

Operational Review to Poverty Reduction in Kogi State, Nigeria: Cottage industries as the Panacea

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Abstract

Cottage businesses if properly managed are catalyst for industrial and economic growth of any Nation. Objectively, the study specific objective sought to X-ray the relationship between economic security and the promotion of cottage industries in Kogi State with its hypothesis which states that relationship does not exist between economic security and the promotion of cottage industries in Kogi State. The mean scores have its positive tilt above the average of 3.5 as a basis. This by implication means that very strong correlation exists between economic security and cottage industries. The study concludes that Cottage industries can be harnessed and upgraded to help contribute enormously to rural livelihood and also reduce poverty. Therefore, neglecting the traditional technology-based rural enterprises (cottage industries) or allowing them to go extinct because of the encroachment of modern technology, is a clear threat to rural linkages and ultimately to rural development. Finally, the study recommends that cottage industries should embrace diversification strategy to enable more employment in a diverse economy and that Cottage businesses if

properly managed will serve as catalyst for industrial and economic growth of any Nation as most successful multinational companies and host of others started as a cottage firm in their home countries.

Key Words: *Cottage businesses, economic security, industrial and economic growth*

Background of the study

Nigeria is a country blessed with abundance in human and material resources which if properly harnessed; she will compete with other industrialized Nations of the world. The government of Nigeria at all levels have stepped up efforts to promote the development of cottage industries through increased incentives schemes, including enhanced budgetary allocations for technical and assistance programmes. New lending schemes and credit institutions were made available for assessing funds, this includes; the National Economic Reconstruction Funds (NERFUND), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN),

Micro finance Banks and world Bank etc. All these institutions have also emerged at both National and local levels to boost the establishment and development of cottage enterprises in Nigeria so as to make the security of life a guarantee.

Cottage businesses if properly managed are catalyst for industrial and economic growth of any Nation. Most successful multinational companies and host of others started as a cottage firm in their home countries. As Inegbenebor noted in (1998), the desire of most developing countries including Nigeria is to have self-reliant economy capable of generating an internally self-sustaining growth. For a country which once earned most of its foreign exchange from agriculture, which taught Malaysia how to produce palm, it is a sad irony that the Nigeria Green Revolution failed due to, among others, misapplication of funds, insincerity, absolute neglect and a general high level of nationalism (Ogbalubi & Wokocha, 2013). Poverty in Nigeria has been assuming wider dimensions including household income poverty, food poverty/insecurity, poor access to public services and infrastructure, unsanitary environment, illiteracy and ignorance, insecurity of life and property and poor government. In response to the dwindling performance of agriculture in the country, governments have over the decades initiated numerous policies and programs aimed at restoring the agricultural sector to its pride of place in the economy (Salami, 2008). Collectively, these developments worsened the low productivity, both per unit of land and per worker, due to several factors: inadequate technology, poor transportation, environmental-degradation, and infrastructure, and trade restrictions.

The boom in the oil sector brought about a distortion in the labour market. The Nigerian economy has been in a process of continuous transition, both economically and politically.

As regards the economy, it has been in transition from feudal to industrial, from primitive to modern and from a mixed economy to a market led one (Obi, 1988). In all these stages, small-scale enterprises and entrepreneurs are known to have taken part while the government plays the usual regulatory and facilitating role. Therefore, entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship constitute a vital engine to economic growth and development in Nigeria (Onuoha, 1994). The experience all over the world is that they play a significant role in the linkage of the various sectors of the economy, particularly, inter-industrial and commercial linkages.

Statement of Problem

Nigeria is blessed with abundance of Resources mostly in the Agricultural sector. Not until the era of oil boom in the early 70's when the economy was beginning to be consumed and crippled by certain individuals whom derived joy and fulfilled in diverting its development to the developed Nations and under-developing the under developed Nations of which her own is part of Economic guarantee is no more secured as such, the security of human become a thing of great concern following the popular saying that 'the poor's cannot sleep because they are hungry and the rich cannot also sleep because the poor's are awake'. With this, the economy could not move forward due to the mismanagement by the 'cables' that conspicuously spend extravagantly which lead the country's suffering economically and it's economy being depressed which create room for inflation, mass unemployment, mass retrenchment in both public and private sectors and rural-urban migration, high foreign debts, money devaluation and so many others thus the role of cottage industries for solution finding appears to be obvious with all the crisis in place, government now sought to promote the idea of self-sustainability through the promotion of cottage industries.

Government championed many campaigns on sustainability, self-reliance, entrepreneurship, vocational training; all these are mostly directed towards salvaging the youth unemployment that is busy growing on geometric progression.

Objective of the Study

The broad objective of this study is to examine the extend of relationship between cottage industries and poverty antidote in Kogi State. Specifically, the study seeks to X-ray the relationship between economic security and the promotion of cottage industries in Kogi State.

Hypothesis

H₀: That relationship does not exist between economic security and the promotion of cottage industries in Kogi State.

Review of the Related Literature

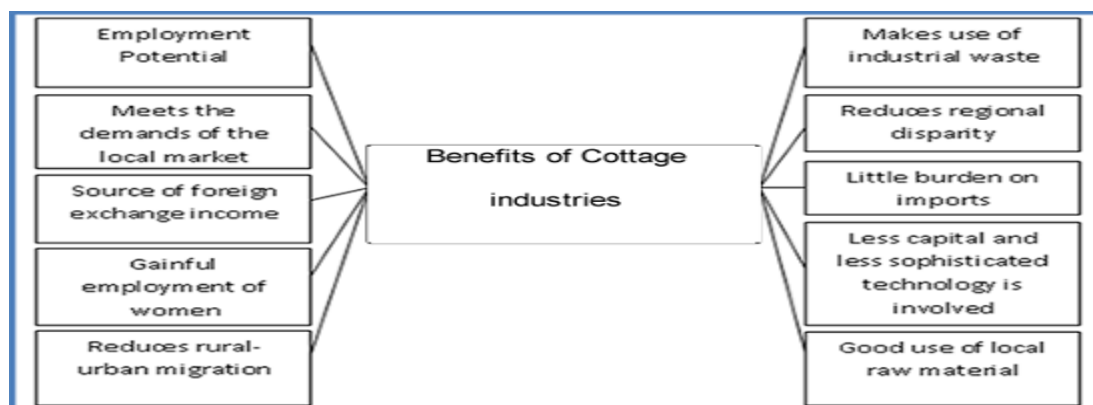
Conceptual Review

Developmental vehicle through 'Cottage Industries'

Industrialization in the less develop world remains a fundamental objective of economic development. In any economy, 'one or more serves as a prime mover or driving the rest of the economy forward'. Enquires of growth or

leading sector has usually been played in less developed countries now assign a fundamental role of cottage industries in the process of economic development. Historically, fact has shown that in the 19th century, cottage industries controlled the economy of Europe. The industrial revolution changed the statute quo and introduced mass production. Many developed and developing economics have come to realize the value of small businesses. They are seen to be characterized by dynamism, witty innovations, efficiency and then small size allows for faster decision making process. Government all over the world have realized the importance of this category of companies and have formulated comprehensive public policies to encourage, support and fund the establishment of SME's Development in small and medium enterprises is a sin quo non for employment generation, solid entrepreneurial base and encouragement for the use of local raw materials and technology. Also, cottage enterprises could play an important role in arresting the president delay in the value of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This category of enterprises could be counted upon for promoting stability and growth in gross domestic product through the quick returns they generate. For instance, in india, small scale enterprises contributed 26% of the total output and 21% of manufacturing value added (Babalola, 1982).

Figure 1: Benefits of Cottage industries



Sources: Adeoye, I.A. & Bhadmus, H.B. (2015), *Socio-Economic Contributions of Cottage Industries to Rural Livelihood in Nigeria*.

Poverty Reduction/Antidote

Poverty in Nigeria has been assuming wider dimensions including household income poverty, food poverty/insecurity, poor access to public services and infrastructure, unsanitary environments, illiteracy and ignorance, insecurity of life and property and poor governance. In response to the dwindling performance of agriculture in the country, governments have over the decades initiated numerous policies and programs aimed at restoring the agricultural sector to its pride of place in the economy (Salami, 2008). For Nigeria to attain self-sufficiency in crop production, the government must consistently focus attention on small-scale farmers as the centre piece of development (Fasina, 2008). It is on this note that the Report of the Nigerian Poverty Assessment 2007 stated that:

None of the existing credit sources on agriculture appear able to provide credit to poor farmers, without which it is unlikely that they will invest heavily in productivity-increasing inputs. Given that poor farmers are less likely to have assets for collateral, none of the existing credit sources on agriculture appear able to provide credit to poor farmers, without which it is unlikely that they will invest heavily in productivity-increasing inputs. Given that poor farmers are less likely to have assets for collateral, innovative ways need to be found to provide credit, perhaps based on the group credit systems operating in other countries.

The truth is that the beneficiaries of these agricultural policies are mainly people who are outside agricultural occupation. The National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) 2004 report give that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Nigerian agriculture has continue to decline drastically. This indeed is worrisome considering the number of agricultural policies and program

which have been introduced by government to boost agricultural productivity in Nigeria such as the National Accelerated Food Production Project (NAFPP), the Nigerian Agricultural and co-Operative Bank (NACB), the River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs), Operation Feed the Nation (OFU), Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS), Green Revolution Program (GRP), Agricultural Development Project (ADPs), among others.

Concept of Economic Growth

Economists have long been interested in factors which cause different countries to grow at different rates and achieve different levels of wealth. Flammang (1979), discuss economic growth as related processes based on the structure and functions of the political economy. The issue of economic growth received considerable attention particularly after the Second World War. Contributions from different economic schools presented their own view on what determines economic growth paths and how stable these growth paths are. Economic growth means an increase in the average rate of output produced per person usually measured on a per annum basis.

The classical economic literature emphasized the rate of expansion in physical inputs, such as, capital and labor, as being the prime basis of growth (Rodriguez & Sachs 1999; Sachs & Warner 1995; Toman, Pezzey & Krautkramer, 1995). While the neoclassical growth approach recognizes the worth of technology, it focuses on prices, outputs, and income distributions in markets determined through supply and demand. The prime goal of neoclassical economic theory is to provide efficient allocation of scarce resources. Neoclassical literature contends that the particular set of institutions in an economy 'does not matter' in the sense that equilibrium prices and the allocation of resources are unaffected by specific institutional structures. Thus, the

traditional growth theory has concentrated on technology, transaction cost, and most importantly property rights instead of highlighting the functional significance of real-world institutions. Economic institutions also

matter for economic growth because they shape the incentives of key economic actors in the societies. Particular they influence investments in physical, human capital, technology and the organization of production.

Table1: SMEs Participation and Contribution to the Economy of Selected Countries

	Structure of the MSME Sector (% of all MSMEs)			SME Participation in the Economy		
Country Name	Micro	Small	Medium	SMEs	SMEs Per N1,000 People	SME Employment (%total)
Brazil	93.9	5.6	0.5	4903268	27.4	67.0
China	n/a	n/a	n/a	8000000	6.3	78.0
Egypt	92.7	6.1	0.9	1649794	26.8	73.5
United Kingdom	95.4	3.9	0.7	4415260	73.8	39.6
Ghana	55.3	42.0	2.7	25679	1.2	66.0
India	94.0	3.3		295098	0.3	66.9
Mexico				2891300	27.9	71.9
Malawi	91.3	8.5	0.2	747396	72.5	38.0
Russian Federation				6891300	48.8	50.5
United States	78.8	19.7	1.5	5868737	20.0	50.9
South Africa	92.0	7.0	1.0	900683	22.0	39.0

Source: *World Bank (2007)*

Experience of Developed countries

According to a report in 2013 from the National Bureau of Statistics of China, SMEs provide around 80% of urban employment contribute 50% of fiscal and tax revenue, account for 60% of GDP in China. Hence, a healthy development of SMEs is essential to ensure continual economic growth and social stability. China's SME sector contributed 78% to its total employment. In the United State of America, the SMEs account for 87% of the countries workforce. In 2004, there stood an estimated 23,974,000 businesses in the US, of

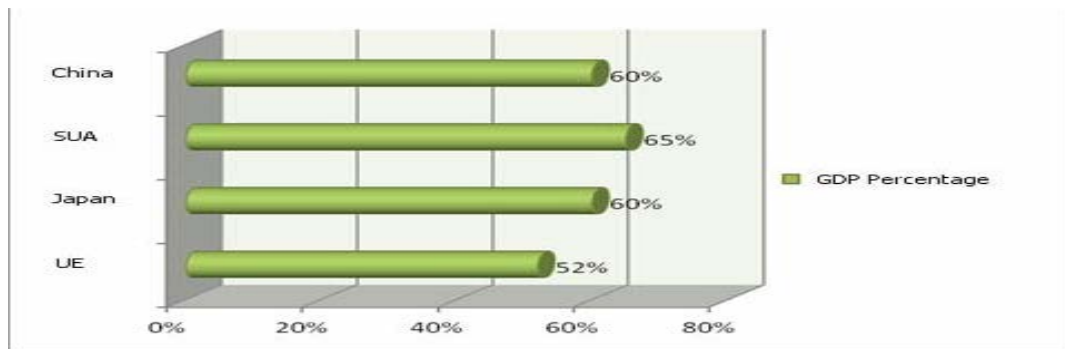
which 5,683,700 were small trades who hired about 5,666,600 people (Longley, 2006). In USA, SMEs contribute nearly 39% to the national income (Udechukwu, 20003).

Regardless of the degree of development and standard of living of the population of a state, SMEs are the biggest contributors to the gross domestic product. In countries like Japan or China 60% of GDP comes from SMEs, in the USA that percentage goes up to 65%, and in the UE SMEs generate 52% of GDP. In the countries with a lower income per capita,

SMEs have a higher impact on the employment level, about 78%, compared to countries with a larger income, where the percentage goes down to 59%. In 2010 the degree of employment generated by SMEs in EU was 67%. Micro companies contribute to approximately 30% of

that percentage, small enterprises with approximately 20% and middle companies with 17%. You can observe a growth of the employment and labour litigation since 2007 when the value of that indicator was 60% in EU (Wymenga, 2011).

Figure 1.2: Contribution of SMEs to GDP of EU, Japan, USA and China



In 2007, in Japan, the degree of employment litigation relative to SMEs was 69%, while in the U.S. of 57.9% (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2010). Later reports have presented larger values of this indicator, pointing us to one conclusion: the growth of SMEs numbers globally has had a positive impact through creating new jobs and lowering unemployment.

The Nigerian Experience

Subsequently, Adelaja (2002), revealed the importance of SMEs to the development of the Nigerian economy. He pointed out that the developing and underdeveloped countries like Nigeria lack good policies that favour SMEs development. Etuk, Etuk & Baghebo (2014), He examined the impact of SMEs on the development of the Nigerian economy, and found that the prevailing economic and political conditions have not given room for SMEs to thrive in the Nigerian economy.

Nigeria is a developing country in sub Saharan Africa where SMEs account for 60 to 70% in terms of employment according to Ojukwu (2006). Lal (2007), stated these SMEs currently

represent about 90 % of the industrial sector in terms of Number of enterprises.

A study conducted by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in 2001, estimated that 96 % of all businesses in Nigeria are SMEs Compared to 53 % in USA, 65 % in the EU (European Union) with SMEs in both places accounting for over 50 % of their respective country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Henderson (2002), Salami (2003) & Oyefuga, Siyanbola, Afolabi, Dada & Egbetokun (2008), argued that SMEs create jobs, increase wealth and incomes within their host domains and promote industrial and economic development through the utilization of local resources, production of intermediate goods and the transfer of rural technology. Henderson (2002), additionally noted that SMEs connect the community to the larger, global economy.

Theoretical Review

Small is Beautiful Theory (Cottage Industries)

The Small is Beautiful theory is a classic critique of the trends towards centralization, corporation, and globalization of non-

sustainability nature. The theory advances the promotion of small-scale economic markets and systems, co-operatives and greater decentralization (Schumacher, 1973). In a similar vein, Paulson (1980), found that the relative size of the small retail firm is associated with horizontal differentiation and levels of complexity. Also, Fullerton (2008), appreciated the observation of Schumacher's lead in his best-selling book, *Small is Beautiful-Economic as if people mattered*, with the opinion that the global system is broken not because of the credit crisis; it is broken because it is predicated on perpetual, resources driven with no recognition of scale limitation. It points out very skill-fully what is exactly wrong with the modern industrial society, and offers an alternative; appropriate technology, respect for human values, and especially bringing things back to the small scale. Indeed, Schumacher (1973), argues that the phrase "too big to fail" makes people think that big business and big government are the optimum. But when people feel a sense of ownership over their work and lives, when they feel truly included in decision that affects them, they are more likely to take genuine care in making things the best way they can be. It is the difference between the mind-set of an owner versus a renter.

The Classical Theory of Economic Growth (National Poverty Antidote)

This is a theory of economics, especially directed towards macroeconomics, based on the unrestricted workings of markets and the pursuit of individual self-interest. Classical economics relies on three key assumptions – flexible prices, Say's law, and saving-investment equality in the analysis of macroeconomics. The primary implications of this theory is that market automatically achieve equilibrium and in so doing maintain full employment of resources without the need of government intervention. Classical economics emerge from the foundations laid by Adams

Smith and traced to the pioneering of his work in his book. "An Enquiry into the Nature and Courses of the Wealth of Nations", published in 1776. Classical economics dominated the study of economics for 150years after it was introduced. This work did not launch the modern study of economics; it continues to provide the foundation for modern microeconomics. Classical economics principles were also adapted to macroeconomic phenomena and provided a guide for macroeconomic policy until the beginning of the Great Depression in 1929.

David Ricardo considered by many to be the most noted classical economics. Ricardo made a number of contributions to national trade, labour market, and the distribution of income in the early 1800s that remain fundamental to the modern study of economic. Perhaps most important, Ricardo viewed the economy as a complex system of interrelated components and was a strong advocate of the principles laid out by both Adams Smith and Jean-Baptist Say. Jean-Baptist Say opined that "supply creates its own demand" classical law bearing his name. Say was a French economist who helped to popularize the work of Adam Smith in the early 1800s among other contributions, Say emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship as a productive factor and was among the first to observe that value and price depend on both supply (resource cost) and demand (satisfaction). The classical study of macroeconomics emerged from a set of axioms and assumptions that were used for all economic analysis, such as wants, needs are unlimited, resources are limited, people are motivated by self-interest, and more is preferred to less. However, three particular assumptions proved most important to the study of macroeconomics phenomena- flexible prices, Say's law, and saving-investment equality.

Empirical Review

Taiwo, Awolaja & Yusuf (2012), studied the impact of small and medium scale enterprises on economic growth and development. A survey method was used to gather data from 200 SMEs and Managers from five selected local government in Nigeria namely; Ijebu North, Yewa South, Sagamu, Odeda and Ogun Waterside Local government. Data was collected with a structured questionnaire and analyzed with several descriptive statistics to identify the perception of the roles of SMEs in Nigeria. The results of the study therefore revealed that the most common constraints hindering small and medium scale business growth in Nigeria are lack of financial support, poor management, corruption, lack of training and experience, poor infrastructure, insufficient profits, and low demand for product and services.

Adeoye & Bhadmus (2015), discuss on the socio-economic contributions of cottage industries to rural livelihood in Nigeria. Their study introduces cottage industries as one of the panaceas to poverty alleviation with respect to substantial growth with evidence from most countries. He itemize the effect of the decline of most cottage industries since their domain is mostly in the rural environment to include; lack of essential amenities such as electricity, pipe born water, good road networks, access to good hospitals, etc. In their studies, they x-ray that cottage industries does not only increase income of rural households but also reduce economic contributions of cottage industries to rural livelihood in Nigeria.

Rasak (2012), found that the emergence of small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) is a major catalyst and a key success factor for the development, growth and sustenance of the Nigerian economy. Study also revealed that most government and business circles have come to recognize the importance of small and

medium scale enterprises (SMEs) and have consequently agreed that their growth constitutes one of the corner stone of economic development.

Etuk, Etuk & Baghebo (2014), examined the influence of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) on Nigeria's Economic Development. The study revealed that Small and Medium Scaled Enterprises (SMEs) have been identified as being beneficial in alleviating poverty through wealth and job creation.

Eze & Okpala (2015), studied the quantitative analysis of the impact of small and medium scale enterprises on the growth of Nigerian economy (1993-2011).The study adopted econometric method of Ordinary least square methods (OLS), Johnson Co-integration test and error correction model (ECM).The Johansen test conducted showed the evidence of long run equilibrium relationship between small and medium scale enterprises and economic growth. The study concluded that poor government policies, on tariffs and incentives, bribery and corruption, non-existent entrepreneurial development centers and poor state of infrastructure act as impediments to the growth and development of SMEs in Nigeria.

METHODS

Research Design

Basically, research work of any kind attempts to study in detail some aspect to chosen area or discipline. Hence, this Study adopts the survey research design.

Population of the Study

The population of the study comprises of selected registered industries in Nigeria. Due to the cumbersome nature of the study, the researcher shall purposively really on the

targeted population which will now serve as the study population. This study target population comprises of registered members of Kogi State Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (KOCCIMA). There are about 1,286 Cottage industries belonging to manufacturing, services and Agricultural subsectors in Kogi State. The sample size was purposively determined through convenience and proximity of selected registered Cottage industries in Kogi State.

Method of Data Collection

Self-administered copies of questionnaire were distributed to the respondents in the selected Manufacturing/Construction and Services/Agro Allied Industries that are registered under (KOCCIMA). For administrative convenience; close-ended questionnaire was develop and divided into two sections A and B. The A part is based on individual personal data while the B part comprises of five (5) Scale Linkert. Ranging from strongly agree (5), Agree (4), Disagree (3), strongly disagree (2) and undecided (1).

A total of 340 copies of the questionnaire were administered to the selected respondents who were given a weekend to fill and return on the first working day. The researcher personally collected the completed questionnaire to ensure that every item in the questionnaire was duly responded to but 5 copies were not returned and 3 copies were discarded. Finally, 332 Questionnaire was used. These represent 98% of the total questionnaire.

Method of Data Analysis

The descriptive statistics as a tool was used to analyze the data collected and answer the questions formulated using SPSS version 20.

Data Presentation and Analysis

From the sample of copies of questionnaire distributed i.e 340 to the respondents, 335 where returned but 3 were discarded this as a result to improper filling and five (5) were not returned. This makes the analyses to be based on 332 copies of questionnaire representing 98% of the total questionnaire. With this, it is a good representation for this study to really upon.

Table 3.2: Presentation and Interpretation of Questionnaire Administered

Responses	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Copies of Questionnaires Completed, Returned and useful	332	97.6
Copies of Questionnaires Completed, Returned but not useful	3	0.88
Copies of unanswered Questionnaires	5	1.47
Total	340	100

Source: *Field survey, (2018).*

Table 3.3: Summary of the Responses Obtained From the Respondents as Given Below

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. deviation
Employment Potential	332	1.00	5.00	3.7982	0.93518
Employment Potential	332	1.00	5.00	3.5934	0.99562

Local Market demand	332	1.00	5.00	3.3012	1.12360
Local Market demand	332	1.00	5.00	3.7681	1.02998
Source of foreign exchange	332	1.00	5.00	3.5240	1.13844
Source of foreign exchange	332	1.00	5.00	3.5151	1.04423
Rural Urban Migration	332	1.00	5.00	3.6024	1.10958
Rural Urban Migration	332	1.00	5.00	3.6566	0.97220
Industrial waste	332	1.00	5.00	3.8584	0.89704
Regional disparity	332	1.00	5.00	3.8765	0.73730
Burden on import	332	1.00	5.00	3.8705	0.95429
Local raw material	332	1.00	5.00	4.2259	0.70830
Valid N (Listwise)	332				

Source: *Field Survey, (2018) Computation: SPSS Ver.20*

Table 3.3 develops the summary of mean scores and standard deviations of the responses obtained from the questionnaires administered as each independent variable against dependent variable. The average level of accepting the mean or agreeing is 3.5 according to the respondents and any value below this is seen to be either neutral or disagree.

Two questions were raised each on independent variable and one each from the dependent variable as shown in the table above totalling to twelve (12) questions.

Based on the data presented and analyzed above, the researcher ascertained that there is a positive tilt in the mean scores which were above the average of 3.5 as a basis. With this, it indicates that relationship exist between economic security and the promotion of cottage industries in Kogi State.

Discussion of Findings

In consonance with the study specific objective which sought to X-ray the relationship between economic security and the promotion of cottage industries in Kogi State with its hypothesis

which states that relationship exist between economic security and the promotion of cottage industries in Kogi State. The mean scores have its positive tilt above the average of 3.5 as a basis. This by implication means that very strong correlation exists between economic security and cottage industries.

Conclusion

Despite high demand in products from cottage industries, the attention on these industries is limited or being ignored especially in rural communities. Although cottage industry is not the sole panacea for poverty alleviation, it stands to reduce unemployment by creating a means for sustainable livelihood in both urban and rural communities while reducing the pace of rural dwellers deserting their traditional means of livelihood (Adeoye & Bhadmus, 2015)

Cottage industries can be harnessed and upgraded to help contribute enormously to rural livelihood and also reduce poverty. Cottage industries were identified as sustaining employment and income in the face of rising populations and threats of unemployment,

providing seasonal occupation for farmers during the less busy time of the year, contributing to equality and poverty alleviation by increasing the income of the poor and curbing the life security of Man. Therefore, neglecting the traditional technology-based rural enterprises (cottage industries) or allowing them to go extinct because of the encroachment of modern technology, is a clear threat to rural linkages and ultimately to rural development.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion of the study, the following recommendations were made.

- i. That cottage industries should embrace diversification strategy to enable more employment in a diverse economy.
- ii. That local market and regional disparity should be handled by professionals having seen that is the major organizational assets that will help in keeping the glue of other organizational resources for efficient and effective results.
- iii. That Cottage businesses if properly managed will serve as catalyst for industrial and economic growth of any Nation as most successful multinational companies and host of other started as a cottage firm in their home countries.

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