

Effect of Globalization on Economy of Quantity Surveying Services in Nigeria

Fasuyi O.A, Aluko, A. T .Fatuki, A .M, Faloyo, O. O

Department of Quantity Surveying, Federal Polytechnic Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

Globalization has become the household name. The aim of this study is to examine the impacts of globalization on quantity surveying profession in Nigeria with a view to explore and discover global phenomenon that can enhance the development of the profession in the country. Related literatures were reviewed. The questionnaires were administered and a total of 30 respondents of Registered and practicing Quantity Surveyors in Ekiti, Oyo and Ondo state were sampled and data were analyzed using Relative importance index (RII) as a descriptive tools. Results showed a high degree of reliability among all respondents in ranking effect of globalization on economy of Quantity Surveying services in Nigeria, challenges of globalization on economy of quantity surveying services in Nigeria and suggested solution to the challenges of globalization on the economy of quantity surveying services in Nigeria. It was revealed that globalization has significant effect on Quantity Surveying services in Nigeria. It is therefore imperative for Quantity Surveyors to keep alignment with modern concepts and trends globally so that the professional practice can be better performed within capabilities.

Keywords: Globalization, Quantity surveying

I. INTRODUCTION

Globalization is a process of growing interdependence of the world's economies, cultures and populations and political environment in one part of the world have significance impact on people in other parts of the world. This result in advances in communication, transportation, and information technologies and describes the growing economic, political, technological, and cultural linkages that connect individuals, communities, businesses, and governments around the world. (William, 2012). Globalization as a driver of change is considered very important process that can effects the economy and the services of Quantity Surveying

profession in the construction industry of Nigeria as a nation. The Quantity Surveying profession is a profession that deals with the detail calculation and measurement of quantities of materials and labors require for all construction activities such as building, civil and other engineering infrastructural facilities and allow for anticipating or forecasting the likely cost of projects during the various stages of implementation and effective cost control measures leading to project management (Seely,2014). Quantity surveying as profession undertakes procurement functions, overall cost management of new or refurbished projects high level of with financial probity so as to ensure value for money in the conceptualization, planning and execution of developmental projects in the construction sector of Nigerian Economy using their professional expertise. Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (1995). These services are affected by global interaction and integration through trading activities and technology among many stakeholders in the construction and out of construction economic sector, across national borders and cultures.

The Quantity Surveyors are often faced with a lot of problems in controlling the economy of a project. These challenges hinder their activities as of the stakeholders in construction industry. The challenges do not only cause unnecessary delay in the delivery of the services locally but as well as globally. The challenges of globalization on economy of quantity surveying services is risky than domestic economy construction due to difficulties such as client communication, understanding a new market and avoiding local politics, as well as supervising the diverse group of professionals who are confronted by the international construction business. In this paper, the impacts of globalization on Quantity Surveying practice in Nigeria will be examined with a view to enhance the skill and capabilities of Quantity Surveyors in discharging professional functions effectively and meeting the client's needs within

an evolving global trends. The study will focus on the key objectives such as assessing the impacts of globalization on the Economy of Quantity Surveying services, identifying the challenges facing the adoption of globalization on the Economy of Quantity Surveying services, and to suggest possible solutions to the challenges of globalization on the Economy of quantity surveying services in Nigeria.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Impacts of globalization on the Economy of Quantity Surveying services

2.2.1 Globalization and Construction Economy

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) defined globalization as "the growing economic interdependence of countries worldwide through the increasing volume and variety of cross-border transactions in goods and services and of international capital flows. Friedman (2009) defined globalization as "the world integration of finance markets, nation states, and technologies within a free-market capitalism on a scale never before experienced" through the more rapid and widespread diffusion of technology" (Khan, 2004). Globalization refers primarily to the ways in which economic and industrial institutions (such as industries or corporations) interact in various locations throughout the world, with primacy given to no specific geographic location. Globalization covers several fields including international trade, communication and free cross-border movement of people, goods, capital and technology (Khan, 2004). Hirst and Thompson (1996) wrote that the global economy operates in a world with no national cultures, domestic economies or even borders; in addition, the global processes has determined the recent economic globalization and the associated social impacts. The prospect of Globalization are technological developments which reduce the transport costs, improve information flows affect policy changes that reduces protectionism, liberalize foreign investment rules and make migration easier (Craft, 2004). Frei (2010) advised Quantity Surveyors to X-ray their business background in order to detect and adjust to imminent changes to their professional practice.

2.2 COMPONENTS OF GLOBALIZATION

2.2.1 Finance

As a result of globalization, there have been worldwide financial markets and better access to external financing for borrowers. These worldwide structures are growing more quickly than any transnational regulatory regime, this

has resulted to instability of the global financial infrastructure, as evidenced by the financial crises of late 2008.

2.2.2 Economy

Globalization is often associated with, and examined under the pretext of economics. The first indications of a global interconnectedness is in the history of trade between nations. In the modern development of globalization, the Great Depression, the establishment of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT, which later became the World Trade Organization), the European Economic Community (EEC), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as well as other organizations, have promoted strong economic relations in the international system (Al-Rodhan, 2006).

2.2.3 Politics

International politics have also undergone far-reaching changes in times. Political discourse is has shaped the acceptance of the principles of pluralism, alternation of power, division of the powers of the State, election of authorities as a basis for legitimacy and recognition of the majority and respect for minorities.

2.2.4 Information

According to Al-Rodhan (2006), the introduction of television, the telephone, and the internet has provided new media for social exchange that have heavily influenced the interaction of people within the international community. The era of instant communication has changed the way in which we view our world and our place in it. Thus, this has forever altered the way in which we interact. There has been technological change with the advent of optic communications, satellites, and increased availability of telephone and internet which has leads to increase in information flow between place globally.

2.2.5 Language

Language has played a significance roles in globalization drive for many decades among international and national boundaries. Language is a unified means of communication and relationship in the process of globalizing the entire world.

2.2.6 Ecological

This is concerned with the advent of global environment challenges that might be solved with International Corporation, such as climate

change, cross boundary water and air pollution, over-fishing of the ocean, and the spread of invasive species. Globalization has promoted emergence and appraisal of environmental comparative advantages, including the sustainable use of natural capital having economic value (forests, fisheries, tourist attractions), ecological value (natural sinks for the absorption of carbon and other pollutants) or aesthetic, historical or scientific value. Environmental issues will become more and more relevant for nation-states and ultimately for the international system as a whole, making it a potentially major driving force in the years to come (Al -Rodhan, 2006).

2.2.8 Social

This encompasses the development of the system of non-government organizations as main agents of global public policy, including humanitarian aid and developmental efforts. Societies throughout history have devised ways to support people who cannot support themselves, particularly older people, people with disabilities, and people without family. Religious and moral teachings in most societies have also encouraged people to help one another through acts of individual goodwill. Until the past few centuries, however, no society had a universal, publicly financed social support system.

2.2.9 Technological

This is related to the ever faster introduction of technological innovations, particularly the developments taking place in the area of information technology, optical fibers and miniaturization, notably greater access and integration into the information network. Equally important innovations have taken place in the field of energy production, particularly with the development of biotechnology, the biomass and superconductors, although the spread of these has been relatively slow. The impact of such innovations has been felt through the rapid decrease in both general costs and transaction and information costs in particular (Nunes, 2015).

2.2.11 Cultural

This is referred to as globalization of values, manifested most clearly in declarations on human rights. The two main dimensions of concern here are: (i) civil and political rights, by virtue of which individuals have autonomy from the power of the State and are entitled to participate in public decision-making; and (ii) economic, social and cultural rights, which reflect the values of economic and social equality, solidarity and non-

discrimination. This phenomenon is reflected in the declarations issued by the participants in world summits held under United Nations auspices on the environment, social development, population, women and the rights of the child, among others.

2.3 ELEMENTS OF GLOBALIZATION

2.3.1 Trade Agreement

This is a bilateral, or multilateral economic arrangements designed to reduce or eliminate trade barriers. Anderson and Van (2001) concluded that border barriers are large and inhibit much trade. It was revealed that further economic integration can substantially increase world trade and welfare. This therefore necessitates the need for policies, institutions and regulations that foster economic integration among Nations.

2.3.2 Capital Flow

This deals with the measurement of an increase or decrease in a Nation's domestic or foreign assets in parallel with the growth of international trade. Globalization has been accompanied by increased capital across borders and many countries, including a large number of developing countries have undertaken domestic deregulation and liberalization of external capital controls, based on the assumption that all countries can benefit from the increasing global efficiency in resource allocation.

2.3.3 Migration Patterns

This is related to impact of labor market fluidity on production costs through the loss (emigration) or gain (immigration) of potential workers, especially those with particular skills. It is concerned with changing flows of people. The globalization of markets has not been paralleled by the liberalization of labor flows, while globalization led to the dismantling of barriers to trade in goods, services and capital, barriers to cross-border labor movements are not falling as fast.

2.3.4 Information Transfer and Spread of Technology

This is related to communication trends that help mitigate the asymmetric functioning of markets and economies. One of the most influential elements in the globalization process has been the explosion of information and communication technology, The fastest growing communication tool, the internet, has enabled people from different regions and cultures to communicate rapidly and across great distances and to access information quickly. The technical

difficulty of regulating the content of messages makes the internet a particularly effective means of misusing freedom of expression and inciting to discrimination and other abuses of human rights.

2.4 DEVELOPMENTS IN QUANTITY SURVEYING PROFESSION IN NIGERIA

The history of Quantity Surveying practice in Nigeria can be traced back to 1969 when the Nigeria Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS) was formed by a group of Nigerians who trained and practiced in the UK. The NIQS was formed as a parallel body to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) of the UK. The regulated and other professions (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1978 in Nigeria recognized quantity surveying profession as one of the scheduled professions in Nigeria while the decree No 31 of 1986 gave legal backing and recognition to quantity surveying profession (Dada and Jagboro, 2012). The decree No. 31 of 1986 set up the Quantity Surveyors Registration Board of Nigeria (QSRBN) to regulate the profession (Ibironke, 2005). (Olanipekun, 2012) Quantity surveyors are trained to have in-depth knowledge of building and engineering technology so that they can provide cost and procurement management services to all projects and contracts which are based on such technology (Anago, 2004; Christabel and Vincent, 2002. Abidin, Yusof, Hassan and Adros (2011) stated that quantity surveying firms are service based which provide consultancy, financial and allied management services to their clients. In further ensuring improved service delivery, competitiveness and performance, the management of quantity surveying firms have involved in mergers, service diversification and forming consortium with both allied and non-allied professions in Nigeria (Olanipekun, Aje and Abiola-Falemu, 2013). These mergers also portends globalization strives economic integration, for improved performance and survival. Presently in Nigeria, the professional and regulatory bodies of quantity surveyors in Nigeria, the NIQS and QSRBN are more vibrant than ever, by sensitizing, training and development of members. These bodies have also aggressively taken the prospects of the quantity surveying profession to nook and cranny of Nigeria, to the government doorsteps and the global scene. The experience, expertise and knowledge of such professional enables design of construction projects to be actualize by providing necessary cost information and parameters with the aim of assisting clients in working within an approved and estimated budget.

2.5 IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON QUANTITY SURVEYING FIRMS

Globalization provides more possibilities and new opportunities to construction industry around the world with the following identified impacts on Quantity Surveying practice are:

2.5.1 Enhances Productivity: This is one the impact of globalization on economy of quantity surveying services in Nigeria whereby quantity surveyor reach an agreement (productivity agreement) through collective bargaining whereby The Quantity Surveyors agree to changes which are intended to improve productivity in return for an increase in benefits.

2.5.2 More Opportunities: Globalization opens many job opportunities to quantity surveyor who, it creates different connection for them around the globe. Globalization allows quantity surveyors to bids for a contract around the globe.

2.5.3 Labor Productivity: Globalization enhances labor production, it increases the amount of goods and service that a group of workers produce in a given time. Labor can be carried out mechanically (using of machine) to enhance the labor production and it increases standard of living.

2.5.4 Participation in International Projects: Globalization makes quantity surveying services known across the globe. It create means by which quantity surveyor can perform their duties in the construction firms both locally and international.

2.5.5 Increase In Demand For Qs: Impact of globalization on the economy of Quantity Surveying services also increase the demand for quantity surveying services of different firms, construction companies and individual who needed a QS to manage and control their project in order to acquire a reasonable and efficient projects.

2.5.6. Others Impact These includes an improvement in the presentation of documents, which leads to achieving economies of scale, and enhances socio economy wellbeing, foreign direct investment are attracted, Poverty reduction, increase in no of cost management firms offering services on International scale, generate gains, growth in ICT, increased number of professional associates, and provides means through which global wages converge affect increase in economic growth, and growth in demand for QS.

2.6.0 GLOBALIZATION ADOPTION CHALLENGES ON THE ECONOMY OF QUANTITY SURVEYING PROFESSION

International construction can be more risky than domestic construction due to difficulties such as client communication, understanding a new market

and avoiding local politics, as well as supervising the diverse group of professionals who are confronted by the international construction business. Other challenges are listed below

2.6.1 The Increasing Misunderstanding or delay costs resulting from unfamiliar environment and different institutions such as regulations, norms, and cognitive-cultural beliefs of diverse participants are critical risk factors associated with overseas construction projects since disputes resulting from different cultures can diminish a project's profitability.

2.6.2 Inadequate Knowledge Of Practitioners: The inability to understand the clients' requirement affects the project's overall success in international business. Inability of the practitioners to handle the software or machine that's will make his work easier and fast.

2.6.3 Continued Technological Change: globalization is the result of advance in transportation, communication, information technologies. It's a challenges to QS who are not knowledgeable to migrate to the standard of advancement.

2.6.4 Provide Competitive Advantages: This is also a challenge of globalizations where international QS gained through attributes and resources to perform at a higher level than others local QS in the same industry. The international QS are offer better and greater value than local QS. Others challenges of globalization are increase in capital flow, provision of competition , rise in client taste, changes way procurement are done, Value for money, increasing alienation, social disintegration, foreign companies wins larger share of contracts, loss of professional bodies, and late delivery of services.

2.7 SOLUTIONS TO GLOBALIZATION CHALLENGES ON ECONOMY OF QUANTITY SURVEYING SERVICES IN NIGEIRA.

2.7.1 Technological Know How: This is the knowledge and skill QS required to perform their duties correctly and accurately. QS Should learn how to handle software and plants which are needed for their services.

2.7.2 Increase Information Flow Between Locations: Movement of instructions and communications or circulation of information within and among various entities and individuals within the construction teams.

2.7.3 Adequate Security across the Globe: Adequate security should be provided across the globe for Quantity surveyor working in other countries or states. The materials on site should also be secured from vandalism, good profession relations, enforcement of professional obligation, government policy, adoption of professional ethics, involvement of expertize, quantity surveyor have to upgrade their products and use of technology skillfully in order to face increased competition, stability of the global financial infrastructure.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study set out to assess the effect of globalization on the economy of Quantity Surveying practice in Nigeria. The study employed a survey design approach in which a total of 30 respondents from registered and practicing Quantity surveyors in contracting firms, consulting firms and government parastatals in Ekiti, Oyo and Ondo State were found fit for analysis. Data gathered were analyzed using frequency, percentage and Mean Item Score (MIS)

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 General information of Respondents

Result showed that most of the professionals Quantity Surveyors are practicing. It is observed that 56.7% of Registered QS are from Construction firm, 26.7% of the respondents are from Consultant firm, and 16.0% of the respondents are from government parastatals, Results shows that 6.7% of the Registered QS have 1-5 years of experience, while 16.7% of the Registered QS have 6-10 years of experience, 16.7% of the Registered QS have 11-15 year of experience, 30.0% of Registered QS have 16-20 years of experience, and 40.0% of Registered QS the have 16-20 years of experience This vast years of experience shows that the respondents are adequately equipped to give answers to the research questions set for this study.

Table 1. Table Type of Organization

Options	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative percentage
Construction firms	17	56.70	56.70
Consultant firms	8	26.70	83.30
Government parastatals	5	16.70	100
Total	30	100	

Table 2. RESPONDENTS WORK EXPERIENCES

Option	Frequency	Percentages	Cumulative percentages
1-5 years	2	6.70	6.70
6-10 years	5	16.70	23.40
11-15 years	2	6.70	30.10
16-20 years	9	30.00	60.10
above 20 years	12	40.00	100.00
Total	30	100	

4.2 GLOBALIZATION IMPACTS ON THE ECONOMY OF QUANTITY SURVEYING IN NIGERIA

Table 3, Shows the impacts of globalization on the economy of Quantity Surveying in Nigeria. It is observed from the table above that the most highest Relative Important Index (RII) is 0.92, the second most highest highest Relative Important Index (RII) is 0.9 while, the

third most highest Relative Important Index (RII) is 0.893 among others which connotes that the major impacts of globalization on the economy of Quantity Surveying in Nigeria are “Enhance productivity” and “Growth in ICT” ranked 1st, “Labor productivity”, “Growth of International Membership”, “Participation in international projects” and “Upgrade social image of firms” ranked 3rd respectively among others.

Table 3

S/N	IMPACTS OF GLOBALIZATION ON THE ECONOMY OF QUANTITY SURVEYING IN NIGERIA	MEAN	RII	RANK
1	Enhance productivity	4.60	0.92	1 st
2	Growth in ICT	4.60	0.92	1 st
3	Labor productivity	4.50	0.90	3 rd
4	Growth of International Membership	4.50	0.90	3 rd
5	Participation in international projects	4.50	0.90	3 rd
6	Upgrade social image of firms	4.50	0.90	3 rd
7	Improves presentation of documents	4.47	0.89	7 th
8	More opportunity	4.43	0.88	8 th
9	Increase in economic growth	4.43	0.88	8 th
10	Generate Gains	4.43	0.88	8 th
11	Developments of local firms	4.40	0.87	11 th
12	Attract foreign direct investment	4.40	0.87	11 th
13	Provides a means through which global wages converge	4.37	0.86	13 th
14	Increase in no of Cost management firms offering services on International scale	4.20	0.84	14 th
15	Poverty Reduction	4.37	0.83	15 th

4.3 GLOBALIZATION ADOPTION CHALLENGES ON THE ECONOMY OF QUANTITY SURVEYING IN NIGERIA.

Table 4 Shows the challenges facing the adoption of globalization on the economy of quantity surveying in Nigeria. It is observed from the table above that the most highest Relative Important Index (RII) is 0.84, the second most highest highest Relative Important Index (RII) is 0.82 while, the third most highest Relative

Important Index (RII) is 0.81 among others which means that the most common challenges facing the adoption of globalization on the economy of quantity surveying in Nigeria are “Provides competitive advantages” ranked 1st, “Socio disintegration”, “Changes way procurements are done”, “Increase in capital flow” ranked 2nd respectively and “Inadequate knowledge of practitioners” ranked 3rd among others

Table 4

S/N	GLOBALIZATION ADOPTION CHALLENGES ON THE ECONOMY OF QUANTITY SURVEYING IN NIGERIA	Mean	RII	Rank
1	Provides competitive advantages	4.20	0.84	1 st
2	Socio disintegration	4.10	0.82	2 nd
3	Changes way procurements are done	4.10	0.82	2 nd
4	Increase in capital flow	4.10	0.82	2 nd
5	Inadequate knowledge of practitioners	4.07	0.81	5 th
6	Rise in client taste	4.03	0.80	6 th
7	Foreign companies wins larger share of contracts	3.97	0.79	7 th
8	Delay in delivery of the services locally	3.97	0.79	7 th
9	Continued technological change	3.93	0.78	9 th
10	Late delivery of services	3.93	0.78	9 th
11	Increase isolation	3.93	0.78	9 th
12	Increased number of professional associates	3.93	0.78	9 th
13	Loss of professional bodies	3.90	0.78	13 th
14	Social disintegration	3.87	0.77	14 th
15	Languages barriers	3.83	0.76	15 th

4.4 SOLUTION TO CHALLENGES OF GLOBALIZATION ON THE ECONOMY OF QUANTITY SURVEYING SERVICES IN NIGERIA

Table 5. Shows suggested solutions to the challenges of globalization on the economy of quantity surveying services in Nigeria. It is observed from the table above that the most highest Relative Important Index (RII) is 0.893, the second most highest highest Relative Important Index

(RII) is 0.873 while, the third most highest Relative Important Index (RII) is 0.867 among others which connote that the major suggested solutions to the challenges of globalization on the economy of quantity surveying services in Nigeria are “Involvement of expertise” ranked 1st, “Quantity Surveyor have to upgrade their products and use of technological skills Quantity Surveyor have to upgrade” ranked 2nd and “Adoption of professional ethics” ranked 3rd among others.

Table 5.

S/N	Suggested Challenges of Globalization on the Economy of Quantity Surveying Services in Nigeria	Mean	RII	Rank
1	Involvement of expertise	4.47	0.893	1 st
2	Quantity Surveyor have to upgrade their products and use of technological skills Quantity Surveyor have to upgrade	4.37	0.87	2 nd
3	Adoption of professional ethics	4.33	0.867	3 rd
4	Adoption of Code of practice	4.20	0.84	4 th
5	Technology know how	4.13	0.83	5 th
6	Enforcement of professional obligation	3.93	0.82	6 th
7	Adequate security across the globe	4.10	0.82	6 th
8	Quantity Surveyor have to upgrade their products and use of technology skillfully in other to face increased competition	4.00	0.80	8 th
9	Stability of the global financial infrastructure	3.97	0.79	9 th
10	Adoption of effective procurement approach.	3.97	0.79	9 th
11	Upgrade of products	3.93	0.78	11 th
12	Advances in technological skills	3.93	0.78	11 th
13	Increase in information flow between locations	3.83	0.77	13 th
14	Provision of High standard of services	3.80	0.76	14 th

4.5. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

We have statistical reasons to conclude that enhance productivity and growth in ICT which top the list are prominent impacts of globalization on the economy of Quantity Surveying practices in Nigeria and followed by International Membership and Participation in international projects. In similar vein, the results gotten from globalization adoption challenges on the economy of #Quantity Surveying in Nigeria showed that competitive advantages and Socio disintegration are the most significant barriers to the adoption of globalization among practicing Quantity Surveyors in Nigeria. Lastly, from the results most of the respondents showed the opinion that involvement of seasoned Quantity Surveyors and use of technological skills by Quantity Surveyor will enhanced proficiency in their professional service delivery

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This study set out to assess the effect of globalization on the economy of Quantity Surveying services in Nigeria. Using a survey design with professionals sampled, the study has been able to ascertain the impact of globalization on the economy of quantity surveying practice in Nigeria. The elements of globalization that were so significant to Quantity Surveying practices in Nigeria. It was further revealed that the components of globalization such as finance, economy, industry politics, information, language, and competition, social are significant to Quantity Surveying profession.

In conclusions globalization is core to the advancement of Quantity Surveying practices in Nigeria and has significantly impacted the growth of Quantity Surveyor's enhanced services. The quantity surveyors in Nigeria are encouraged to continually pursue the path of globalization so as to be more equipped and allow for global relevance in the profession. Full adoption of ICT and knowledge management in the profession can be achieved by keeping well-informed with latest technology and information in the profession. Quantity surveyors in Nigeria are to adopt policies that can aid appropriate utilization globalization opportunities.

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