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AN ANALYSIS OF AGE AND OWNERSHIP STRUCTURES OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN ONDO STATE

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Abstract

The study focused on an examination of age and ownership structures of small scale industrial establishments in Ondo State of Nigeria. This was with a view to assessing the survival rates as well as the structure of enterprises' owners. The study made use of 353 questionnaires which constituted 25% of enterprises administered on nine settlements proportionately on basis of existing enterprises in each settlement. These were analysed using descriptive methods. The study found out that over 48% of existing enterprises with some variation across the 3 sampled regions were established between year 2000 and 2012. Moreover, only 1.7% of existing enterprises were those established before year 1970. This reflects high mortality rates among the enterprises. Moreover the structure of ownership revealed dominance of sole proprietorship accounting for over 90% of all enterprises owners. This has its problems since sole proprietors are considerably constrained in term of finance and managerial capability, they often find it hard to survive. As a way forward the study recommends more governmental support in terms of improved access to finance and training.

1.Introduction

The small scale industry is recognized as an integral component of economic development and a crucial element in the effort to lift countries out of poverty (Otaigbe 2000). Small scale industries are a driving force for economic growth, job creation and poverty reduction in developing countries. They have been the means through which accelerated economic growth and rapid industrialization have been achieved (Harris et, al 2006, Sauser 2005). It is also a feeder service to large scale industries (Fabayo, 2009)

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) sets a critical challenge of halving absolute poverty in the world by 2015, the Nigerian vision 2020, which was launched in 2006, has among its objectives sustainable industrial development by the end of targeted year. Small scale industries have been identified to be capable of making important contribution towards achieving these goals by reducing poverty, and improving other indices of development.

Yet this industrial sub sector often suffers from high mortality rate (Olayiwola and Adeleye 2005) which some scholars have attributed to many reasons such as poor access to finance (Fatusin 2008), poor infrastructure (Sanni 2009), poor management (UNDP 2002) and so on. Little efforts have been made to evaluate the age and ownership structure of the enterprises themselves which might have contributed in no small way to this parlous state. Hence this study.

1.1.Small Scale Industries as a Strategy of Employment and Poverty Alleviation

Scholars have long understood that small scale industries can play a major role in economic development. In fact the United Nations in 2005 reported that the share of small and medium scale enterprises in manufacturing value added in developing countries varied from 20% to 65%, in spite of the fact that this is still small, it provides considerable improvement. Moreover it can be assumed that 80% of all enterprises in the developing countries are in small and medium category, it also account for 50 - 60% of total employment in the manufacturing sector. In Brazil, the report recounted that out of the 42, 500 manufacturing establishments, some 30, 600 are classified as small scale enterprises. It also employs between 5 and 19 workers. The UN report on the Latin - American region observed the same trend in Chile and Argentina. In these countries like those previously reviewed, small scale industrial establishments have the largest share in employment generation and they offer strong ground for linkage (Ranis and Stewart 2007). Moreover Osoba (1987) had reported that in Africa, small scale industries are large employers of labour. In Sierra Leone, Chuta and Liedholm (2008) observed that the number of small scale enterprises was about 4,700 with a total employment of 87, 000 persons. During the same period, they reported that there were about 28 large scale industries which employed only 4, 111 persons. In his study of small enterprises in North Carolina, Landabaso (2001) asserted that among the various advantages of small scale enterprises are high total factory productivity, greater concentration among population in terms of income generated and output, greater share of ownership by

nationals, industrial dispersal, stemming rural urban migration, greater reliance on domestic capital and lower levels of managerial and technological skills. Furthermore, they require relatively small amount of fund to set up and are more adaptable to local conditions, use of local raw materials and technology.

Commenting on the role of industrialization in development, Yusuf, Olagbemi and Atere (2011), in their study of small scale industries owned by women advocated for the promotion of small scale industries in the developing countries as strategy for industrialization on the basis that its capital requirements are low and therefore within the reach of the indigenous entrepreneur. Also small scale enterprises may achieve higher employment and development of entrepreneurship and is particularly suitable for women whose means of production is considerable lower than men.

To Akinbinu (2001) small scale industries have contributed in very important ways to Nigeria economic development. When they are concentrated in a particular location as clusters of enterprises, they exhibit what he termed collective efficiency or economies of agglomeration. To him there is an increasing recognition that in addition to the internal assets or capabilities of firms. The ability of a firm to reach and sustain industrial maturation will have to rely on its organizational capability to form fruitful relationships with other domestic and international actors Sadiqqi (2003).

However, (Berry et al, 2002) observed that the contribution of many small scale industry has been characterized by low contribution to output of industries in many developing countries, low growth rate and inability to graduate into higher size category (Liedholm, 2002). Compared to large firms, poor performance of micro and small firms has been connected to limited demand for their products and their inability to access foreign market and technology. Other factors, connected to the poor performance of the SSI include shortage of working capital (Liedholm 2002), institutional and infrastructure obstacles (Reinikka and Svenson 2002), their involvement in non-productive networking activities (Duraton and Overman, 2002). It also includes the professional background of the entrepreneur, entrepreneurial capacities and programmes, cultural and religion beliefs as well as technology adopted and operating environment (Buttner 2001, makhbul 2011)

1.2.Trends in industrial development in Ondo State

Ondo State First Development Plan (1976 - 1980) sets the objective of making the state an industrial one. Consequently, several large scale industries such as Oluwa Glass

Factory, Igbokoda; Ikon Ceramic Industries, Ikon; Nigerian-Romanian Wood Industry; And Ile – Oluji Cocoa Processing Plant were established under the management of Ondo State Investment Holding Company. The plan had the objective of establishment at least one major industry in each of the local government areas making the state. To further encourage private sector led growth, industrial site and service schemes were established in the major towns of the state such as Akure, Ondo, Okitipupa, and Owo (Ondo State, 1998).

In 1989, the Military Governor of the State convened a stakeholders meeting on Industrial development of the state. For the first time, the conference recognized the indispensability of industries to economic development and therefore recommended the reestablishment of a separate body to oversee its promotion under the State Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The meeting also noted the contribution of the informal sector to employment generation and poverty alleviation. It called on the government as it puts it to “formalise the informal sector”. However, the recommendation of the body was at best partially implemented. No separate body was established to oversee the promotion of industries, except the state ministry of commerce and industry. This department had responsibilities for the formulation of policies for the promotion and development of all business enterprises in the state. It equally provided financial, technical and advisory services to investors. Apart from the foregoing responsibilities, the department played a crucial role at the meetings of the National Council on Industries (NCI) where policies on industrial development in Nigeria are initiated.

In 2003, the Ondo State Government convened “a-think-thank” of experts on sustainable economic development for the state. The conference recommended a re- invigoration of the industrial sector through government policy intervention in form of finance, tax exemptions and easy access to land. The government for the first time established Ondo State Enterprises Development Agency to provide easy access to fund for industries. In 2004, the state entered into an agreement with the Federal government for the establishment of Industrial Park at Onyearugbulem market along Akure-Ilesha bye pass. The park was meant to service industries through the fabrication of machines and spare parts. The park has since commenced operation.

In 2011, Ondo State government set aside N3billion as loans to investors willing to set up industry in the state as part of efforts to encourage private investment. The government had also signified intention to hold 40 per cent equity in any company willing to set up in the state. Some of the incentives being provided by the government include easy land acquisition, free advisory and counseling services on investment opportunities in the state and provision

of credit windows for investors to access loans for the establishment of enterprises or the expansion of the existing ones.

In the area of small scale industries as early as 1978 the state government had realized the indispensability of small scale industries especially the informal sector. By the early 1990 and beyond, the large scale industries that were established from onshore and offshore loans have all collapsed and the state experienced deindustrialization instead of functional industrialization. By the middle of the 90s, the debt accumulated by the state government from these industries were piling up as the state could not meet these financial commitments, also the states Investment Holdings Company, an investment arm of the state government had ceased to exist.

Under these circumstances, emphasis shifted to small micro credit enterprises. Government later established the small scale Industrial credit scheme to channel loans and other financial assistance to these mostly private enterprises. The result was that, out of the 1,873 registered industrial enterprises in the state in 1998; over 1,293 or 70% are in the small scale category, which employ between 1-9 people. (See Table 1.1)

The small scale industry credit scheme was established by Ondo State Government to provide the needed financial assistance to the SSI for the establishment of viable projects in all parts of the state. A loan management committee was set up for the disbursement and management of funds, which operates outside the budgetary system.

The committee was guided in its operation by the Small Scale Industry Credit Scheme edit o9f 1978. Some of the provisions of the edit, particularly in respect of loan ceiling had been amended in line with the dynamic nature of the scheme.

In 1996, the State Government entered into agreement with the UNDP under a joint venture to pull resource together to provide loans to the SSI. The State Government was expected to make a counterpart contribution of #1.4 million to the UNDP and draw #6.7 million to assist SSI programme in the state. A total of 39 projects had been assisted in the procurement of equipment in such areas as garri processing, palm oil processing and constructional blocks making firms.

To ensure that the project continued even after the UNDP might have withdrawn, arrangement was made with some banks to provide counterpart funding. Till date the beneficiaries have paid several millions back, which were later given out.

Table 1.1: Distribution of Ondo State Industrial Establishments by LGA and By Size In 2007

LGA	0-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-199	200-499	500-999	1000+	Total No	Total %	
Akoko North-East	0	72	24	7	0	0	0	0	0	103	5.50	
Akoko North-west	0	49	10	3	1	0	0	0	0	63	3.36	
Akoko South	0	20	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	26	1.39	
Akure	28	323	138	89	10	12	3	3	1	607	32.41	
Ilaje	0	161	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	168	8.97	
Ile-Oluji	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
Okeigbo / Irepodun / Ifelodun	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
Irele	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	
Odigbo	0	20	10	3	1	0	0	0	1	35	1.87	
Okitipupa	3	105	30	5	0	0	0	0	0	145	7.74	
Ondo	5	97	40	15	1	1	1	1	0	161	8.60	
Ose	2	28	10	3	1	0	0	0	0	44	2.35	
Owo	0	39	12	7	2	0	2	0	0	62	3.31	
Total	No	46	1,247	369	160	22	15	8	4	2	1,873	100.00
	%	2.46	66.58	19.70	8.54	1.17	0.80	0.43	0.21	0.11	100.0	

Source: Ondo State, 1998.

Table 1.1 equally shows the distributional pattern of industries per local government in ondo state in year 1998. The table reveals that Akure had the largest number of industries closely followed by Ilaje, Ondo and Okitipupa local governments.

2. Materials methods and study area

Ondo State of Nigeria lies between latitudes 5°45' and 7°52'N and longitudes 4°20' and 6° 05'E. Its land area is about 15,500 square kilometres. Ondo State is bounded on the east by Edo and Delta states, on the west by Ogun and Osun States, on the north by Ekiti and Kogi States and to the south by the Bight of Benin and the Atlantic Ocean. Ondo state was one of the seven states created on 3rd February 1976. It was carved out of the former Western State. The state covered the total area of the former Ondo Province, which was part of the western region created in 1915 with Akure as the provincial headquarters. Ondo State took off formally on 1st April 1976, consisting of the nine administrative divisions of the former

Western State (Ministry of Information and Culture, 1979). These nine divisions then were Akoko, Akure, Ekiti Central, Ekiti North, Ekiti South, Ekiti West, Okitipupa, Ondo and Owo. Akure town-ship was retained as the state headquarters. However, on 1st October 1996, Ekiti State comprising Ekiti Central, Ekiti North, Ekiti South and Ekiti West Divisions was carved out of Ondo State. Hence, the present Ondo State is made up of Akoko, Akure, Okitipupa, Ondo and Owo divisions. Akure remains the State capital. The state has a long history of craft industries. Owo for example was noted for its pottery and beads, Ondo for weaving and metal smelting, Akure was a centre of bronze making, while Okitipupa was noted for production of indigenous soap as well as water based SSI such as fish and shrimp processing and gin making.

The research methodology that was adopted for this study was designed to obtain data on the age and ownership structure of enterprises. In all 353 questionnaires which constitutes about 25% of all industries in the state were administered on proprietors spread across the nine settlements selected.

Secondary data were collected from research institutes such as the Nigeria Institutes of Socio-Economic Research (NISER) Ibadan. Data were also be obtained from some government agencies such as Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Economic Planning, Ministry of Lands and Housing, all in Akure, and the local government areas.

2.1. Basis of Selecting Settlements

In order to select the settlements, towns and villages in the three local governments picked were classified into three (3) groups depending on their population size,

- A - Those with population of over 80,000 people (major towns)
- B - Those with population of between 70,999 and 20,000 people (minor towns)
- C - Those with less than 20,000 people (village)

The population of were settlements in the local government picked were projected to 2010 from 1991 population figure using this formula:

$$P_n = P_o (1 + \frac{r}{100})^n$$

Where;

P_n = Population projection

P_o = population of base year

l = Constant

R = Growth rate per annum

n = Number of years.

One settlement was picked from each of the above groups in each local government area sampled using simple random sampling technique. However where there was only one settlement in each category; that settlement was automatically picked. The implication of this is that, three (3) major towns Akure, Ikare and Okitipupa, three (3) minor towns Ugbe, Obaile and Odeaye, three (3) villages; IboropaAponmu and Ikoya were selected for investigation. A study of the sampled settlements was expected to capture the fundamental characteristics of small scale industries in the three regions of Ondo State.

3.Findings

3.1.Age and Ownership Structure of the Sampled Firms

The age structure of the sampled enterprises showed that most of the industries were established after year 2000; while the least which is 1.7% were those established before 1970. (See Table 2) A cursory look at table 5.9 show that between year 2000 and 2011, close to half, 48.7% (172) of the firms were established.

Table 3.1: Years of establishment of plants

Year	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Pre 1970	6	1.7	1.7	1.7
1971 – 1980	18	5.1	5.1	6.8
1981 – 1990	25	7.1	7.1	13.9
1991 – 2000	132	37.4	37.4	51.3
After 2000	172	48.7	48.7	100.0
Total	353	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2011.

Next to this was 37.4% (132) of the firms which were established between 1991 and 2000, and 7.1% (25) between 1981 and 1990. Only 1.7%(6) firms established before 1970 were still in existence today. The implication of this is that small scale industries have a high mortality rate. That is why those established some four decades ago were few when compared to those that were established much later.

However, there was a noticeable variation in age structure of firms inter region. Table 3.2 showed that though the age pattern of existing firms showed the same trend, there is a minor difference. For example in Ondo North 35% of firms were established between 2000 and 2007, about 47.3% were established during the same period in Ondo Central, while 63.8% were established during the same period in Ondo South. The implication of this is that small enterprises in Ondo South were considerably young when compared with the other two regions. One can also infer that small scale enterprises in this area had a higher mortality rate since only one third of enterprises that were established before year 2000 were still in existence.

Table 3.2: Inter-regional Variation in Age Structure of firms

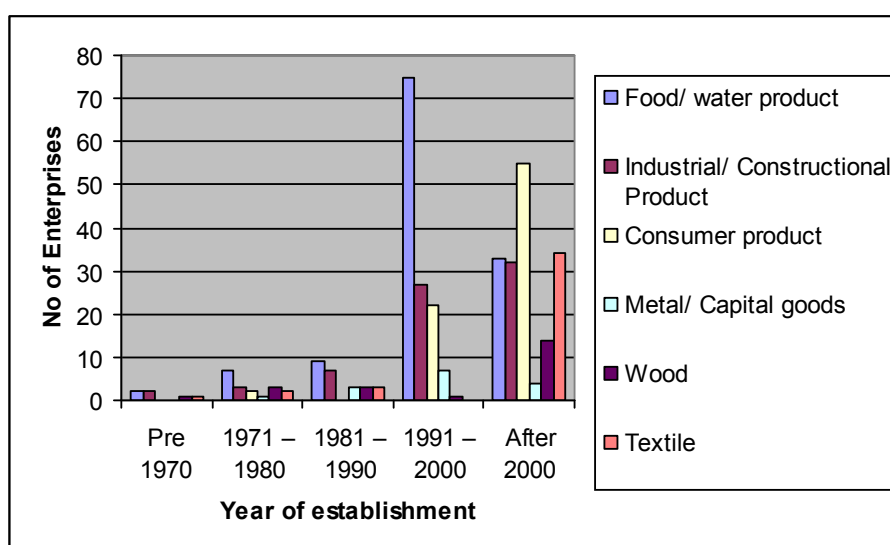
Region	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent	
Ondo Central	Pre- 1970	5	3.4	3.4	3.4
	1991 – 2000	72	49.3	49.3	52.7
	After 2000	69	47.3	47.3	100.0
	Total	141	100.0	100.0	
Ondo North	Pre – 1970	1	1.0	1.0	1.0
	1971 – 1980	18	17.6	17.6	18.6
	1981 – 1990	13	12.7	12.7	31.4
	1991 – 2000	34	33.3	33.3	64.7
	Total	102	100.0	100.0	
Ondo South	Pre – 1990	12	11.4	11.4	11.4
	1991 – 2000	26	24.8	24.8	36.2
	After 2000	67	63.8	63.8	100.0
	Total	105	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2011.

The age structure of different categories of small scale industries was also investigated. The result showed that capital/metal products enterprises tended to survive more than other industrial groups such as food, industrial products, consumer products and textile industries. (see fig. 3.1). For example out of the 15 metals/capital goods industries sampled 4.5% (1) was established before 1970, 20% (3) between 1971 – 1980, and 20% (3) between 1981 – 1990. This can be compared with food based industries, with only 1.5%(2) in pre 1970, 5.5% (7) in period between 1971 – 1980 and 7.1% (9) enterprises which were established between 1981 -1990 still surviving. Still in the food sector, majority of the enterprises 59.5% (75) were established between 1991 and 2000, followed by the period after 2000 where 26% (33) were established. For all other categories of enterprises however,

majority were established after 2000, with the least 1.7%(6) established before 1970. This further established the high mortality rate among the small scale industries in Ondo state.

Fig. 3.1: Average Age Structure of categories of Small Scale Enterprises



Source: Fieldwork 2011

3.2.Ownership structure and categorization of entrepreneurs of small scale industries

The structure of ownership revealed that all the firms sampled were privately owned (see table 3.3). Out of the 353 enterprises sampled, 92.9% (328) had sole proprietors, 5% (18) were partnerships, with only 1.98% (7) being limited liability enterprises.

Table 3.3: Types of business

Type of business ownership	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Sole proprietorship	328	92.9	92.9	92.9
Partnership	18	5	5	97.9
Limited liability	7	1.98	1.98	100.0
Total	353	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2011.

Table 3.4: Categorization of the entrepreneurs

Categories of entrepreneurs	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid Retired public servant	30	8.5	8.5	8.5
Public servant	85	24.0	24.0	32.5
Business men / woman	238	67.4	67.4	100.0
Total	353	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2011.

In the same vein, out of the 353 enterprises sampled, 238 proprietors which constituted 67.4% were business men and women who had never had any other business apart from the one they were currently engaged in, 24%(85) of the respondents were public servants who combined their major occupation with some small scale enterprises, while 8.5%(30) were retired public servants, who after retirement decided to invest in small enterprises probably with their retirement benefits, as shown in Table 3.4. The implication of this is that only few retired public servants were investing in small scale enterprises in spite of the existence of many poverty reduction schemes such as – Waste to Wealth Scheme and Ondo State Poverty Alleviating Scheme.

3.3.Regional Variation in Ownership Structure of Small Scale Industries

Though table 3.4 above revealed the percentage of firms in the different categories of ownership in the state, there existed minor variation in the pattern of ownership across the three regions of the state as shown in Table 6. For example, while 95% of firms were owned by sole proprietors in Ondo South, the figure was around 95.1% in Ondo North and decreasing to 89.3% in Ondo Central.

Table 3.5: Regional variation in types of ownership

Region	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Ondo Central				
Valid Sole proprietorship	126	89.3	89.3	89.3
Partnership	10	6.8	6.8	96.6
Limited liability	5	3.4	3.4	100.0
Total	141	100.0	100.0	
Ondo North				
Valid Sole proprietorship	97	95.1	95.1	95.1
Partnership	3	2.9	2.9	98.0
Limited liability	2	2.0	2.0	100.0
Total	102	100.0	100.0	
Ondo South				
Valid Sole proprietorship	105	95.0	95.0	95.0
Partnership	5	5	5	100
Limited Liability	-	-	-	
Total	110	100	100	

Source: Fieldwork, 2011

The study also observed inter-regional variation in categorization of entrepreneurs. For example while the businesses owned by Business men averaged 69.2% (68) in Ondo Central, it was 77.5% (97) in Ondo North and 66.4%(73) in Ondo South. For those owned by Retired people, the figure also varied from 5.5% (8) in Ondo Central, 9.8% (10) in Ondo North and 10% (12) in Ondo south. Enterprises owned by public servants varied from 25.3% (47) in Ondo Central, to 12.7% (25) in Ondo South as shown in Table 3.6

Table 3.6: Inter-regional Categorization of the entrepreneurs

Region	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Ondo Central				
Valid Retired public servant	8	5.5	5.5	5.5
Public servant	47	25.3	25.3	30.8
Business men / woman	86	69.2	69.2	100.0
Total	141	100.0	100.0	
Ondo North				
Valid Retired public servant	10	9.8	9.8	9.8
Public servant	13	12.7	12.7	22.5
Business men / woman	79	77.5	77.5	100.0
Total	102	100.0	100.0	
Ondo South				
Valid Retired public Servant	12	10.9	10.9	10.9
Public servant	25	22.7	22.7	33.6
Business men/ woman	73	66.4	66.4	100.0
Total	110	100.0	100.0	

Source: Fieldwork, 2011.

The implication of the above analyses which revealed that a gross majority, 94.3% of small scale industries in the sampled areas existed as sole proprietorship is that governments interventions aimed at improving the performance of the sector could be targeted at sole proprietors who might be willing to operate as individuals rather than form partnerships. Moreover, since many small scale industries were skill dependent especially the informal types, it was quite difficult for both retired and public servants to venture into the sector, unlike service based activities like trading which might be seen as all commers' affairs. Efforts at improving the sector might therefore lie in improving the level of skills of participants through training and retraining on new methods / techniques of production.

4.Summary and conclusion

The study has been concerned with an analysis of the age and ownership structures of small scale industrial enterprises in Ondo state of Nigeria. This was with a view to understanding the mortality and the structure of proprietors of these enterprises in the study area.

The study established that the small scale enterprises in the study area have high mortality rates. More than 48% of these enterprises were established after year 2000. Only 1.7% of enterprises, which were established before 1970 were still operating. The study however identified some regional differences among the three regions making the state. For example in Ondo North, 35% of existing firms were established between 2000 and 2007, 47.3% were established during the same period in Ondo Central, while 63% were established during same period in Ondo South. The study also established that capital and metal products industries tended to survive more than other industrial sub groups such as food, industrial products, consumer products and textile industries

Moreover, all the enterprises were privately owned with 92% being sole proprietors, 5% were partnerships, and only 1.9% being limited liability enterprises. In the same vein, 67% of proprietors were businessmen who had never been involved in any other business other than present one, 24% were serving public servants, 8.5% were retirees,. The implication of the above analysis is the fact that retired people were not going into small scale industries, perhaps as in service sector.

4.1.Recomendation

Small scale industries being a spring board of development as witnessed in many Asian countries must be supported for its potentials to be fully realized. This study has confirmed that these industries have a high mortality rates and relatively most were still quite young. It is recommended that governmental intervention by way of support in term of finance, granting of tax holidays, training, research and development must be provided to improve longetivity and attract more people into the sector.

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