment, have started collecting their monthly allowance of 15000 Naira per month.

The programme which absorbed over 6700 diploma holders last October in what Geidam(2012) administration deemed a significance step in addressing the problems of idleness among Youths, which is seemed as a potential thread to the security of the State.

The chairman of the committee set up to coordinate the payment of allowances to the beneficiaries Machina (2012) said,"6,751 Youth are currently being paid their November allowances. State Head of Service, stated that also 4000 of the beneficiaries will be engaged in teaching at primary schools, adding that the National Teachers Institute (NTI) has been brought by the state government to train and prepare the beneficiaries for a carrier in teaching at the primary school level. [8]

Similarly, to address poverty and unemployment among youths in Yobe State, the State Government plans to establish a Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in Damaturu, the State capital to train a minimum of 5000 unemployed Youths. The training will centre will be named "Youth Empowerment Training Centre" (YETS), and served the neighbouring states in the North – East geographical zone of the country.

The commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Bularafa(2012) said" the establishment of (YETS) can also serve the neighbouring states of the North – East region of the country. The commissioner also said "the establishment of YETS will also reduce the cost of training of Youths and generates revenue to the government". "If we established it in Damaturu, definitely, indigenes from neighbouring states of Borno, Taraba, Bauchi and Gombe will send their Youths to train here; thereby reducing the number of unemployed Youths and at the same time generate more revenue to the government "remarked Bularafa [8]

Geidam (2011) maintained that 5000 unemployed Youth were trained on viable productive skills and trade such as carpentry, computer studies, fashion design, furniture making, and electrical installations and handsets repairs at the General Sani Abatcha Institute of Youth Development Centre, Kano. [8]

Motorcycle ban creates curfew in Maiduguri. Adamu (2011) a fruits vendor who operates along Baga road says" in Maiduguri and its environs like in other urban areas in Nigeria, motorcycles, now is the most juicy poverty alleviation components used by the general populace".

Similarly, in Borno State (2011) In place of the banned motorcycles, the state government immediately distributed 5,000 tricycles to commercial motorcycle operators at subsidized rates. It has also ordered and distributed over 100 new commuter buses, which are now plying the Maiduguri metropolis.[6]

Effect of unemployment

Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa, and the eight most populous nations in the world with a population of 154,729,000 citizens (census2006). Our nominal GDP was worth 568.51 billion US Dollar as in 2014. The GDP value of Nigeria represents 0.92 percent of the world economy. However, as in 2015, due to the negative real growth rate in the oil sector, Nigeria's GDP growth rate decline further to 3.86%, James (2015). Yet, it is still plague by Youth unemployment which has been one of our major problems in recent years.[10] [11]

Various crimes and social vices has been on the increase on the recent years, this include prostitutions, internet scam, political violence, kidnapping, militancy, drug trafficking, armed robbery etc. The continuous existence of these vices has been linked to the scarcity of jobs in Nigeria. These vices have negative effect on the country, because they have been the fear of most foreign investors, and they also giving the country a bad name. The following are some of the effect of unemployment of Youths.

1. **Prostitution:** Lack of employment opportunities motivates others to adopt this profession. Everybody in the society have basic needs that are so pressing, and therefore, need to be met. However, when one has no positive means of achieving them, one will then deviate and seek an "innovative" means to achieve them.

2. **Armed robbery:** it is believed that those who enlisted themselves in this kind of profession often fall in the

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category of the unemployed. Good employment opportunities will curtail the problem of armed robbery in every part of the world.

3. **Drug addiction:** when drugs are taken without doctor's advice, it is called drug abuse. However, addiction normally arises when a feeling is maintained for using a drug constantly in such a way that no activity will be carried out without the influence of such drugs.

4. **Political violence:** a lot of Youth converge during political rally or elections in order to bring tension and chaos. The vast majority of such Youths are not employed; as such they are being dictated by the power hungry politicians to do their biddings.

5. **Internet scam:** computer literates' moves around the web looking for data that will enable them steal information they will use to their advantage. Such information will be either in a form an account with its pin code or a credit card number etc, so as to steal money or other valuable information.

6. **Kidnapping:** this is one of the most important issues that need to be tackled ones and for all. The problem of kidnapping has paralyzed the economy. Recently, the mother of the minister of finance and the father of the super eaglet's and Chelsea football club player was also a victim of such atrocity.

Similarly, some expatriate workers in the petroleum sectors together with their civil engineers have been kidnapped some weeks ago and a demand for ransom was put forward by the kidnappers.

7. Militancy: the issue of militancy is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. The militant carries sophisticated weapons and make a serious attack on innocent citizens. This has been witnessed in Niger – Delta region recently, and some other parts of Nigeria. This has a serious effect not only on the community economy but also has a global financial meltdown concomitant repercussion.

Socio – economic condition of the people under study is basically from the lower SES. Research has shown that children who were born in lower SES households have weaker language skills compared to children raised in higher SES households. These language skills affect their abilities to learn and thus exacerbate the problem of education disparity between the lower and higher SES neighborhood. APS (2012). [2] Factors attributable to these are the followings:

1. "Occupational: prestige is one of the components of SES, encompasses both income and educational attainments. Occupation status reflects the educational attainments requires to obtain the job and income levels that vary with different jobs and within ranks of occupation. Additionally, it shows achievements in skills required for a job. Occupational status measures social positions by describing job characteristics. Decision - making ability, control and psychological demand on the job. [9]

2. Health: recently, there had been increasing interest from epidemiologists on the subjects of economic inequality and its relation to the health of the population. There is a very robust correlation between socio economic status (SES) and health. This correlation suggests that it is not only poor who tend to be sick when everyone is healthy. But there is a continuous gradient from the top to the bottom of the socio economic ladder, relating to status to health. This phenomenon is often called the "SES GRADIENT ". Lower socio economic status has been linked to chronic stress, heart disease, ulcers, type 2 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, certain types of cancers and premature aging, Wilkinson (2009). [16]

There is a debate regarding the cause of the SES Gradient. Some number of researchers (Leigh, .Jencts, and. Clarkwest). See also Russell Sage working paper. Similarly, see also a definite link between economic status and mortality due to the greater economic resource of the wealthy, but they find little correlation due to social status difference.

3. psychological: a study published in the December 2008 issue of psychological science found that" children of parents with a higher socio – economic status tended to express more disengagement behaviors than their less fortunate peers". In this context, disengagement behaviors represent actions such as fidgeting with other objects and drawing pictures while being addressed, tended to make more eye contacts, head nods and signs of happiness when put in to an interactive social environments. All these hypothesized that the more fortuitous poor felt less inclined to gain rapport with their groups because they saw no need for their assistance."[4] [13]

IV. METHODOLOGY

The aim is to use a scientific method of investigation. For the purpose of this study, the researchers employed the survey method. According to Nworgu (1991)[3] and Abubakar(2005) [1] survey research focused on people, the vital facts of people, their believes, opinions, attitudes, motivation and behavior. The researchers asked for the opinion of the respondents on the ban of commercial motorcycles as it affects their community economic positions. The reasons are to discover the empirical problems being faced for that with a view to finding a solution to such menace.

The population of the study consists of 11,100. This is defined as the finite and infinite collection of object under study, Akuezuilo (1993) [7] the sample size stood at 1500 which is obtained through simple random sampling technique.

Structured questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection.

The sample of registered commercial motorcyclists in the North East is tabulated below: -

Figure: 1

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Gashu'a	*Nguru*	*Mubi*	*Maiduguri*	*Damaturu*	*TOTAL*
1700	1500	2000	2900	3000	11,100

Discussions of findings:

Pearson's' product moment correlation coefficients could be used to test the hypothesis. A decision rule will form the basis for the acceptance or rejection of the null hypothesis (Ho).

The presentation and analysis is based on the questionnaire administered. Out of 94 issued out to the respondents, 88 were retrieved.

Figure: 2

S/NO	YES	%	NO	%
1	78	88.6%	10	11.4%
2	74	85%	13	15%
3	58	66.7%	29	33.3%
4	66	78.6%	18	21.4%
5	33	38.4%	53	66.6%
6	32	38.6%	51	61.4%
7	30	39.5%	46	60.5%
8	37	44%	47	56%

Source: Field Survey, 2015 by the researchers

The researchers have established a relationship between Yes/No using Pearson's Product Correlation Coefficient, employing both mean deviation and raw methods as - 0.99 which mean the degree of relationship is negatively high.

H1 The ban on commercial motorcycles affects the socio economy of the rider.

H0 The ban on commercial motorcycles did not affect the socio economy of the rider

DF= n-2 = 88-2 =86

L.S.= 0.05

Table value =.205

Calculated value =- 0.99

Since the calculated value is less than the table value, the null hypothesis will be accepted. Hence, the ban on commercial motorcycles affects the socio economy of the rider. Similarly, we reject the Null hypothesis 'The ban on commercial motorcycles did not affect the socio economy of the rider. This is because the calculated value is less than the table value.

V. CONCLUSION

In the course of this study it is seen that the ban on commercial motorcycles had resulted on the youth unemployment, frequent matrimonial break down, hence increased poverty to an individual motorcycles riders, spare part sellers and motorcycles repairers, food vendors to mention but a few.

However, it is discovered that provision of tricycles did not filled the vacuum created by the ban. Hence, it is necessary for the government to consider the plea of it citizens and put in place necessary policies capable of addressing the economic, educational and social problems caused by the ban.

Indeed, there is need for a transparent processes and strong civil considerations in the public affairs of the government. Arbitrary policy making must be discontinued and provide a just legal system in the pursuance of the public lives.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

VII.

Based on the observation made on the research problems. The following recommendations were made:

1. The establishment of youth empowerment training centre (YETC) in the state and a branch in various Local Governments will help a lot. This is a place where skill acquisition will be obtained.

2. The payment of allowance to unemployed diploma holders by the state government is a welcomed idea. However, some commercial motorcycles riders are illiterates. To this end, diploma certificate will not be the prerequisite for obtaining an allowance from the state government.

3. Government should also make a survey and find out these motorcycles repairers and then train them on how to repair tricycles. A plant on how to manufactured tricycles must be brought to the states. This will minimize its price; it will then become affordable to an average motorcycle rider. Similarly, the site established will employ a significant proportion of the local populace.

4. Similarly, there is need for the government to encourage the registered motorcycle riders to engage in farming activities. Especially, irrigation farming, and support must be forthcoming in form of water pump, improved varieties and fertilizers.

5. Education is an important ingredient here. Those that have secondary education should be provided with sponsorship for higher education. A free scholarship will help them further their education and help them to become more useful to the society.

6. It is observed that companies employed a lot of people, there is need for the government to do all it could do resuscitate Nguru Oil Mills, Nigeria Meat Processing Industry, and its Abattoir – which is the second largest in Africa. This will employ both our skilled and unskilled youths parading every nook and crannies of our streets.

7. It is also observed that the total number of tricycles operating in town is not enough owing to its exorbitant prices. Government should also participate here by

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providing subsidy to those who are registered motorcycles rides having family to take care of. Installment payments will also be arranged where possible.

8. Considering the fact that the vast majority of those affected by the ban are youths. Government should encourage them to go for technical training. Approximately, 20 Youths for free scholarship in Technical schools

9. The issue of collecting sum of money from the apprentice in a skill acquisition centre must be abolished. And the payment of their allowance must be prompt at the end of the stipulated period. Isa Mohammed a participant at the Nguru Centre informed me that "sometimes I failed to attend my lesson because of my inability to settle my monthly levy".

10. In order to avoid idleness, government should create an entrepreneurial atmosphere for self-employment. Train the jobless Youths population to acquire some skills so as to become self-reliant. Agro – allied industries must be encouraged to ensure proper employment opportunities.

11. Through the poverty alleviation programme a lot of our citizens would be supported with a view to reducing the menace caused by unemployment

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