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RESTRUCTURING AS MEANS OF RESOLVING NIGERIA'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

BY

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Abstract

This paper titled "restructuring as means of resolving Nigeria's socio- economic challenges: an empirical analysis". The paper is basically a survey and historical research method relying mainly on primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data was generated with aid of questionnaire instrument. Purposive sampling techniques were used for the collection sizable sample population for the study. Secondary sources of data were collected from Published journal and websites. Quantitative method of data analysis was utilized. The data collected was analyzed with regression technique. The major purpose of embarking on this research is to scientifically prove the position of restructuring to Nigeria's socio-economic development. Findings from the study reveal that, the underlining reason behind 70% of all agitations for restructuring is centred on resource control either directly or indirectly. the study further shows that, the main reason why Nigerians are all paying so much attention to resource control is because Nigeria are still operating an oil-based economy. The social implication of this is that, kidnapping and Niger delta militancy attacks will all fizzle out. This will boost Nigeria's foreign earnings thereby increase Nigeria's socio-economic development. Based on some of the challenges facing the country, the study recommends that, Fiscal relations between the tiers of government

should be such that would promote the coordinateness of the component units. States should be allowed to control their resources

Keyword: Restructuring, Nigeria's socio- economic, challenges andresource control.

Introduction

The wrangle about to rebuild Nigeria or not is presently past political talk and ethnic polemics. President Buhari in his campaign declaration at the Chatom House in London guaranteed to "Initiate activity to revise the Nigerian Structure with a view to delegate powers, obligations, and duties to states in arrange to settle in true Federalism and the Government spirit." but, in all reasonableness, Buhari never utilized the word, "restructure"; but it was suggested by Pro-restructuring gather to cruel restructuring (Gana& Samuel, 2003). Be that as it may, there are numerous measurements to restructuring, a few of which incorporate political restructuring, financial restructuring, instructive restructuring, social restructuring, bookkeeping restructuring, authoritative restructuring, rebuild of security device etc. But, Political restructuring such as creating more states or consolidating of existing states/LGA, resource control, territorial independence, control devolution etc appears to be the centre of Pro-restructuring gather,the foremost touchy of which is resource control, territorial independence or control devolution (Gana& Samuel, 2003, p.27). Thus, since there are numerous measurements to restructuring, the bunch unsettling for it has not come out clearly to tell Nigerians the precise sort or sorts of restructuring that would proffer arrangement to Nigerian's socio-economic challenges. As the wrangle about on restructuring assembles steam, there's a culmination; the chewing fear among the rival of restructuring by likens restructuring to deterioration of the nation. Pro-restructuring bunch were of the see that, Nigeria has been rebuilt few times, without negative results. They further opined that, the show request is to form the Nigerian substance and itsnecessarily parts, more proficient, more worthy, more profitable, more useful and over all, more even-handed. Nigeria arrived at the display cross roads since of dug in doubt of the political authority (Gana& Samuel, 2003. p.29).

Pro-restructuring group believe that, restructuring Federal Republic of Nigeria is therefore, naturally compelling for cause, which may include the desire to tweak management , ownership and operational or administrative modalities, with a view to achieving fairness and efficiency. The crux of the problem is that

citizen alienation is rife nationwide; to the extent that every ethnic jigsaw part of Nigeria flavour sufficiently aggrieved, marginalized and therefore, seek equity via restructuring (Ihonvbere, 2003). Paradox outcry, before now, the call for restructuring was one-sided. Now, restructuring calls emanate tellingly from the East, West, South and North of Nigeria. The present state of the Nigerian confederacy demands a radical restructuring of the system to reflect the precept of federal praxis and ensure the continued existence of the Nigerian federal project (Ihonvbere, 2003, p. 44). This study seek to highlight various component of restructuring as a solution to socio-economic challenges facing the Nigerian state

Conceptual Framework

According to Onimode (2002), the current state of Nigerian Federal ism is characterised by five main lineaments - unitary rather than decentralization and national integration; distributive federalism; the contestation of federal character and Indegeneity; the politicisation of ethnicity; and the increasing tautness of federalism marked with sporadic conflicts. Given that United States Department of State and local aesthetic governance afford entree to the Federation Invoice, the country has witnessed a proliferation of United States Department of State and local governments verging on the absurd.

Closely related to the restructuring of the component part unit of measurement is the issue of fiscal federalism, tax revenue sharing and derivation principle. If we have agreed that states should generate their imagination internally, at least a substantial amount, it follows that the states need to be empowered financially (Kehinde, 2005). Osaghae (2002) argues that the inadequate figure of component units was partly responsible for the tensions experienced by the federation in the 1960s; proliferation of states has contributed significantly to the instability being experienced presently. Owing to the centralisation of, and the concomitant exclusion of states from access to crude oil resource generation, as well as the reduced capacity of states to generate revenue internally, they have become more and more dependent on the centre for resources to implement their statutory responsibilities. As noted by the Central Depository financial institution in 1994 (Osaghae, 2002, p. 32):

> As presently constituted, only few states and local governments can provide up to 30% of their planned expenditures from their internally generation efforts. The statutory allocation from the Federation Account between 1990 and 1994 constituted, on the average, Over 70% of current revenues of the state

governments, while internally generated revenues accounted for only 17.8% and the balance was by special or (discretionary) grants from the 'federal government. The finances of the local governments reflect a similar overdependence on statutory allocations from the federal and state governments.

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Restructuring is simply a call for the regaining of federalism-the foundational makeup body structure to which all Nigerians subscribed as encapsulated in the Independence United State Makeup of 1960 (Osuntokun, 2017). This constitution was violated in 1966 and the violation set in motion a chemical chain of events that has culminated in the present self-abnegation of a 36 province structure against the four regional complex body part that emanated from the independence constitution (Osuntokun, 2017, p. 31). All the ills presently plaguing the country are directly or indirectly a consequence of the wrong anti Federalist diversion Nigeria took in 1966.

According to Shonibare (2017) "I would wish that we have a Federation with freelancer self- sustaining Federating units able to develop infrastructure, critical amenities, undertake other developmental projects, education and health without a Centre body interfering. We already have geo-political zones". "Why don't we have say 6 or 8 Realm from that template, enable the Regions exercise the functions presently being exercised by the Federal Government of Nigeria in the various State & co-ordinate such functions & utilize economies of scale, each region should be at liberty to create more States in their region as their constitution stipulates" (Shonibare, 2017, p. 8).

Kokori, (2017) explained his assertion thus: "In Nigeria n full term when people talk about restructuring, they say they need true federalism. I don't know what true federalism is because federalism is federalism. A nation that practices it as a system of government must abide by its dogma. That is what the constitution says" (Kokori, 2017, p. 2). Because of the armed services incursion into politics in 1966, Nigeria became a unitary political science. So they were not following the dogma of the constitution that allows for devolution of power to the federating units. It is on this ground that the non-wage is demanding to re-social system. If we had real number federalism, there will not be tempestuousness. Real federalism was what we had before 1966 when the region had their institutions (Kokori, 2017, p. 2).

Kokwu (2017) asserted that, the military command after the civil war unitarized the country and diminished the percentage of the formula of derivation. For instance in 1946 the derivation formula for the regions which controlled their resources was 100 per cent, while in 1951 the British recommended 50 per cent derivation, whereas in 1953 the western region actually disbursed a 100 percent of resources they controlled. The 50 per cent derivation continued from 1960 at independence up to 1970 when Gen. Yakubu Gowon reduced the

derivation formula to 45 per cent and by 1975 it was reduced to 25 per cent. "Nigerians should know that in the first coming of Gen. Buhari it had crashed to 1.5 per cent and Gen. Babangida then raised it to 3 per cent and thereafter it moved to 13 per cent"(Kokwu, 2017, p. 5). With the increase of states from 12 to 36 by the military class, and the accumulation of the legislative list to the central government, the Nigerian states today have become as pauperized as appendages that they cannot even pay the salaries of their workers let alone their gratuity and pensions.

Theoretical Foundation

In this subject, structural – functional theory will be used as a basis of analysis. The structural-functional Theory is derived from earlier uses of functionalism and system of normal models in anthropology, sociology, biological science, and political science. Structural functionalism became popular around 1960 when it became clear that, the ways of poring over U.S. and European political science were not useful in studying newly developing countries, and that a new feeler was needed. Structural-functionalism assumes that position, a bounded "nation -state system exists and studies anatomical structure in footing of their functions within the system. The blood line of the theory was associated with Gabriel Almond around 1960. Almond based his analysis on political system. He defined political system as system of interactions to be find in all independent societies which performs the role of integration and adaptation (both internally and sextuplet -a-vis other societies) by means of the employment, or threat of employment, of more or less legitimate physical obsession (Almond and James , 1960). The political system is the legitimate lodge maintaining or transforming system in the society. He suggested that the political systems may be compared in the terms of the probabilities of the performance of the specified functions by the specified structure (Almond and James, 1960, p. 143)

juxtapose the use of this theory to the study, Federal Republic of Nigeria is a anatomical structure which can be defined as the number of sub-system s or functional components that combine together to make up a building complex organization and the regulation that govern the inter-relationship between them to ensure they all employment together seamlessly to achieve a common purpose or a given output. A system is actually greater than the summation of its component parts. Hence a province is a simple system or a first edict system with a simple structure of Department of State in it. However, there are super-complex body parts, which are brand up

of two or more sub system, each of which can actually exist or produce an output independently. Nigeria or any commonwealth at all can be described as a superstructure consisting of many sub units, each of which can actually exist independently.

- **Methodology**

Survey design method was adopted in this study. The study made use of both primary and secondary data. The research instrument used to collect the relevant data is the questionnaire. The questionnaire was structured in 3-point rating scale. The questionnaire was designed to elicit relevant information from the respondents. The population were the staff at Federal Secretariat Abuja. Three hundred and thirty (330) copies of the questionnaire were administered. Three hundred and fifteen (315) copies were returned and fifteen (15) was wrongly completed and rejected. The information gathered was analyzed using percentages and regression statistical method to test the hypothesis.

Overview of Major Restructuring in Nigeria since Independence

Consciously or unconsciously, deliberately or in-deliberately, most Heads of State or authorities had since independence implemented one form of restructuring or the other during their reign (Gana, & Samuel, 2003, p. 28). The intellect why we did not know is that the decisions were not called or announced as restructuring, and they were done piecemeal making them unnoticeable. Even those that make the changes did not know that they were actually restructuring Nigeria, either economically, politically, administratively or otherwise.

According to Gana, & Samuel, (2003, p. 34), the restructuring exercises carried out unconsciously by each government since independence are; Federal Government took over control of revenue from natural resources and corporate taxes from regional governments. Shared national income among the regions (fiscal and economic restructuring)

i. Started with 50% derivation payment to oil producing states, – (fiscal/ economic restructuring) (This was later gradually reduced to 13% over a few years). Changed currency from pounds to Naira (monetary restructuring)

ii. Created Ministry of Petroleum Resources (administrative restructuring)

iii. Introduced the sharing of central revenue among 3 tiers of government (Federal, State, LGA) - Fiscal restructuring

iv. Replaced derivation with the Creation of OMPADEC (now NDDC) so that federal government can directly develop the Niger Delta region. (Fiscal/economic restructuring)

v. Created Federal Revenue Mobilization and Fiscal Commission (Administrative/economic restructuring)

vi. Drafted a new constitution for Nigeria by modifying the 1979 constitution

vii. Restored 13% Derivation to oil producing areas by sponsoring an executive bill in the National assembly (Geo-fiscal restructuring) the same bill also extended derivation to other solid minerals extracted in non-oil-producing areas (Gana, & Samuel, (2003, p. 34).

Data Presentation and Analysis

From the data obtained, 73.7% of the respondents agreed that, Resource control is capable of reducing Nigeria's socio-economic challenges, 21.3% respondents disagreed while, 5.1% of the respondents could not ascertain whether Resource control is capable of reducing Nigeria's socio-economic challenges. The date is presented in table below:

Table: 1: Resource Control

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agreed	232	65.7	73.7
	Disagreed	67	19.0	21.3
	I'M not Sure	16	4.5	5.1
	Total	315	89.2	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

From the data obtained, 27.3% of the respondents agreed that, drafting new constitution is capable of reducing Nigeria's socio-economic challenges, 67.3% respondents disagreed while, 5.4% of the respondents could not

ascertain whether drafting new constitution is capable of reducing Nigeria's socio-economic challenges. the date is presented in the table below:

Table: 2: Drafting New Constitution

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agreed	86	24.4	27.3
	Disagreed	212	60.1	67.3
	I'M not Sure	17	4.8	5.4
	Total	315	89.2	100 0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

From the data obtained, 81.0% of the respondents agreed that, regional autonomy is capable of reducing Nigeria's socio-economic challenges, 14.0% respondents disagreed while, 5.1% of the respondents could not ascertain whether regional autonomy is capable of reducing Nigeria's socio-economic challenges. The date is presented in the table below:

Table: 3: Regional Autonomy

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agreed	255	72.2	81.0
	Disagreed	44	12.5	14.0
	I'M not Sure	16	4.5	5.1
	Total	315	89.2	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

From the data obtained, 82.2% of the respondents agreed that, devolution of power is capable of reducing Nigeria's socio-economic challenges, 12.7% respondents disagreed while, 5.1% of the respondents could not ascertain whether devolution of power is capable of reducing Nigeria's socio-economic challenges. The date is presented in the table below:

Table: 4: Devolution of Power

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agreed	259	73.4	82.2
	Disagreed	40	11.3	12.7
	I'M not Sure	16	4.5	5.1
	Total	315	89.2	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

From the data obtained, 61.3% of the respondents agreed that, restructuring is capable of reducing Nigeria's socio-economic challenges, 33.7% respondents disagreed while, 5.1% of the respondents could not ascertain whether devolution of power is capable of reducing Nigeria's socio-economic challenges. The date is presented in the table below:

Table: 5: Restructuring and Nigeria's socio-economic challenges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agreed	193	54.7	61.3
	Disagreed	106	30.0	33.7
	I'M not Sure	16	4.5	5.1
	Total	315	89.2	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2018

5.1 Regression Analysis

Decision Rule

We shall accept the alternative hypothesis when the calculated Beta value is more than the stated level of significance value.

Model Specification

$\hat{Y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1\,(\text{resource contr.})} + \beta_2 X_{2(\text{New Constitution})} + \beta_3 X_{3(\text{Regional Auto.})} + \beta_3 X_{3(\text{devolution of power})} + e$

$\hat{Y}$ = dependent variable, .

β_0 = Constant

$\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3$ = are the slope on y – axis

X_1, X_1, X= are the independent variable

e = Error term

Table 6: Variables Defined

Model	Variables Entered		
1	Devolution of power, Drafted a new constitution, Resource control, Regional autonomy		

a. Independent Variables: Devolution of power, Drafted a new constitution, Resource control and Regional autonomy.
b. Dependent Variable: Resolve Socio-economic challenges in Nigeria,
c. All requested variables entered

Table 7: Summary of the Model

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	**.992[a]**	**.984**	**.984**	**.09608**	**1.010**

a. Predictors: (Constant), Devolution of power, Drafted a new constitution, Regional autonomy, Resource control
b. Dependent Variable: Resolve Socio-economic challenges in Nigeria.

Table 8: ANOVA[a](Goodness of Fitness)

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.

1	Regression	110.380	4	27.595	2988.962	.000[b]
	Residual	1.810	196	.009		
	Total	112.189	200			

a. Dependent Variable: Resolve Socio-economic challenges in Nigeria
b. Predictors: (Constant), Devolution of power, Drafted a new constitution, Regional autonomy, Resource control.

The result of the statistical table above shows that, the value for f-factor regression models stood at 2988.962. The value is greater the value of level of significant which stood at 0.000. This means that, the model is fit for the variable under consideration. Goodness of fitness in the use of this (regression) model has 95% level of confidence interval. Although, there is 1.81 model error but this error is not significant enough to affect the use of this model on the study.

Table 9: Regression Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients	Standardized B	t	Sig
	B	B	Std. Error			
1	(Constant)	3.850E-015	.017		.000	1.000
	Resource control	7.093E-015	.052	.000	.000	1.000
	Drafted a new constitution	-1.284E-014	.022	.000	.000	1.000
	Regional autonomy	.095	.023	.095	4.183	.000
	Devolution of power	.905	.052	.904	17.260	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Resolve Socio-economic challenges in Nigeria

The result of the table above shows the relationship between independent variables and independent variables.

6.0 Discussion of Findings

From the result of the analysis, we can accept the first hypothesis which stated that, there is a significant relationship between resource control and solution to Nigeria's socio-economic challenges. We accept the alternative hypothesis because the calculated beta which is the normal value of r^2 stood at 7.1 is greater than the level of significance which stood at 1.00. There is a significant relationship between resource control and

improved socio-economic development of Nigeria.This further means that, the underlining reason behind 70% of all agitations for restructuring is centered on resource control either directly or indirectly. Those who have crude oil reserve want to take control of the revenue; those who don't have oil don't want to lose their share of oil revenue from federal allocation. The reason why we are all paying so much attention to resource control is because we are still operating an oil-based economy. The social implication of this is that, kidnapping, Armed robbery and Niger delta militancy attacks will all fizzle out. This will boost Nigeria's foreign earnings thereby increase Nigeria's socio-economic development and with this improved situation, Nigeria will become the most secure and peaceful African nation; thus attracting more foreign investors.

From the result of the analysis, we can reject the second hypothesis which stated that, There is a significant relationship between drafted a new constitution and solving Nigeria's socio-economic challenges. We reject the alternative hypothesis because the calculated beta which is the normal value of r^2 stood at -1.284 and is less than the level of significance which stood at 1.00. Therefore, there is no significant relationship between resource control and improved socio-economic development of Nigeria. This further means that, changing Nigeria's constitution will have negative effect on the socio-economic development of Nigeria. We can conclude that, Nigeria can still continue with its current constitution with little amendment to some important section part of the constitution.

From the result of the analysis, we can accept the first hypothesis which stated that, there is a significant relationship between Regional Autonomy and solution to Nigeria's socio-economic challenges. We accept the alternative hypothesis because the calculated beta which is the normal value of r^2 stood at 0.09 and is greater than the level of significance which stood at 0.00. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between regional autonomy and improved socio-economic development of Nigeria.

The social implication of regional autonomy is that, each region or provincial council will constitute their indigenous security forces. When this is establish and in operational; kidnapping, Armed robbery, Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen and the Niger delta militancy attacks will all fizzle out and Nigeria will become the most secure and peaceful African nation; thus attracting more foreign investors.

From the result of the analysis, we can accept the first hypothesis which stated that, There is a significant relationship between devolution of power and promote socio-economic development in Nigeria. We accept the alternative hypothesis because the calculated beta which is the normal value of r^2 stood at 0.91 and is greater than the level of significance which stood at 0.00. Therefore, There is a significant relationship between devolution of power and improve socio-economic development in Nigeria. When this happen, There will be rapid development occurring in all the states, Nigeria's GDP will shoot up and living standard of the people will improved. In addition to this, there would be improvement in internally generated revenue due to economic integration. All states would emulate Lagos and transform their economy instead of waiting for monthly allocation or regular bail out from federal government.

6.1 Conclusion and Recommendations

Nigeria is at risk unless it finds the courage to restructure. A nation in dire straits, Nigeria has a choice, to restructure by plan or by default. A planned restructuring will be collaborative, systematic, and redesign Nigeria, yet keep it whole. A default restructuring, will happen, certainly not by choice, but definitely like an uncontrolled experiment with attendant risks and indefinite outcome.

Restructuring sometimes arise from crisis situations or the need to pre-empt political catastrophe. The latter is a core premise for Nigeria. Regardless of what opponents of restructuring think, Nigeria must restructure or risk self-destruction. What matters is whether Nigeria's leadership can seize the moment and save the nation But what matters most, is not when, but how to restructure peaceably.

Based on the research findings, the study recommends the following:

1. Fiscal relations between the tiers of government should be such that would promote the coordinateness of the component units.
2. States should be allowed to control their resources, or at the very least, derivation principle should carry the highest weight in the allocation formula. This would bear two significant implications for the component units as well as general consequences for the federation. With this, revenue generating states would be

satisfied that they control resources generated from their territories, thereby removing a significant threat to the stability and existence of the federation.

3. Nigeria should be restructuring into five Province namely; Western province, Northern Province, Middle Belt Province, Eastern Province and Atlantic Province. The entire provinces can take advantage of restructuring to transforming its region into industry hub of Africa and experience massive infrastructural transformation

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Appendix

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1	(Constant)	3.850E-015	.017		.000	1.000
	Resource control	7.093E-015	.052	.000	.000	1.000
	Drafted a new constitution	-1.284E-014	.022	.000	.000	1.000
	Regional autonomy	.095	.023	.095	4.183	.000
	Devolution of power	.905	.052	.904	17.260	.000