INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES AND LIFE EXPECTANCY OF CASH CROPS PRODUCERS IN SOUTH-SOUTH, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study focused on infrastructural facilities and life expectancy of cash crops producers in the south-south geo-political zone of Nigeria. The survey research method was adopted for the study on a population comprised of sixty (60) casPh crops producing firms in Rivers, Delta and Akwa Ibom States in the South-South of Nigeria. The judgmental sampling technique was adopted and four (4) respondents per firm were selected making a sample size of 240 respondents. A 5-point likert-scale questionnaire was administered to respondents, of which 200 copies of the questionnaire were returned, obtaining a 90.1 percent response rate. The study adopted descriptive statistics; multiple regressions, analysis of variance and stepwise regression course of action. The results put forward that infrastructural facilities have a strong influence on life expectancy. As such, the study recognizes infrastructural facilities as a catalyst that predicts life expectancy competence in improving a country's wellbeing; therefore, concludes that, infrastructural facilities affect life expectancy of cash crop producers in South-South, Nigeria to an enormous degree, and that not giving concerted attention to these initiatives can lead to economic stagnation or regression, thus hampering life expectancy. The study recommends amongst others that government should provide adequate infrastructural facilities to enable cash crops producers enhance their productivity and sales in order to impact positively on their wellbeing.

Keywords: Infrastructural Facilities, Life Expectancy, Cash Crops.
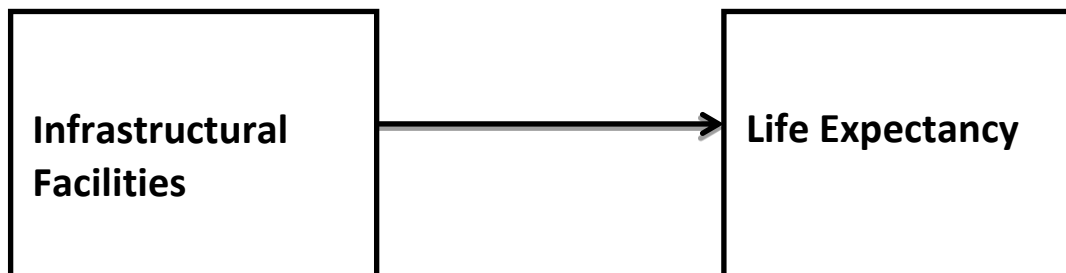
INTRODUCTION

The imperative and decisive aspiration of underdeveloped countries is swift economic growth and advancement. Economic growth is one and the same with wealth creation and income generated as foreign exchange from the goods and services produced by one nation and exported to another; with exporting described as the sale of physical goods in foreign markets (Ezirim, 2004). It should also be noted that Economic growth is also a goal of Sustainable Development captured in Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8), as it calls for increased economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation to produce high value products for export, all tied to encouraging the formulation and growth of micro-, small-, and medium sized enterprises, with access to financial institutions (United Nations, 2015). The yearning for sustainable development by underdeveloped countries can be attained by engaging in more trade focused on export, which is considered to be one of the engines driving sustainable development (Bluemling, 2014).

Rathor & Rathor (2005) informs that "Export marketing includes the management of marketing activities for products which cross the national boundaries of a country". Noula et. al. (2013) accomplished that exports engender foreign exchange desirable to acquire imports that provides added priceless effects on economic growth. They also concluded that significant positive externalities build up to the exporting country as an upshot of competition in international markets and this increases the tempo of economic growth. Nigeria needs to export her cash crops to generate foreign exchange to power sustainable development. It is no secret that Nigeria is in dire need of diversifying its economy in order to meet recurrent expenditure and begin again its path to sustainable economic development. Since the end of the oil boom in late 1970s, Nigeria has not been able to sustain economic development rate for the past four decades.

The interest of this study is to explore infrastructural facilities as a catalyst that predicts life expectancy of cash crop producers in South-South Nigeria.

Operational Conceptual Framework

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┌─────────────────┐              ┌─────────────────┐
│                 │              │                 │
│  Infrastructural│─────────────▶│ Life Expectancy │
│  Facilities     │              │                 │
│                 │              │                 │
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Research Hypothesis
Ho_i: Infrastructural facilities do not significantly influence life expectancy of cash crop   producers in South-South of Nigeria.

Concept of Infrastructural Facilities
Infrastructure is the precondition for the development of any economy. Transport, telecommunications, energy, water, health, housing, and educational facilities have become ingredients and package of human subsistence. It is not easy to envisage an up to date world devoid of these competencies. These are critical to the family circle life as well as to the economic activity. Infrastructure takes part in a fundamental responsibility in upholding economic growth and thereby donates to the lessening of economic disparity, poverty and deprivations in a country. Better access of the poor to education and health services, water and sanitation, road network and electricity is considered necessary to bring evenhanded development and social empowerment. It is a significant pre-condition for extended economic and social development.

This entails that growing the investment in infrastructure can boost productivity growth as well as quality of life. Assets (Easterly and Sergio, 1993; Canning and Fay, 2011; Canning, 1998) by means of cross section-time series pooled data establish that public infrastructure has positive effects on a country's productivity performance as well as increase is influenced positively by the stockpile of infrastructure. If adequate capital is accessible for investment in crucial industries the standard Multiplier effect will "naturally" show the way to additional industrialization. Hansen (1965), examining the role of public investment in economic development, partitions public infrastructure into two class: Economic Overhead Capital (EOC) and Social Overhead Capital (SOC). EOC is sloping chiefly en route for the nonstop sustenance of productive activities or en-route for the movement of economic goods and takes account of a good number of the public works projects. SOC is premeditated to improve human capital and comprises of social services such as education, public health facilities, fire and police protection, and homes for the aged. Further categorizations of public infrastructure encompass investments by the private sector. Hansen (1999) hypothesizes that the probable usefulness of economic overhead capital will show a discrepancy across three expansive groupings of regions: jam-packed, in-between, and covering. Congested regions are differentiated by awfully elevated deliberate population, industrial and commercial activities, and public infrastructure.

Infrastructural investments in transport (roads, railways, ports and civil aviation), power, irrigation, watersheds, hydroelectric works, scientific research and training, markets and warehousing, communications and informatics, education, health and family welfare play a tactical but meandering role in the development course, but compile a significant donation in the direction of growth by increasing the factor productivity of land, labour and capital in the production process. Particularly, safe drinking water and sanitation as well as basic educational facilities

strongly influence to the quality of life of the people. Infrastructure investment is an important dynamic force to accomplish rapid and sustained economic growth. The deficiency of infrastructure is holding back the economic growth in several developing countries. Infrastructure investment has the effects of causing an increase in productivity and it is predictable to supply to future economic growth in developing countries where infrastructure is still insufficient. High-quality infrastructure facilitates a raise in productivity and lessens costs in the openly productive activities of the economy; however, it has to be lengthened rapidly enough to meet up the demand for infrastructure in the early phase of development.

The existence of sufficient infrastructure is necessary for the transformation and commercialization of agriculture and the realization of income excess for capital accumulation. It can offer a foundation for the expansion of local manufacturing industries, and also enlarging markets for the yield of these industries. One of the biggest infrastructure projects in Africa in recent years has been the construction of a bitumen road Corridor linking farms to the port. The Corridor will help reduce transport and shipping costs between the local producer and the international markets and increase the volume of Nigerian goods transiting through the African route to western coast. There is wide recognition today that international trade and the effective participation of countries in the global economy is influenced by a host of factors besides level of tariffs and quantitative trade restrictions. These other factors include prominently the availability and quality of infrastructure. In essence, infrastructure investment that reduces trade costs promotes competitiveness and facilitates regional economic integration.

Concept of Life Expectancy

According to University of Oxford (2018), life expectancy has increased rapidly since the enlightenment. Estimates suggest that in a pre-modern, poor world, life expectancy was around 30 years in all regions of the world. In the early 19th century, life expectancy started to increase in the early industrialized countries while it stayed low in the rest of the world. This led to a very high inequality in how health was distributed across the world. Good health in the rich countries and persistently bad health in those countries that remained poor. Over the last decades this global inequality decreased. Countries that not long ago were suffering from bad health are catching up rapidly. Since 1900 the global average life expectancy has more than doubled and is now approaching 70 years.

Life expectancy in this study captures the mortality aspect of health and it refers to the average length or number of years a newborn is expected to live given the prevailing mortality rate. The growth of life expectancy in the late 20th century shows many positive economic end results in the region of the world so that numerous explorations publicized a positive relationship between life expectancy and economic development at national level. Aghion, et. al., (2011) built up a hypothetical representation which illustrate that the expansion of several economies is anchored on both the level and the growth rate of life expectancy. The linkage sandwiched between health and economic growth is put in plain words in the human capital theory which envisages that the higher life expectancy upholds investment in earning skills and directs an improved performance by labor force (Oster, et. al., 2013). Besides, low health usually directs not as much of life expectancy also it is predictable that poor health labor force is less productive and more incompetent to discover or get used to technological innovations (Madsen, 2012). This possibly will point toward the continuation of a relationship between life expectancy and economic growth. It is extensively established that human capital takes part majorly in growth progression in any country (Barro, 1996).

Life expectancy indicator usually relies on the number of years of life expectancy at birth. For example, Hansen and Lønstrup (2015) employed life expectancy at birth and Ngangue and Manfred (2015) employed the total number of years that a personage ought to be alive in a country to measure life expectancy variable.

Following in this stratum were quite a lot of studies on life expectancy (Bloom, et. al., 2004; Lorentzen, McMillan, and Wacziarg, 2008; Zhang and Zhang, 2005) who identified longevity's positive impact on various measures of GDP and GDP growth, although some studies (Bhargava, Jamison, Lau, and Murray 2001) made known a hustle-outlined association. Zhang and Zhang (2005) illustrate that a boost in education and a turn down in fertility go together with life expectancy's positive influence on economic growth, with all contact being spotlighted on diminishing returns.

Heckscher-Ohlin Theory (1979)
This theory has been put forward by Bertil Ohlin, a Swedish economist, and it has replaced the traditional comparative cost theory. Just as individuals specialize in economic activity in which they have comparative advantages, similarly countries specialize in the production of certain commodities in which they have comparative advantage on the basis of factor endowments. Just as differences in individual capabilities are the cause of exchange between individuals, similarly differences in factor prices is the cause of international trade. Bertil Ohlin thus extends the analysis which is applicable to a single market to the determination of values internationally i.e. exchange between different countries.

Thus, Ohlin observes 'International trade is but a special case of inter-local or inter-regional trade.' Hence, according to Ohlin, there is no need to have separate theory of international trade. He says that the same fundamental principle holds good of all trade, whether it is internal trade or international trade. The classical theory of comparative cost is based on the assumption of comparative immobility of the factors of production as between different countries. But Ohlin points out that this immobility is to be found even in different regions of the same country.

According to Ohlin, the immediate cause of international trade is the difference in commodity prices which in turn is due to the differences in factor prices. Goods are purchased because it cheaper to buy them from outside the country. The establishment of the rate of exchange between the two countries facilitates the comparison between the commodity prices prevailing in the two countries. Thus, in Ohlin's opinion there are no fundamental differences but only quantitative differences between inter-regional and international trade. Ohlin's theory represents a departure from the classical theory and marks a great improvement on it.

METHODOLOGY
Research Design
The survey research method was applied for this study, utilizing non-experimental design to provide a numeric description of the influence of infrastructural facilities on sustainable development of cash crops producers in Rivers, Delta and Akwa Ibom States of Nigeria.

Population for the Study
The population of the study was made up of all producers of selected cash crops (palm oil, cassava and cocoyam) in South-South, Nigeria, while the accessible population involves sixty (60) cash crops producers in the Business Registration Directorate of the Rivers, Delta and Akwa Ibom States Ministries of Commerce and Industry. The cash crops producers in Rivers, Delta and Akwa Ibom States of Nigeria were chosen because they represent the initial three states in the South-South and relevant to the study of these concepts. Additionally, it is for the most part a sizeable group of the Nigerian cash crops producing sector representative of the States in the geopolitical zone.

Sample and Sampling Techniques
The sample size was the sixty (60) cash crops producing firms earlier mentioned. The simple random sampling technique is commonly used to select the number of respondents for a study as it aims to provide a sample that reflects the population of the study, based on predetermined parameters. However, the judgmental sampling method was adopted to select respondents for this study.

Respondents constitute senior staff of respective cash crops producers in the three states covered. According to Umar and Madugu (2015), an important consequence of taking a sample from a population is that the conclusions based on a sample can extend to the target population. Therefore, the sample size of this study constitutes two hundred and forty (240) key respondents, which were assembled based on four respondents per firm. The key respondents' approach enabled the researcher to collect data from medium-level Managers specifically Unit Heads of Production and Marketing Units and their Assistants from the sixty (60) cash crops producing firms identified. Each received four copies of questionnaire and this summed up to 240 copies of the questionnaire distributed to the respondents.

Method of Data Analysis

Data analysis techniques for this study were classified into the following:

Primary or Descriptive Statistics

The study variables were reported as tables, pie charts, bar charts and graphs indicating frequencies, percentages, mean scores, standard deviations, variances etc. (Bordens and Abbott, 2001). By means of Univariate statistics, the study described either the characteristics of a sample or the connection surrounded by variables (Rubin & Babbie, 2001).

Secondary or Inferential Statistics

Inferential statistics used tested the hypotheses by multiple regressions.

Results

Infrastructural Facilities on Life Expectancy

Ho$_2$ Infrastructural facilities do not significantly influence life expectancy.

H$_2$ Infrastructural facilities significantly influence life expectancy.

Influence of Infrastructural Facilities on Literacy Rate **(N=200).**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the estimate
1	.810	.656	.653	.50668

a. Predictors (Constant), Infrastructural facilities

b. Criterion Variable Life expectancy

Given that for hypothesis two, the significant is .000 which is less than 0.05; there is a significant, influence of infrastructural facilities on life expectancy. The researcher also used ANOVA to test the hypothesis in this section.

One way ANOVA for the difference in mean between Infrastructural Facilities and Life Expectancy **(N=200).**

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	55.771	1	55771	281.139	.0000
Within Groups	23.849	199	257		
Total	100.94	200			

a. Criterion variable- Life expectancy

b. Predictor- Infrastructural facilities

The table shows that there is difference in mean between infrastructural facilities and life expectancy

Relationship between Infrastructural Facilities and Life Expectancy

The hypothesis wanted to agree on the end product of infrastructural facilities on life expectancy using the multiple regression analysis. The hypothesis was affirmed in the null form, statistically tested and discarded. The concept of infrastructural facilities as calculated in this study dealt with issues adjoining on infrastructural facilities as an affirmative to life expectancy. From our result, we comprehend that when infrastructural facilities are appropriately embraced it rubs positively on life expectancy. Our discovery agrees and supports the findings of Fidelis et al (2014); who found

that infrastructural facilities positively affect economic growth hence sustainable development by showing that infrastructure is transitional for goods and service in the real sector and complete goods and service for consumers.

CONCLUSION
This study assessed the degree to which infrastructural facilities affect life expectancy of cash crop producers in South-South, Nigeria by means of a quantitative analysis, which makes obvious that in attendance are ample substantiations that the components of export marketing initiatives investigated by this existing study were optimistically connected with life expectancy.

RECOMMENDATIONS
Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were proffered:
1. Government should provide adequate infrastructural facilities such as power supply, transportation and good road network to enable cash crops producers reduce their cost of production, storage and transportation.
2. There should be government effort in sensitizing cash crops producers on the benefits of export incentives in promoting production for export.
3. The Nigerian government should scrutinize export marketing initiatives as a procedure that involves incessant modernization of infrastructural facilities, review of export incentives and periodically organize trade fairs to guarantee accessibility of cash crops producers to foreign market in order to enhance their competitiveness in this 21st century commerce milieu.

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