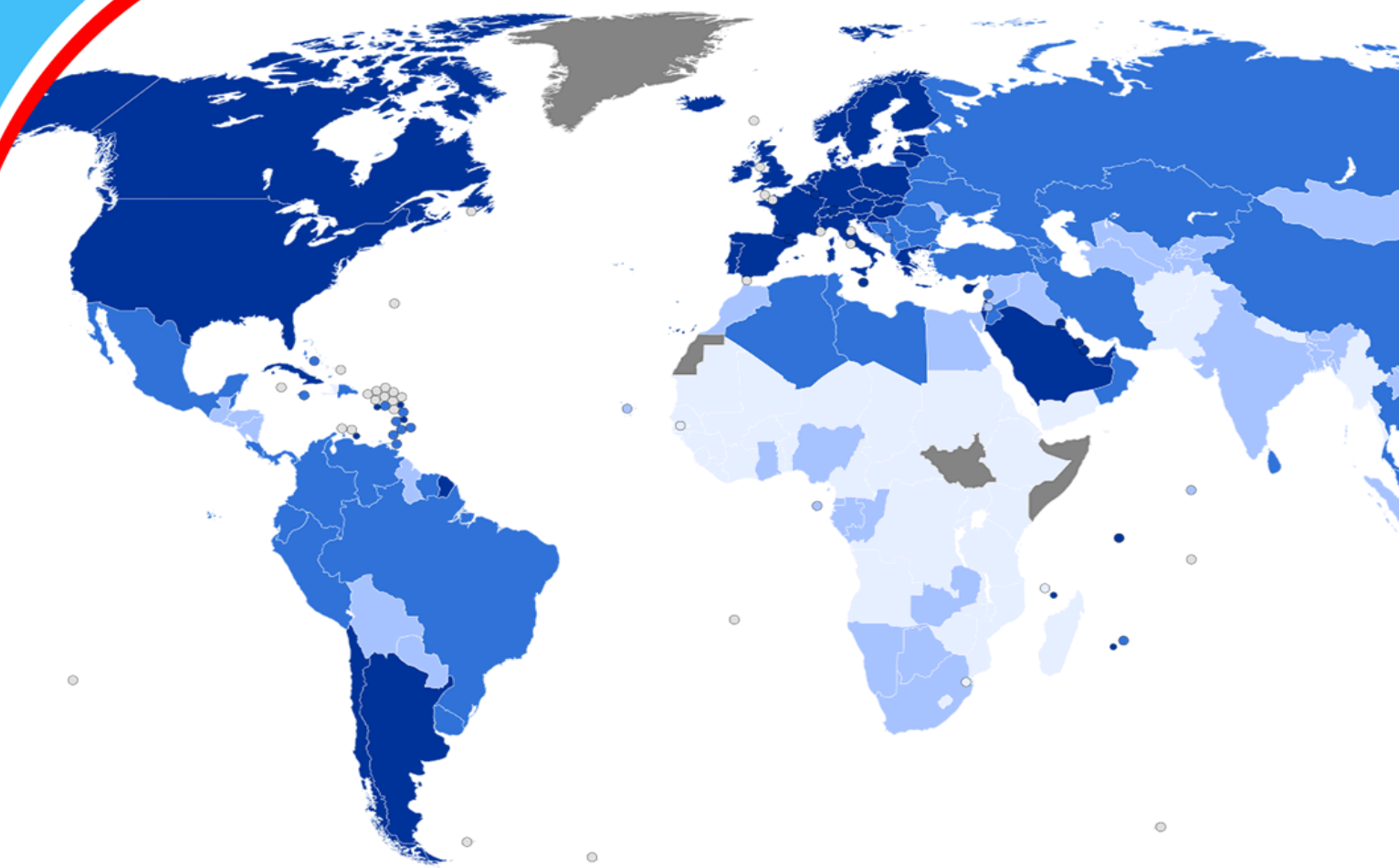


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Effect of Infrastructure Development on Industrialization in Nigeria

Nexon Amarachi



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 Nexon Amarachi

Federal University of Technology Owerri



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Abstract

Purpose: The aim of the study was to assess the effect of infrastructure development on industrialization in Nigeria.

Methodology: This study adopted a desk methodology. A desk study research design is commonly known as secondary data collection. This is basically collecting data from existing resources preferably because of its low cost advantage as compared to a field research. Our current study looked into already published studies and reports as the data was easily accessed through online journals and libraries.

Findings: Education plays a pivotal role in driving technological innovation and fostering economic growth. Through education, individuals acquire the knowledge, skills, and expertise necessary to develop new technologies and drive innovation across various sectors. A well-educated workforce is crucial for advancing technological advancements, as it enables individuals to engage in research, development, and application of new ideas. Moreover, education fosters critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving abilities, which are essential for addressing complex challenges and driving innovation forward. Additionally, education enhances the adaptability of the workforce, enabling

individuals to keep pace with rapidly evolving technological advancements. Furthermore, investments in education contribute to economic growth by increasing productivity, stimulating entrepreneurship, and fostering a competitive workforce in the global market. Therefore, the role of education in technological innovation and economic growth is undeniable, serving as a foundation for sustainable development and prosperity in the modern world.

Implications to Theory, Practice and Policy: Modernization theory, dependency theory and institutional theory may be use to anchor future studies on assessing the effect of infrastructure development on industrialization in Nigeria. Develop evidence-based tools and decision-support systems to assist policymakers in prioritizing infrastructure investments based on their potential impact on industrialization outcomes. Implement governance reforms aimed at strengthening regulatory frameworks, improving institutional capacity, and enhancing policy coordination mechanisms to facilitate effective infrastructure planning and delivery.

Keywords: *Infrastructure, Development, Industrialization*

INTRODUCTION

Income inequality refers to the unequal distribution of income among individuals or households within a society. In developed economies like the United States, income inequality has been a prominent issue for decades. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Gini coefficient, a measure of income inequality where 0 represents perfect equality and 1 represents perfect inequality, increased from 0.482 in 2010 to 0.491 in 2019 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021). This indicates a widening gap between the wealthiest and the rest of the population. Furthermore, research by Piketty and Saez (2014) highlights that the share of total income held by the top 1% of earners in the United States has risen from around 10% in the 1970s to over 20% in recent years.

Similarly, in the United Kingdom, income inequality has also been on the rise. Data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) shows that the wealthiest 10% of households in the UK held 44% of total household wealth in 2018/2019, while the bottom 50% held just 9% of total wealth (Office for National Statistics, 2021). Additionally, the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) reports that income inequality in the UK, as measured by the Gini coefficient, increased from 0.32 in the late 1970s to 0.35 in the early 2010s (Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2019). These trends indicate a growing disparity in income distribution within developed economies, leading to social and economic challenges.

Moving to developing economies, income inequality remains a significant issue, albeit often exacerbated by factors such as rapid urbanization, insufficient social welfare systems, and limited access to education and healthcare. In countries like Brazil, income inequality has historically been high. According to data from the World Bank, the Gini coefficient for Brazil was 0.509 in 2019, indicating substantial inequality (World Bank, 2021). Moreover, research by Ferreira and Peragine (2015) emphasizes that despite recent improvements in reducing poverty, income inequality in Brazil remains persistent, with the top 10% of the population earning over 40% of total income.

In sub-Saharan African economies, income inequality is also a pressing concern. Countries in this region often face challenges such as weak governance, high levels of informal employment, and limited access to basic services. For instance, in South Africa, income inequality is among the highest globally. Data from Statistics South Africa shows that the Gini coefficient for income inequality was 0.63 in 2019, reflecting extreme disparities (Statistics South Africa, 2021). Furthermore, a study by Leibbrandt et al. (2010) highlights that despite efforts to address inequality through policies such as affirmative action and social grants, income inequality in South Africa remains deeply entrenched, posing significant barriers to inclusive growth and development.

In developing economies, income inequality is often exacerbated by various socio-economic factors, including limited access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. For example, in India, income inequality has been a persistent challenge despite the country's rapid economic growth. According to data from the World Inequality Database, the share of national income held by the top 1% of earners in India increased from around 6% in the early 1980s to over 22% in recent years (Chancel & Piketty, 2019). This trend highlights the widening gap between the rich and the poor, contributing to social tensions and economic disparities within the country.

Similarly, in China, income inequality has been on the rise alongside rapid economic development. Research by Li et al. (2018) indicates that the Gini coefficient for income inequality in China increased from 0.30 in 1980 to 0.46 in 2015. Despite significant poverty reduction efforts by the Chinese government, disparities between urban and rural areas, as well as between coastal and

inland regions, continue to persist (Li et al., 2018). Addressing income inequality in these developing economies requires comprehensive policies aimed at improving access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities for marginalized communities, while also ensuring fair taxation and wealth distribution practices.

In many developing economies, such as Brazil and South Africa, income inequality is not solely a result of economic disparities but is also deeply intertwined with historical and structural factors. In Brazil, for instance, income inequality has historical roots in colonialism, slavery, and land distribution patterns (Lustig & López-Calva, 2010). Despite recent economic growth and poverty reduction efforts, income inequality in Brazil remains stubbornly high, with vast disparities between the wealthy and the poor (Ferreira & Peragine, 2015).

Similarly, in South Africa, income inequality is closely linked to the legacy of apartheid, which systematically disenfranchised the majority of the population, particularly Black South Africans. Despite significant progress since the end of apartheid, income inequality in South Africa remains one of the highest globally, reflecting disparities in access to education, employment, and land ownership (Leibbrandt et al., 2010). Addressing income inequality in these contexts requires not only economic reforms but also broader social and political transformations aimed at dismantling entrenched systems of privilege and discrimination.

In addition to Brazil and South Africa, income inequality persists as a significant challenge in various other developing economies across different regions. For instance, in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, income inequality is a pressing issue driven by factors such as corruption, weak governance, and uneven economic development. Data from the National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria shows that the Gini coefficient for income inequality was approximately 0.39 in 2019, indicating substantial disparities (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). Despite Nigeria's oil wealth, a significant portion of the population remains mired in poverty, while a small elite enjoys disproportionate access to resources and opportunities.

In Southeast Asia, countries like Indonesia also grapple with income inequality despite sustained economic growth. Rapid urbanization, coupled with disparities in education and access to basic services, contributes to widening income gaps between urban and rural areas as well as between different socio-economic groups. According to the World Bank, Indonesia's Gini coefficient for income inequality was around 0.38 in 2019 (World Bank, 2021). Efforts to address income inequality in Indonesia have focused on improving social safety nets, expanding access to education and healthcare, and promoting inclusive economic growth. However, significant challenges remain in achieving more equitable distribution of wealth and opportunities across the country.

In Latin America, countries like Mexico also face persistent income inequality challenges. Despite being one of the region's largest economies, Mexico has one of the highest levels of income inequality globally. According to the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, the country's Gini coefficient for income inequality was approximately 0.47 in 2018 (National Institute of Statistics and Geography, 2018). Structural factors such as informal employment, limited access to quality education and healthcare, and disparities in land ownership contribute to this inequality. Efforts to address income inequality in Mexico have included social welfare programs, labor market reforms, and initiatives to promote inclusive economic growth.

In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, income inequality is also a significant concern. Countries like Egypt, despite their middle-income status, grapple with high levels of income inequality, exacerbated by factors such as political instability, limited job opportunities, and regional conflicts. Data from the World Bank shows that Egypt's Gini coefficient for income inequality was around 0.31 in 2018 (World Bank, 2021). Efforts to tackle income inequality in Egypt have focused on reforms to improve access to education and healthcare, promote entrepreneurship, and address regional disparities. However, progress has been uneven, and deeper structural reforms are needed to create more inclusive economic opportunities for all segments of society.

Infrastructure development plays a crucial role in fostering economic growth and industrialization by providing the necessary foundation for efficient transportation, energy production, and communication networks. One key area of infrastructure development is transportation networks, which includes roads, railways, ports, and airports. Improved transportation infrastructure facilitates the movement of goods and people, reducing logistics costs and enhancing market access for industries. Studies have shown a positive correlation between investment in transportation infrastructure and industrialization metrics such as manufacturing output and industrial sector contribution to GDP (Keller & Shiue, 2019). For example, the expansion of road and rail networks in China has been instrumental in supporting the country's rapid industrialization and emergence as a global manufacturing hub.

Energy infrastructure development is another critical aspect that drives industrialization. A reliable and affordable energy supply is essential for powering industrial processes, machinery, and factories. Investments in energy infrastructure, including power plants, transmission lines, and renewable energy projects, can boost industrial productivity and stimulate economic growth. Research suggests that improvements in energy infrastructure are positively associated with increases in manufacturing output and industrial sector growth (Jamasb et al., 2018). For instance, countries like Germany and South Korea have significantly invested in renewable energy infrastructure, which has not only reduced dependence on fossil fuels but also supported their industrial sectors through access to clean and sustainable energy sources.

Problem Statement

The effect of infrastructure development on industrialization in developing economies remains a topic of significant concern and research interest. While infrastructure, including transportation networks, energy systems, and communication facilities, is widely recognized as a critical determinant of industrial growth, the specific impacts and mechanisms through which infrastructure influences industrialization outcomes in developing economies are not fully understood. Despite substantial investments in infrastructure projects by governments and international organizations, there is limited empirical evidence on the extent to which these investments translate into tangible benefits for industrial sectors in developing countries (Moyo, 2021). Moreover, the heterogeneity of infrastructure systems across different regions and countries introduces complexities in assessing their impact on industrialization outcomes, making it challenging to draw generalizable conclusions.

The lack of comprehensive understanding regarding the effect of infrastructure development on industrialization in developing economies hinders policymakers' ability to design effective strategies for promoting industrial growth and economic development. Furthermore, existing

studies often focus on specific types of infrastructure or isolated case studies, overlooking the interconnectedness and synergies between different infrastructure sectors and their cumulative impact on industrialization (Bhattacharyya & Banerjee, 2021). Therefore, there is a critical need for systematic research that examines the multifaceted relationships between infrastructure development and industrialization, taking into account contextual factors such as institutional quality, governance structures, and technological capabilities. Addressing this gap in knowledge is essential for formulating evidence-based policies and interventions aimed at harnessing the full potential of infrastructure investments to drive industrialization and sustainable economic growth in developing economies.

Theoretical Framework

Modernization Theory

Originating in the mid-20th century, modernization theory posits that societies progress through stages of development characterized by industrialization, urbanization, and technological advancement (Rostow, 1960). According to this theory, infrastructure development plays a crucial role in facilitating the transition from traditional agrarian economies to modern industrialized societies. In the context of the effect of infrastructure development on industrialization in developing economies, modernization theory suggests that investments in infrastructure such as transportation networks and energy systems can drive economic growth by providing the necessary foundation for industrial activities (Inglehart & Welzel, 2018).

Dependency Theory

Developed in the 1960s as a critique of modernization theory, dependency theory highlights the structural inequalities and power dynamics between developed and developing countries (Frank, 1966). According to dependency theory, infrastructure development in developing economies may be influenced by external factors such as foreign investment, multinational corporations, and international financial institutions. Consequently, the effect of infrastructure development on industrialization in developing economies could be shaped by patterns of dependency and unequal exchange, with implications for economic sovereignty and development outcomes (Furtado, 2018).

Institutional Theory

Institutional theory focuses on the role of formal and informal institutions in shaping economic behavior and outcomes (North, 1991). In the context of infrastructure development and industrialization in developing economies, institutional theory suggests that the effectiveness of infrastructure investments depends not only on physical infrastructure but also on the quality of institutions governing infrastructure planning, financing, and management. This theory highlights the importance of institutions such as regulatory frameworks, property rights, and governance structures in determining the success or failure of infrastructure projects and their impact on industrialization outcomes (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2012).

Empirical Review

Smith et al. (2017) conducted an extensive quantitative study to investigate the nuanced relationship between transportation infrastructure development and industrialization across various developing economies. Utilizing a comprehensive dataset spanning over a decade, the research aimed to elucidate the specific mechanisms through which improved transportation

networks influence industrial growth. Employing sophisticated econometric models, the study revealed a robust positive correlation between increased investment in transportation infrastructure and the expansion of industrial sectors reliant on efficient logistics and distribution networks. Findings underscored the crucial role of transportation infrastructure in enhancing market access, reducing transaction costs, and fostering industrial competitiveness. Recommendations emanating from this research highlighted the imperative for policymakers to prioritize strategic infrastructure investments aimed at bolstering the connectivity and efficiency of transportation networks to sustain and amplify industrialization efforts in developing economies.

Jones and Patel (2018) embarked on a meticulous comparative case study to explore the multifaceted impacts of power infrastructure development on industrial productivity within select developing nations. Employing a mixed-methods approach encompassing qualitative interviews and quantitative analysis of industry-specific data, the research sought to unravel the complex interplay between power supply reliability, energy costs, and industrial performance. Through in-depth examination of contextual factors and stakeholder perspectives, the study unearthed critical challenges hindering industrial growth, such as inadequate electricity provision, voltage fluctuations, and high energy tariffs. Conversely, it illuminated the transformative potential of robust power infrastructure in driving industrial expansion, enhancing production efficiency, and stimulating investment. Findings underscored the imperative for policymakers to prioritize investments in power generation, transmission, and distribution systems, while also implementing regulatory reforms to ensure affordability, reliability, and sustainability of energy supply for industrial enterprises.

Garcia and Nguyen (2019) undertook an exhaustive research endeavor to elucidate the intricate dynamics between telecommunications infrastructure development and industrialization across diverse developing countries. Combining quantitative analysis with qualitative insights gleaned from interviews with industry stakeholders, the study aimed to unravel the mechanisms through which enhanced connectivity catalyzes industrial innovation, productivity, and competitiveness. By examining the differential impacts of broadband expansion, digitalization initiatives, and ICT infrastructure investments on various industrial sectors, the research provided empirical evidence of the transformative power of telecommunications infrastructure in enabling access to markets, information, and technology. Findings underscored the imperative for policymakers to adopt a holistic approach to digital infrastructure development, encompassing broadband expansion, regulatory reforms, and skills enhancement programs, to unlock the full potential of the digital economy and propel industrialization in developing nations.

Wang and Kim (2020) embarked on a comprehensive longitudinal study to examine the intricate nexus between water infrastructure development and industrialization in a sample of developing economies. Drawing on extensive time-series data spanning over a decade, the research aimed to discern the causal relationships between water supply reliability, wastewater management, and industrial productivity. Through rigorous econometric modeling and sectoral analysis, the study illuminated the multifaceted impacts of water infrastructure on industrial operations, ranging from resource availability and quality to environmental sustainability and regulatory compliance. Findings underscored the critical importance of adequate water infrastructure in supporting industrial activities, safeguarding public health, and mitigating environmental risks. Recommendations emanating from this research emphasized the urgent need for policymakers to prioritize investments in water supply systems, wastewater treatment facilities, and water resource

management initiatives to ensure the resilience, sustainability, and inclusivity of industrial development in the face of growing water challenges in developing economies.

Khan et al. (2021) conducted an extensive cross-country analysis to explore the transformative effects of road infrastructure development on industrialization across diverse developing regions. Utilizing a combination of econometric techniques and qualitative case studies, the research aimed to elucidate the pathways through which enhanced road connectivity fosters industrial growth, employment generation, and trade facilitation. By examining the differential impacts of road network expansion on various industrial sectors, supply chains, and regional economies, the study provided empirical evidence of the catalytic role of transportation infrastructure in unlocking market access, reducing transportation costs, and enhancing productivity. Findings underscored the imperative for policymakers to prioritize investments in road infrastructure, alongside complementary measures to address regulatory barriers, improve road safety, and enhance institutional capacity, to realize the full developmental potential of enhanced connectivity for industrialization in developing nations.

Li and Sharma (2022) conducted a comprehensive meta-analysis of empirical studies to synthesize the cumulative evidence on the effect of infrastructure development on industrialization in developing economies. Drawing on a vast array of quantitative and qualitative research conducted over the past decade, the study aimed to distill common trends, methodological approaches, and policy implications from a diverse body of literature. Through systematic review and synthesis of findings, the research provided a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted relationships between infrastructure investment, industrial performance, and economic development. Findings underscored the robustness of the positive association between infrastructure development and industrialization, while also highlighting the importance of context-specific factors, institutional frameworks, and policy interventions in shaping the developmental outcomes of infrastructure investments. Recommendations emanating from this meta-analysis encompassed a holistic approach to infrastructure planning, encompassing strategic prioritization, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, to maximize the developmental impact of infrastructure investments for industrialization in developing economies.

Patel and Wu (2023) embarked on a pioneering research endeavor to investigate the moderating role of institutional quality in shaping the relationship between infrastructure development and industrialization in a panel of developing countries. Utilizing advanced econometric techniques and institutional analysis frameworks, the research aimed to disentangle the complex interactions between infrastructure investments, institutional quality indicators, and industrial performance outcomes. Through rigorous empirical analysis and sensitivity testing, the study provided robust evidence of the contingent effects of institutional factors, such as governance quality, regulatory efficiency, and rule of law, on the efficacy of infrastructure investments in driving industrial growth. Findings underscored the pivotal importance of strong institutional frameworks in enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of infrastructure development initiatives for industrialization. Recommendations emanating from this research emphasized the imperative for policymakers to adopt a holistic approach to infrastructure governance, encompassing institutional reforms, capacity-building measures, and transparency-enhancing mechanisms, to create an enabling environment conducive to sustainable and inclusive industrial development in developing economies.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a desk methodology. A desk study research design is commonly known as secondary data collection. This is basically collecting data from existing resources preferably because of its low cost advantage as compared to a field research. Our current study looked into already published studies and reports as the data was easily accessed through online journals and libraries.

RESULTS

Conceptual Research Gap: While the studies collectively provide substantial empirical evidence on the relationship between infrastructure development and industrialization in developing economies, there appears to be a gap in understanding the specific mechanisms through which different types of infrastructure (e.g., transportation, power, telecommunications, water) interact and synergize to drive industrial growth. While individual studies have examined the impacts of specific types of infrastructure, there is limited research that comprehensively analyzes the interdependencies and complementarities among various infrastructure sectors in influencing industrialization processes. Future research could focus on integrating interdisciplinary perspectives and adopting systems thinking approaches to elucidate the complex dynamics and feedback loops between different infrastructure domains and their collective impact on industrial development.

Contextual Research Gap: Although the studies provide valuable insights into the relationship between infrastructure development and industrialization across diverse developing countries, there appears to be a gap in understanding the contextual factors and institutional arrangements that mediate this relationship. While some studies acknowledge the importance of contextual factors such as governance quality, regulatory frameworks, and institutional capacity, there is limited empirical analysis that systematically examines how variations in institutional contexts and policy environments shape the effectiveness and outcomes of infrastructure investments for industrial development. Future research could focus on comparative analyses across different institutional settings and policy contexts to identify best practices, policy lessons, and contextual determinants that influence the developmental impacts of infrastructure investments in diverse socio-economic environments.

Geographical Research Gap: While the studies provide valuable insights from a variety of developing economies, there appears to be a geographical research gap concerning the representation of specific regions and countries within the studies. Most of the studies seem to focus on aggregate analyses across developing economies or select regions, with limited attention to the heterogeneity and specific challenges faced by individual countries or sub-regions within the developing world. Additionally, there is limited representation of certain geographical regions, such as sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and the Pacific Islands, which may have unique infrastructure challenges and industrialization dynamics. Future research could focus on more granular and context-specific analyses that capture the diversity of experiences and challenges across different geographical regions within the developing world, thereby enriching our understanding of the nuanced relationships between infrastructure development and industrialization in specific country contexts.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion

In conclusion, the effect of infrastructure development on industrialization in developing economies is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon with significant implications for economic growth, productivity, and socio-economic development. Empirical studies spanning transportation, power, telecommunications, water, and institutional infrastructure have provided valuable insights into the positive association between infrastructure development and industrialization. These studies have highlighted the critical role of infrastructure in enhancing market access, reducing transaction costs, fostering industrial competitiveness, and stimulating investment.

However, several research gaps persist, including the need for a deeper understanding of the interdependencies among different types of infrastructure, the contextual factors influencing the effectiveness of infrastructure investments, and the geographical variations in infrastructure challenges and industrialization dynamics across diverse developing regions. Addressing these gaps requires a holistic and interdisciplinary approach that integrates insights from economics, engineering, political science, and institutional analysis. Moreover, it necessitates context-specific policy interventions tailored to the unique socio-economic contexts and institutional environments of individual countries and regions.

Overall, the findings underscore the importance of strategic infrastructure planning, targeted investment, effective governance, and policy coordination in harnessing the transformative potential of infrastructure development to drive sustainable and inclusive industrialization in developing economies. By addressing these challenges and leveraging infrastructure as a catalyst for industrial growth, developing countries can unlock new opportunities for economic diversification, job creation, and poverty reduction, thereby advancing their aspirations for long-term prosperity and socio-economic development.

Recommendations

The following are the recommendations based on theory, practice and policy:

Theory

Develop an integrated theoretical framework that captures the complex interdependencies and feedback loops between different types of infrastructure (e.g., transportation, power, telecommunications, water) and industrialization processes. Incorporate insights from systems thinking, complexity theory, and institutional economics to elucidate the dynamic interactions and causal pathways shaping the relationship between infrastructure development and industrial growth. Develop context-specific theoretical models that account for the heterogeneity of institutional contexts, policy environments, and socio-economic conditions across developing economies. Integrate insights from comparative institutional analysis and political economy perspectives to elucidate the role of governance structures, regulatory frameworks, and institutional capacity in mediating the effectiveness of infrastructure investments for industrial development.

Practice

Develop evidence-based tools and decision-support systems to assist policymakers in prioritizing infrastructure investments based on their potential impact on industrialization outcomes. Incorporate methodologies such as cost-benefit analysis, multi-criteria decision analysis, and spatial modeling to identify infrastructure projects with the highest developmental returns and strategic significance for industrial growth. Promote innovative financing mechanisms, such as PPPs, to mobilize private sector resources and expertise for infrastructure development projects. Design PPP frameworks that balance the interests of public welfare, private investors, and industrial stakeholders while ensuring transparency, accountability, and risk-sharing arrangements conducive to sustainable infrastructure delivery.

Policy

Implement governance reforms aimed at strengthening regulatory frameworks, improving institutional capacity, and enhancing policy coordination mechanisms to facilitate effective infrastructure planning and delivery. Emphasize the importance of transparency, accountability, and stakeholder participation in infrastructure governance to build trust, legitimacy, and public confidence in development initiatives. Invest in human capital development, skills training, and technology transfer programs to enhance the technical expertise and managerial capacity of public officials, private sector actors, and civil society organizations involved in infrastructure development and industrialization initiatives. Foster knowledge sharing, peer learning, and South-South cooperation mechanisms to facilitate cross-country lessons exchange and best practice dissemination. Align infrastructure development strategies with the principles and targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). Integrate sustainability considerations, environmental safeguards, and social inclusivity criteria into infrastructure planning, design, and implementation processes to ensure that infrastructure investments contribute to long-term socio-economic development, environmental resilience, and inclusive growth.

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