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Dipo T. Busari

THE AID VERSUS TRADE DEBATE: ARE WE ASKING THE RELEVANT QUESTIONS?

ABSTRACT

This paper reviews the aid versus trade debate and argues that the debate seems not to be well placed. The paper argues that the issue is not aid versus trade, rather the paper maintains that, though both aid and trade have failed to induce growth and enhance welfare in sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, both aid and trade are required by SSA countries. The paper argues further that the main questions are how to make aid and trade to be effective, growth inducing, and welfare enhancing, and how to make the transition from aid-dependency to trade dependency. Aid and trade should be seen to be complementary rather than substitutes. To this end, the paper proposes certain measures that can enhance the effectiveness of aid and ensure that the benefits from trade can be realized by a vast majority of the people of the continent.

Keywords: Aid, trade, Sub-Saharan Africa.

JEL Classification: F10, F35

Philip O. Alege

ARE THERE ANY FEASIBLE ANTI-CYCLICAL POLICIES FOR NIGERIA IN THE ERA OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS?

ABSTRACT

This paper is an empirical examination of the role of Nigerian domestic macroeconomic policies in managing the pro-cyclical effects of externally generated boom-burst cycles. It applies Vector Autoregression (VAR) framework on Nigerian quarterly data from 1970:1 to 2006:4 and estimates the responses of monetary and fiscal measures to unanticipated shocks over different horizon. The paper concludes that the Nigerian economy is far from converging towards a sustainable equilibrium in the short run but analysis carried far into the horizon indicates that the variables converge uniformly to the steady state equilibrium. The paper suggests that both monetary and fiscal policies could be used to address the current global crisis from domestic perspective. However, authorities must use the right mix of these policies to avoid conflicts.

Johansein Ladislaus Rutaihwa and Wumi K. Olayiwola

TRADE REFORM AND EMPLOYMENT PERFORMANCE OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN TANZANIA

ABSTRACT

The main objective of the study is to document and examine the employment performance of the textile and clothing industry during alternative trade reform episodes in Tanzania. The basic issue of concern is that employment responds to different types of trade liberalization. In achieving this objective, a descriptive method of analysis is adopted to document different phases of trade reforms and various changes in development indicators of employment and wages in the Tanzanian textile industry. The findings show that trade reforms lead to increase in employment but the increase in wage is very low during the period. The findings point to the fact that the process of trade reforms needs to be gradual and should be strengthened with appropriate institutional framework in order to enhance employment performance.

Key words: Employment, trade reform, textiles and wage

JEL Classification: C22, E24, F13, J31 and L67

Gabriel M. Ojide

GAS INDUSTRY IN NIGERIA: ITS IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE ECONOMY

ABSTRACT

A key policy objective of sustainable economic development, especially in any developing country like Nigeria, is to establish energy development paths that are both economically efficient and sustainable. However, this depends significantly on full utilization of such resources. This research work adopts an econometric approach to evaluate both the impact and the sustainability of gas utilization in the Nigerian economy. Also, it examines the structure of gas flaring in Nigeria in relationship to the imposition of fine on flared gas. The regression results and the co-integration tests show that utilization of Nigerian natural gas does not only impact positively on the economy; it is also sustainable. On the other hand, this research work equally reveals that the imposition of fine on flared gas since 1984 has not led to any structural change on the level of flared gas. Hence there is the need for government to always use analytical tools to evaluate its policy implementations. Finally, this research work offers some policy recommendations for effective planning, management and development of gas industry in Nigeria.

Keywords: Gas utilization; sustainability of gas; gas flaring; cointegration

Tayo O. George

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR WIDOWS: PATHWAYS FOR SUSTAINABLE GRASSROOT DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

This paper examines capacity building for widows and pathways for sustainable grass root development in Nigeria. The increasing number of widows with little or no means of capacity for economic empowerment at the grass root has become an acknowledged social problem in most developing societies like Nigeria. In spite of breakthroughs in medicine and scientific technology, death of both young and old especially husbands and breadwinners in most families seem not to be declining thus rendering many women widows. This paper argues the need for capacity building as an urgent step for attaining the needed sustainable national development for this segment of the population, especially at the grassroots. The study relies on survey of 942 widows across six Awori communities, a sub-ethnic group located in Ogun state, south-west Nigeria. Data from other primary sources: Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) and In-depth interviews complimented the survey method adopted for this study. Using descriptive statistics mainly, frequency distribution and simple percentages, the result shows that, about 60 percent of the sampled population had no form of formal or informal education; this is rather worrisome in this 21st century. Thus, they live in abject poverty. This paper recommends the need for both government and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to drive capacity building through formal and non-formal education such as adult education, vocational training, workshops and seminars etc, to enable widows especially at the grass root maximize their potential in the ever changing world. In addition, this drive for capacity building will facilitate both the empowerment and economic independence of widows at the grassroot who currently live in abject poverty.

Key Words: Capacity building, widows, grassroot, development, poverty.

Augustine Ebiai and O. A. Ikpefan

COMMUNAL CONFLICT, POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS RESPONSES AND ITS MANAGEMENT

ABSTRACT

Communal conflicts have been frequently identified within the indigenous African Societies as sometimes resulting in some sort of stress the consequences of which are unpleasant and frustrating. The role of communal conflict in traumatic stress are exceptionally dangerous and generally outside the range of usual experience. The aftermath of community clashes - such as the inter-ethnic crisis between the Urhobo, Itsekeri and Ijaw rural communities in Delta State, Nigeria, the Ilaje and the Ijaw communities in Ondo-State, the Ogoni and Oil companies in Rivers and Bayelsa States respectively - is fear or apprehension which is derived from threat. Threats leads to arousal or a general state of alertness and increased physiological activities and anxiety that contribute to hinder the health of individuals in these communities. A comparative study of two major communities in Niger Delta was carried out: one in Ughelli town in the urban part of Ughelli North Local Government Area (LGA) and the other in Orogun in the rural neighbourhood of the same LGA. Total number of participants was 360 divided equally between the two communities at 180 participants each. Both towns recently experienced communal clashes and conflicts. The Life Events Inventory (LEI) and Psycho physiologic Symptom Checklist (PSC) were administered to all the participants. The results show that there was a relationship between Communal Conflict (Life Event), and Post-Traumatic stress. The paper recommended some Communal Conflict and Stress Management techniques such as International Organizational activities, employment, relaxation, psycho-imagination, building of recreational centres in communities, developing communities with all the necessary infrastructures and curbing boundary disputes.

Olanrewaju Olaniyan, Abiodun S. Bankole, Olugboyega A. Oyeranti and Samuel A. Faseyi

DETERMINANTS OF CHILD NUTRITION IN NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

The importance of nutrition to an individual's well-being cannot be overemphasised because of its link to child poverty and development of adult human capital. This paper examines the effects of household resources and community-level variables on child nutrition (as indicated by the anthropometric measure of height for age). The data used for this study are drawn from the 1999 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey in Nigeria. The survey covers the whole country and questionnaires were administered to 18,300 households. We employ a model of nutrition status derived from the maximisation of household utility function. The model estimates the effects of household resources, parental education as well as community-level variables on child health status. We also explore the issue of nonlinearities in parental education as well as interaction between some community variables and parental education. Our results suggest significant relationships between household resources, community factors and child health.

Keywords: Child nutrition, child health, anthropometric, Nigeria

JEL Classification: C13, H41, I12, I38.

Oluranti I. Ogunrinola and Abayomi A. Adebayo

LABOUR MARKET EXPECTATIONS OF FINAL YEAR STUDENTS IN SELECTED NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES: THE GOVERNANCE CHALLENGE

ABSTRACT

This study examines the labour market expectations of final year students in both the Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences and Science/Science-based courses in four selected Nigerian Universities. The selected universities are made up of two private and two public institutions. In spite of the high level of unemployment of tertiary institution graduates, the demand for places in Nigerian universities remain at its historically high level. The main objective of this paper therefore is to examine the labour market expectations of graduates given the high rate of unemployment in Nigeria. The data for the study was generated from the primary source. Our method of analysis relies on the use of summary statistics as well as Ordinary Least Squares regression estimates. Two models were specified and estimated: one on the determinants of the expected job-search period; and the other on the determinants of initial earnings on first appointment. Our findings reveal an optimistic labour market expectation from the sampled graduating students in terms of expected earnings and duration of job search. Type of university attended affects expected duration of job search while the study of Entrepreneurial Development Studies (EDS) affects wage expectation. Labour market expectations also vary with different socio-economic characteristics of students and the type of institutions attended. Based on our findings, we have suggested policy prescriptions that are expected to strengthen job-creation potential of students as well as those factors that would align graduating students' expectations with realities in the labour market, thereby preventing the negative outcomes arising from unfulfilled expectations. We have also suggested further areas of research.

Sebastian Uremadu and Uchenna R. Efobi

GENDER DIVERSITY AND FIRM CHARACTERISTICS: EVIDENCE FROM NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

There has been a demand for effective corporate governance by shareholders of corporations and studies have found out that gender diversity on Board of firm enhances corporate governance. Hence, these have led to a global agitation for more representation of females on the Board of corporations. This paper examines the representation of females on the corporate Board of organizations in Nigeria and empirically investigate the effects of firm characteristics on gender diversity. We uses regression analysis to determine the effects of firm characteristics such as risk propensity, size and profitability etc. on corporate Board diversity. The results generally suggest that all other firm characteristics do not have a significant effect on the percentage of female represented on the corporate Boards. Only the ratio of long term debt to equity, which is an indicator of the extent of the risk of the firm, has a significant negative effect on gender diversity on corporate Boards. The expected recommendation from the study among others is that more skillful female should be accepted on the Board as they would be able to quell firms' characteristics, mitigating gender diversity.

Key Words: Gender diversity; Board diversity; firm characteristics

JEL Classification: J16; J22

Ernest L. Molua

A REVIEW OF TRADE FACILITATION AND COMPETITIVENESS IN CAMEROON'S COFFEE SECTOR

Abstract

Cameroon earns substantial foreign exchange from the export of coffee. However, the country's trade with the rest of the world confronts major problems of trade facilitation relating to excessive trade documentation, insignificant use of information technology, lack of transparency and of clear import/export requirements, inadequate procedures, exorbitant transport cost, lack of modernised institutions relating to customs clearance and difficulties in obtaining visas. Lowering trade related transaction costs can result in a significant improvement in Cameroon's ability to compete effectively in the global economy. The question that this research seeks to answer is how significantly liberalization can impact on trade facilitation and competitiveness, particularly in the agrarian sector and, more specifically in the coffee commodity trade. The rationale is that addressing trade facilitation issues can contribute significantly to reducing inefficiencies in such areas as customs, through simplification, rationalization and harmonization of procedures, greater transparency, and the elimination or minimization of avoidable administrative and procedural delays and costs incurred in international goods and services transactions. Cameroon has over the last fifteen years embarked on a range of measures to ease institutional and structural constraints in order to facilitate trade. The current research observes that steps to facilitate transit traffic especially investment in road infrastructure may improve supply response and trade. The paper concludes that Cameroon's coffee sub-sector stands to benefit from lower transport costs approximated by fuel costs and predictability of its trading environment.

Keywords: Agriculture, coffee, Cameroon, trade facilitation, trade liberalisation