SCIENCE FORUM (JOURNAL OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES) 22 (2022) 147 – 162

http://dx.doi.org/10.5455/sf.XXXXX

Science Forum (Journal of Pure and Applied Sciences)

journal homepage: www.atbuscienceforum.com

Kano and china in the age of neoliberal textile production

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ABSTRACT

Neoliberalism or the contemporary transition of the age-old globalization has transformed the face of textile production and trade in Kano, Nigeria. This article provides statistical analysis of the scenario of Factory C, weaving department production capacity (2000–2015).deindustrialization encouraged by the worsening performance indicators in production encouraged by the adverse effects of neoliberalism in two and a half decades (1990–2015). The study compares the effects of the phenomenon from 1990 to 1999 when neoliberalism was entrenched and from 2000 to 2015 when Kano experienced an increase in textile trade relationships with China encouraged by the free movement of goods and improved communications. Information on production performance indicators and trend in employment and capacity utilization in three sampled factories were analyzed. Descriptive statistics was used to provide a clear picture of the behavior of location parameters of the data. The research also employed trend analysis techniques by plotting the observed data of the workforce and production capacity against the years under review. The analyses showed that heavy damage was done to the industry by neoliberalism and increased China's exports. Moreover, the results indicated that production was at its peak in the 1990s in terms of labor strength and production capacity. A decline in production was observed over the years as the workforce and capacity reduced to an appalling number when China occupied the Kano production space. This was from 2000 when liberalism became endemic and the textile factories in Kano suffered its impact. The competitive position open to the foreign textile industry challenges the opportunities open to Kano textile industry by globalization. Our study can be used as a benchmark by the policy makers to formulate a policy that can create the development of a comprehensive and workable home grown strategy which will in the long run ensure mutual beneficial interaction and build the system for a genuine win–win position.

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 20 April 2021
Received in revised form 10 October 2021
Accepted 10 October 2021
Published 27 April 2022
Available online 27 April 2022

KEYWORDS

China
Employment
Kano
Nigeria
Neoliberalism
Production
Textile
Trade

1. Introduction

Neoliberalism is ubiquitous and well acknowledged, particularly at the close of the 20th century and in the 21st century (Ake, 1998; Friedman, 2000; Modelski and Thompson, 1999). The intellectual works on this phenomenon have flourished, as they have divergent

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research effects on particular regions and countries. This vast increase in research details to the ubiquity of the phenomenon; especially in Africa, the interaction is being explained from the complex transformations in the late 20th and 21st-century international relationships. Unquestionably, the idea is arguably a universal economic construct with its rationale and guidelines that currently influence a process of integration of national economies through trade and financial interaction (Kali and Reyes, 2007; Margalit, 2012; Obaseki, 2000, p. 17). It is noteworthy, nonetheless, that practically all facets of individual existence have become highly integrated, no less the economic strata.

Neoliberalism compressed the world into a single globalized community prompting greater movement of industrial goods which effectively gave China and other emerging textile industrial economies advantage. The Chinese challenge to African labor intensive industrial production is an issue that has a devastating effect on the economy generally (Large et. al., 2008; Mohan & Lampert, 2013; Zafar, 2007). China's massive textile imports into Kano market cripple capacity utilization and undermine employment. These difficulties that Kano industry is facing question the strength of the sector to endure and deliver at high capacity and increase employment, especially in its production role (Jenkins, 2004). The deindustrialization of the textile sector demonstrates how neoliberalism and the China factor have had dramatic and largely negative consequences for manufacturing concerns. Performance in the textile sector has deteriorated significantly. This makes it very difficult or unprofitable for manufacturers to invest in manufacturing activities. The negative effects of neoliberalism became pronounced in the 1990s which became severe with the arrival of the Chinese in the year 2000 (Aremu, 2015).

Textile production is long rooted in the culture of the people of Nigeria (Collide, 1997; Renne, 1997). The decades of the 1970s and 1980s witnessed a tremendous upsurge in the number of indigenous entrepreneurs in the manufacturing sector and contribution to growth generally in the industrial sector of the economy (Lubeck, 1978). On their part, Akinrinade and Ogen (2008) studied the impact of globalization as exemplified in exterminatory Chinese export competitiveness in the Nigerian textile industry. It discusses the phenomenal upsurge in Chinese textile trade in the 21st century and explores the debilitating nature of the business activities that has turned Nigeria into a dumping ground for Chinese substandard textile products. On her part, Renne (2015) narrowed down her research focus to the extensive rundown on the impact of China textile export.

However, the main shortcomings of the previous studies on the effects of neoliberalism and the Chinese exploitations on the Kano textile production are inadequately statistics. There are no data comparing textile industrial production in the 20th and 21st centuries. This article provides statistical information discussing the period when trade liberalism was fully in operation and the time when China dominated Kano space encouraged by market liberalism showing wanton deterioration.

In this study, Kano's textile production key performance indicators were analyzed. How neoliberalism and the China factor affect production capacity and employment trends were examined. Hence, it is important to provide decision makers with information on the growth and decline of the industry so that it can be used for national policy and to reduce the hardship typically imposed by its collapse. This article is organized in five sections. Section 1 is the Introduction; Section 2 presents a review of the related works; Section 3 describes the methodology; Section 4 presents the results and discussion; and finally, a conclusion and future works are presented in Section 5.

2. Literature Review

The recent phase of globalization is about increased global integration bringing in varied places closer under the orbit of neoliberalism by forcing neoliberal ideas (Friedman, 2002). Hay and Rosamond (2002) and Friedman (2002) opine that the economic reform provided opportunities to few individuals and state and to have opportunities for wealth accumulation through market-based investments and opportunities. This arrangement challenged the majority, especially in the developing world. Cooper (2001) confirms that the processes of globalization certainly and adversely manifested themselves in the 20th century in Africa. Arguably, starting from the slave trade period through the colonial exploitation of natural resources to the recent neoliberal structural adjustment experience, the effects of globalization are undoubtedly unfavorable to Africa (Muhammad, 2018a). Some scholars regarded the 1990s Africa as a "lost decade" for the continent (Aina, 2010; Williamson, 1990; Zeleza, 2002). This is coming from the devastating 1980s enmeshed in a "permanent crisis" (Taylor, 2012). Taylor (2012) admits that the widely believed notion of wanton economic chaos challenged the perpetual pattern on crony capitalism and the dearth of development. He describes how economic reform, globalization and institutional change affect economies. Taylor further observed that there is light at the end of the tunnel. The rise of China recently and the growth in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as internal reforms, will launch the region into prosperity. Africa is currently in a more suitable position to gain from global interconnectedness.

Jackson and Rosberg (1994) argue that even before the World Bank inspired the structural adjustment program, most developing countries were not economically independent of foreign powers. The introduction of the policies merely resulted in the implicit re-colonization of much of the continent in the 1980s and 1990s. Taylor (2012), however, believed that neoliberal reforms gave exceptional attention on debt forgiveness and poverty reduction. For the globalists, the economic crisis experienced in developing countries is not external. Most states in the south, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, are facing economic challenges in the 21st century, despite donor-promoted reforms for two decades (Van de Walle, 2001). It is glaring that these economies were not able to overcome the fiscal and balance of payments deficits that have crippled economic stability as a result of the oil crisis in the 1970s (Muhammad, 2018b).

Most importantly, the global economic crisis is the result of the effects of the neoliberal policy strategy in sub-Saharan Africa. The economic reform package imposed by the West woefully fails to improve developing economies' conditions. If the strategies these economies were compelled to adopt were incongruous, then beneficiary governments should not be blamed for their low economic performance. Africa's unprosperous economic performance coming on the trail of continued domination has resulted in its continuous marginalization from the global economy. Clearly, decolonization established weak political institutions with little legitimacy for the huge task of nation building (Bates, 2005; Bayart, 2009; Van de Walle, 2001).

Consequently, in the 21st century, China became determined by using the leverage of neoliberalism to conquer Nigerian textile industry. Huge Chinese competition is challenging the industry (Muhammad et al., 2017; 2019). In Kano, at the close of 2015, only five textile factories remained in operation. By December 2015, 92% of the factories were forced to close. Moreover, the performance of the sector had seriously deteriorated from 2000 to 2015 when challenged by the China factor. These factories now groan under the weight of an unwritten strategy of wholesale importation and trade liberalization (Aremu, 2015). Textile factories cannot perform in an environment that encourages the mass influx of substandard and counterfeit textile products. Kano with the potential to produce large textile products has no basis for low performance with the existence of a large market size.

It is near impossible for local factories to compete with Chinese factories that produce in an environment that kills labor rights (Aremu, 2015). In China, young women are hired in place of older workers who were assumed to have the assertive radicalism and stand against harsh working conditions to give room for docile young female workers. For instance, vacancy notices at China's thriving factories declare that older workers, especially older male workers, are not welcome (Schiere et. al., 2011). This literally undermines other economies job opportunities in textile production. Recently, the textile factories in Southern China took over millions of jobs from other textile producing countries. Clothing and textiles alone make up 6% of all world exports, which is worth more than $340 billion. China now makes more clothing and textiles than mature industrialized countries (Baynton-Glen, 2012). Within the last decade, China's annual growth rate of 8–10% continues to be the key impetus of transformation in the global economic climate (Brautigam, 2011). The world financial and macroeconomic interdependence has changed greatly with integration of the giant Asian economies (Goldstein, 2006).

The China factor and trade liberalization have resulted in an unprecedented intensification of market competition globally (Deng & Moore, 2004; Kim, 2003; Mukhtar, 2015). It has increased the competition not only in the international market but also in the domestic markets. Products locally produced for the domestic market now face competition from same priced or even lower priced imports mostly from China. At the beginning of the millennium, the desire of exploiting markets by the Western economies faded. Western companies turned to China not really to market their products to a large number of Chinese buyers but instead to go beyond that by making China a global production hub and reap the benefits of its immense reservoir of low-cost labor (Alden, 2007). Among the many factories sunk in this challenge was MJM. Simultaneously, China was deeply involved in the challenges of global overcapacity. With the enormous fall in investment in most places in reaction to the plethora of manufacturing capacity, including Kano, Nigeria, while improving in unprecedented speed in China has become pronounced (Broadman, 2007). The issue of China attracting investment is not merely the issue of destroying investment in other climes. It is also about drastically beefing up the manufacturing capacity to simply absorb capacity eliminated in other places.

3. Methodology

This research adopted the mixed method research design that includes qualitative and quantitative elements, using both primary and secondary data (Kara, 2012). The phenomenon of globalization and de-industrialization as it relate to Kano's textile industry requires an innate and in-depth study to provide empirical analysis, recommendations and conclusion. This study uses qualitative and quantitative designs to provide a better understanding of the research problem (Miles, 1994). The design intends to assess both outcomes of the study (quantitative) as well as the process (qualitative) to develop "a complex picture" of the phenomenon (Green, 2007). It provides a condensed understanding of both the problem and the detail. It is also used as a paradigm shift from the exiting norm where qualitative analysis is dominant. The researchers opine that mixed method will adequately provide answers to the research questions.

The embedded method of data collection which is enshrined on the notion of collection of qualitative and quantitative data simultaneously or sequentially and having one form of data playing a supportive or augmenting role to the other form of data was employed. The supportive data in this research is the quantitative supplanting qualitative data which will further explain the phenomenon. The quantitative data will specifically address the downward decline in production capacity and employment trend, while the qualitative data are drawn from multiple sources of information including articles from referred journals, books and newspapers classified information and interviews. One-on-one interview with stakeholders in the textile industry in which the researchers will ask questions and record answers from one participant at a time to share ideas related to the research. These individuals include textile labor leaders of National Union of Textile, Garment and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria (NUTGWTN), Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Nigerian Labor Congress, Kano State Traders Union, Textile Sellers Union, Kano Sate Ministry of Commerce, Mines and Industry and Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The interpretation of the data will also consist of advancing researchers' views making a comparison between the findings and the literature and suggesting limitations for future research. In analyzing the quantitative data, statistical programs for analyzing numeric data are applied reporting both descriptive and inferential results using tables, figures and a discussion of each statistical analysis, and finally interpreting the results by restating the general findings.

4. Results and Discussion

Performance in textile production is determined by the established key performance indicators (Kim et al., 2006; Lindberg et al., 2015; Spahija et al., 2012). All enterprises need to establish a way to record how they stand against their competition and profitability plan. Rasiel (1999) discovered that McKinsey and Company in the 1960s introduced key performance indicators to monitor and measure operational factors that determine a business success. Certainly, factors that ascertain the growth of business vary by type of activity. Textile factories review their performance by factory capacity indicators which include production capacity, capacity utilization, employment trend, and installed and actual efficiencies. Others are the cost of production, selling price, technology readiness, and managerial competence (Alden, 2005; Broadman, 2007; Okafor, 2008). These established key performance indicators determined the competitiveness of textile factories production.

In this research, employment and capacity production trends were analyzed. Table 1 shows the descriptive features of the data including the size of the sampled observations for the three factories studied; these are total number of personnel and production capacity, average number of personnel and production capacity, standard error of the average and other location parameters. The table also indicates that production was at its peak with a workforce of 3,500 employees for factory B in 1990 at the onset of the introduction of the neoliberal measures. The same trend is observed from the other two factories under consideration. A decline in production was observed over the years as the workforce reduced to the lowest number of 650 employees for factory B in 2015 when liberalism became endemic and the textiles factories suffered its impact and started to close shop coupled with China's massive dominance of the Kano market space.

4.1. Kano textile industry employment trend

The results of the employment trend in the weaving department from three sampled factories from 1990 to 1999 when neoliberalism became fully consolidated and from 2000 to 2015 when China was using

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of employment strength and production capacity for three industries (A, B, and C)

Variable	Employment Strength 'C'	Employment Strength 'C'	Employment Strength 'C'	Prod. Capacity 'A'	Prod. Capacity 'A'	Prod. Capacity 'A'
N	26	26	26	26	26	26
Sum	5,5101	46,174	1,7633	235,996,445	11,522,240,408	1,011,046,127
Mean	2,119	1,776	678	9,076,786	443,163,093	38,886,390
SE. Mean	335	169	97	789,387	72,261,930	7,060,040
St. dev	1,707	861	494.7	4,025,099	368,464,991	35,999,284
Min	230	650	30	367,552	27,023,000	885,649
Q1	615	1,265	182	6,626,400	121,043,250	9,312,500
Median	1,865	1,446	786	9,093,555	335,435,000	28,200,000
Q3	3,850	2,463	975	12,172,103	816,796,373	57,204,277
Max	5,200	3,500	1,780	15,569,600	1,368,651,348	136,873,549

the neoliberal leverage to occupy Kano's textile production space are devastating. There were 5,200 people employed by factory A in 1990 which went down to 2,500 in 1999 (see Fig. 1). The number of employees in factory A dropped from 2,511 in the year 2000 to 230 in 2015 (see Fig. 2). From 2000 to 2015, a sharp decrease was discovered in the number of employees hired in factories A, B, and C. The period from 2000 to 2015 is of interest because of the Chinese domination of the market.

Textile industries the world over are one of the most foremost contributors to employment generation and industrialization in addition to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and foreign exchange earnings. Kano has all the potential to provide abundant labor resources to sustain textile industrial growth with about six million able-bodied men and women (Adhama, 2015). The labor-intensive industry offers entry level jobs for skilled and unskilled labor in the most populous state in Nigeria. Kano, for centuries, is considered one of the most prominent and prosperous textile and clothing clusters in Africa (Fiagel, 1976; Frishman, 2001; Uba Adamu, 1998). In a study conducted by the NUTGWTN, the results showed that in 2006, one-quarter of a sample of 20 factories employed below 40% of their full labor force. Only about one-third was employed over 40%, while the overall reduction in employment for the sample factories was outstanding (Brandell, 1991).

Textile is essentially considered to be of great importance among more than 800 million people of sub-Saharan Africa, especially among Muslims in northern Nigeria (Abubakar, 2015). It is believed that the rational of supporting appropriate dress sense to cover up among men and women using extensive meters of clothing resulted in a rising quantum for huge degrees of textile production. This undoubtedly seems to have been the situation and accounts for more than 500 years in Kano. Of high significance is the increase in production witnessed especially in the 19th century and two decades after independence (Madugu, 2015; Muhammad, 2013; Shea, 2006). The royal family, the wealthy and men with high social status are especially concerned with the message projected through their dress. Members of the royal family averagely use 30 yards of cloth to dress most appropriately. All adults are expected to wear *Baban Riga* (big gown), *Ýan Ciki* (long shirt), and *Wando* (trouser) which is approximately 15 square yards long. This is minus the cap and probably a turban to match (Heathcote, 1972; Kriger, 1993, p. 14).

The main form of male dress consisting of riga or gown is an indicator of typical Kano man and the neighboring environment extending from Kano to hundreds of miles away. The dress, mostly worn in Africa, consists of several voluminous rigas with different sizes and forms (Kisch, 1910, p. 104). If one-third of 300 million people in West Africa, not counting people in Central Africa, that are clothed with Kano textile are to use 5 square yards of cloth each, considering the nature of the people and their wardrobe stocking with more than 10 sets of dresses and assuming they have five sets each, then Kano is expected to produce 2.5 billion square yards of cloths to dress these people. This calls for huge production and a very high turnover. This huge textile production was dropped heavily with the combined assault of the unprecedented China mass imports into Kano.

In spite of all the opportunities available in Kano for the industry to prosper, the sector found it difficult to function in the 1990s and in the new millennium. The other crisis in the industry witnessed as a result of neoliberal drive is the reduction of daily shift

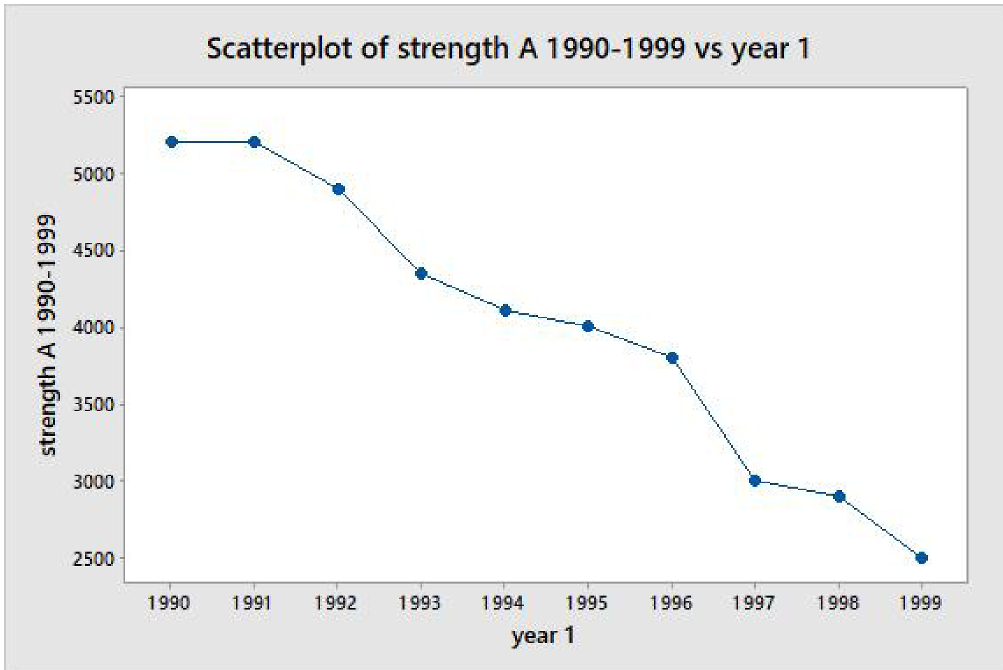

Figure 1. Factory A, weaving department staff strength (1990–1999).

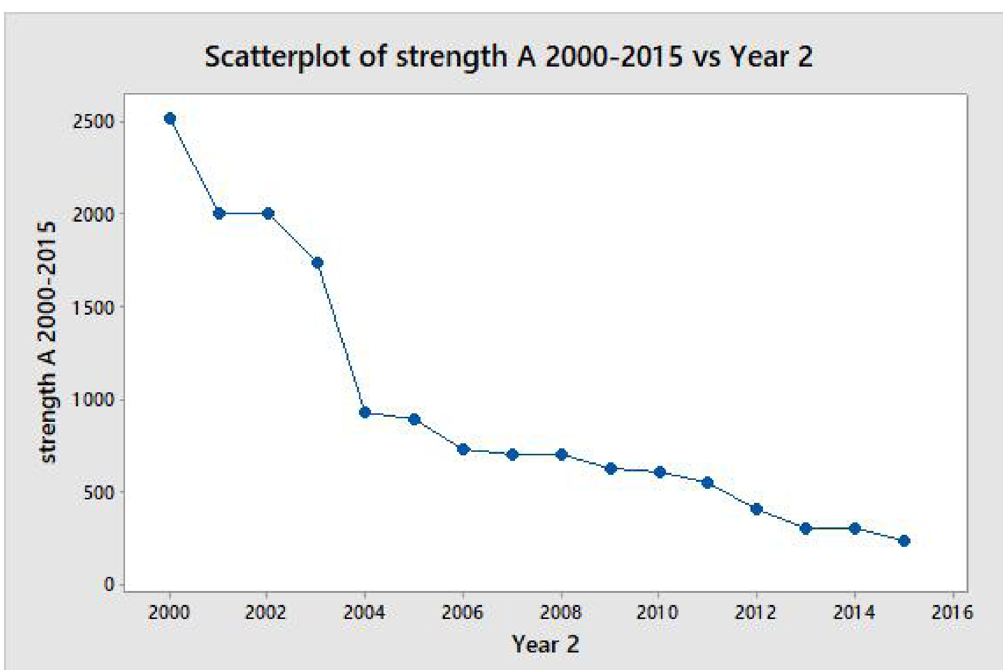

Figure 2. Factory A, weaving department staff strength (2000–2015).

from 3 to 1. The erratic dumping of textile items also resulted in the common application of compulsory leave and temporary closures, sometimes with or without pay. For those who were lucky to remain employed, the prospects for getting living income were absent. In some factories, the management used the situation to step up the work load of the workers, which their union termed as "overloading". For instance, in Dangote Textile Limited, the number of workers per 100 m in the weaving section went up from one operator on

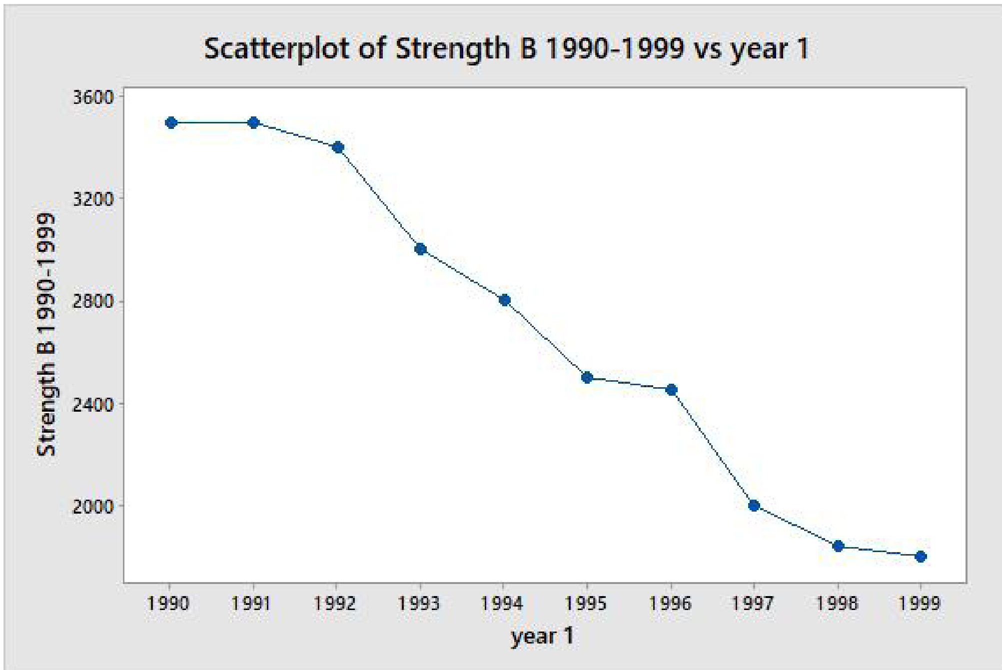

Figure 3. Factory B, weaving department staff strength (1990–1999).

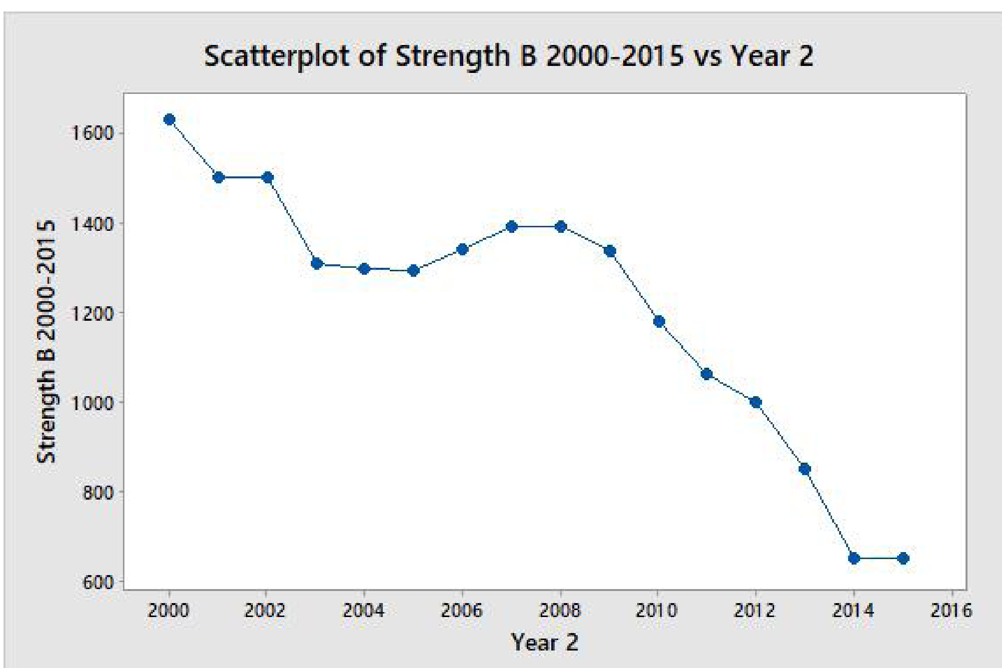

Figure 4. Factory B, weaving department staff strength (2000–2015).

eight machines to one operator on 24 machines in 2004. This was further stepped up to 1 on 36 machines in 2008 and according to the workers union, the output of cloth in the factory had not gone down in spite of the reduction of the work force by over 200 workers from 2003 to 2004. In 2007, Universal Spinners and Dyers had shut down its factories throwing over 2,000 workers into the unemployment market. The cause

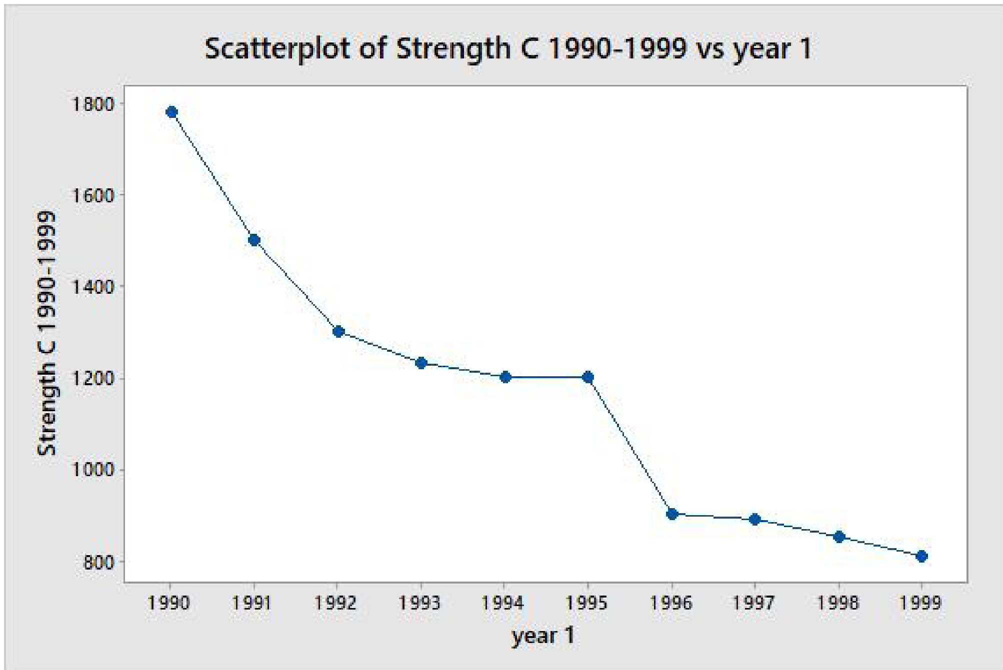

Figure 5. Factory C, weaving department staff strength (1990–1999).

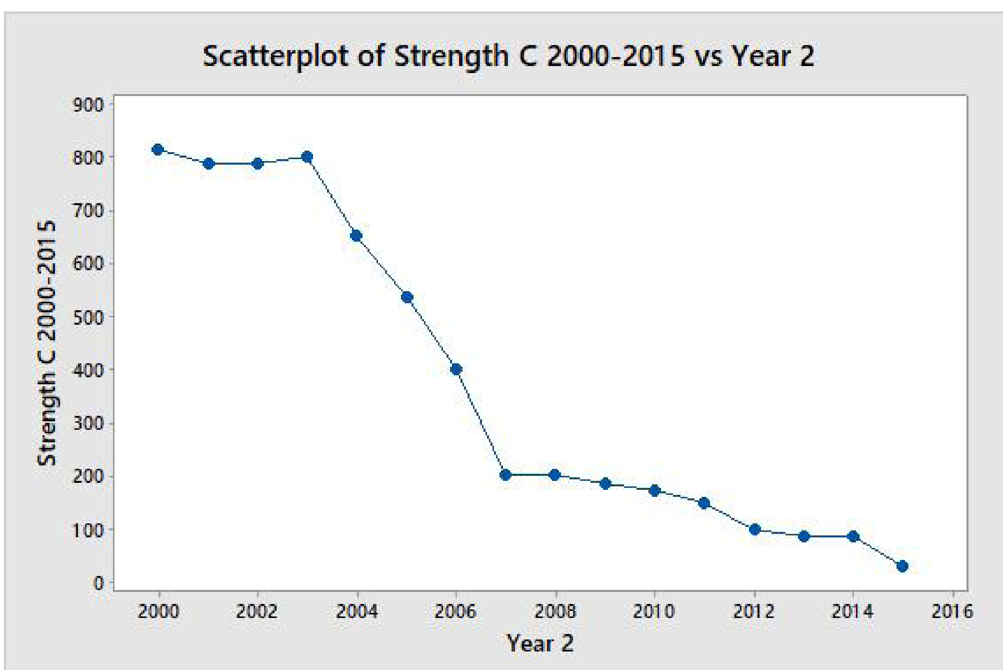

Figure 6. Factory C, weaving department staff strength (2000–2015).

of this action was attributed to distress caused by the China factor. Factory closures have a negative impact on employment which in turn generates deindustrialization. While China is witnessing mass exodus of people from countryside to the factories in what is considered the largest in human history ranging from 90 to 300 million which match the entire workforce of United States (Alden, 2005), the situation in Kano is pathetic. The industry presents a graphic nightmare that could only be imagined. Its strength has been sapped almost entirely.

In the 1970s and early 1980s, Kano factories are major exporters of African prints within Africa and beyond (Amaugo, 2015). It is bad enough that the balance of trade favors China and adversely affects Kano production. Dumped substandard goods from China are the rule than exception, judging by the discoveries of the NUTGWTN (Aremu, 2015) and Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) (SON, 2014). For two decades now, the Chinese sold to Kano more than $4 billion worth of textile items annually and imports from Kano were completely 0%. Chinese imports which stood at a meager $800,000 rose to $4.1 billion, $3.2 billion, $3.8 billion, $4.1 billion, and dropped to $3.4 billion in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015, respectively (Adhama, 2015; Muhammad et al., 2017). China is winning because it can make what Kano did for less cost. China is today the leading manufacturer of textile products and beating everyone on price. In the contemporary world, China's textile factories provide more cloth for the world than any other country (Zhang, 2009). China swiftly integrates its enormous labor capacity into the global economy and is rising speedily, affecting Kano textile labor in the new millennium. Annually starting from 2001, the merged global share of both China and India to output growth has existed in the range of 30%. Additionally, this factor is critical for sustaining the global growth above the 4% limit in terms of trade for primary commodity producers (OECD, 2006). China has an edge over Kano in the availability of critical infrastructure and an unfair advantage in subsidies and nonpayment of taxes (Olarenwaju, 2015). Kano does not have the wherewithal to compete.

4.2. Kano textile industry production capacity trend

The results of per meter index of the weaving department in three sampled factories indicated deterioration in the production capacity. Factory A shows 15,569,600 meters was produced in 1990 which decreased to 12,143,900 in 1999 (see Fig. 7). By the year 2000, the Chinese intrusion encouraged by open-border policy of neoliberalism affected production capacity. Factory A per meter index stood at 9,638,500 in the year 2000 and dropped to 367,552 in 2014 (see Fig. 8). The same result appears in factories B and C.

Capacity utilization determined the magnitude factories use to install their production capacity. It explained the relationship in the output produced and the available machinery or technologies and the potential output expected when fully utilized. By 2015, three-quarters of the factories are operating at least 15%–20% capacity utilization as against the 1980s when the capacity utilization was as high as 75%–82%. In 2002 alone, the job loss had resulted from outright closure or adoption of skeletal services by the factories. Many of these factories streamlined their operations by merging most of their subsidiaries to remain afloat. About 58 closed, 5 are in distressed conditions and more than 100,000 jobs were lost to retrenchment and closure with attendant implications. Having become critically dependent on imported raw materials, industrial production fell further as the import capacity of the economy collapsed.

As in 2015, capacity utilization is as miserable as less than 20%. The bane of the industry is unfair competition from China reinforced by smuggling made possible by 152 land smuggling routes while customs claimed it is actually 149 routes (Tofa, 2015). The immediate threat is wholesale smuggling and domination of market by smuggled textiles through land borders with Niger Republic occupying over 80% of the market share. Most of these illegal imports use fake trademarks of the local products. The economy loses annually $1.8 billion on illegal textile imports due to revenue loss on evasion of customs duty and Value Added Tax (VAT) of 900 million naira (Olarenwaju, 2015). Smuggled goods are open-ended waivers. Apart from the limitation of the customs service, the issue is the re-emergence of cargo economy in which there is official preference for foreign imports. The challenge is to immediately overcome and drop the official mindset of import dependency to real sector domestic value-adding activities. It is these radical paradigm shifts that will make the government empower the local industry. A departmental breakdown shows declining capacity utilization for all other departments in the factories including spinning and printing for the period 2000–2015. For the spinning department, the average declined was from 32% in 2004 to 29% in 2007 and 23% in 2011;

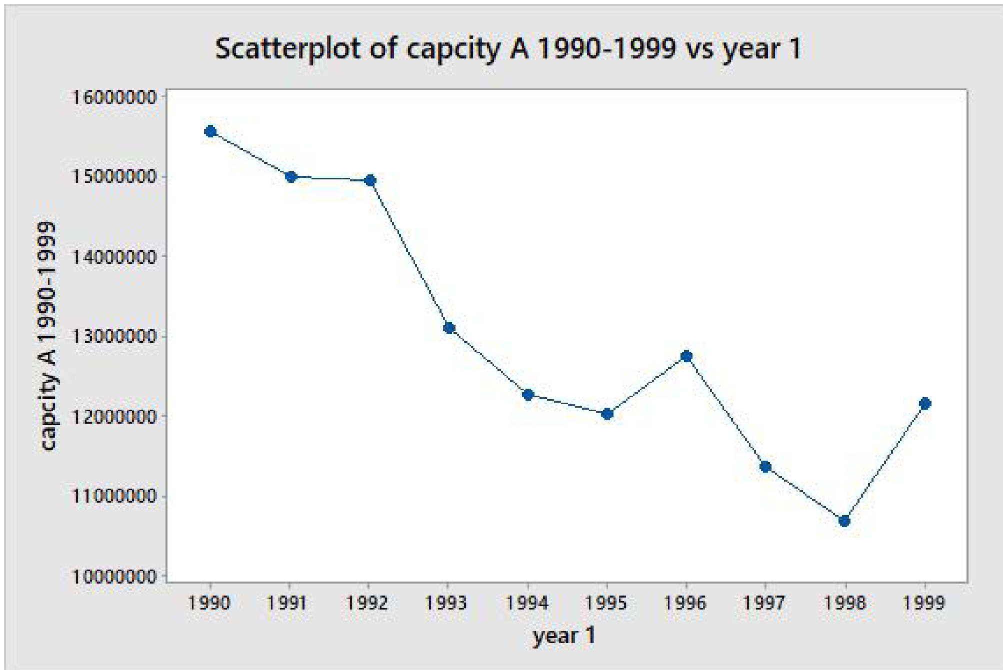

Figure 7. Factory A, weaving department production capacity (1990–1999).

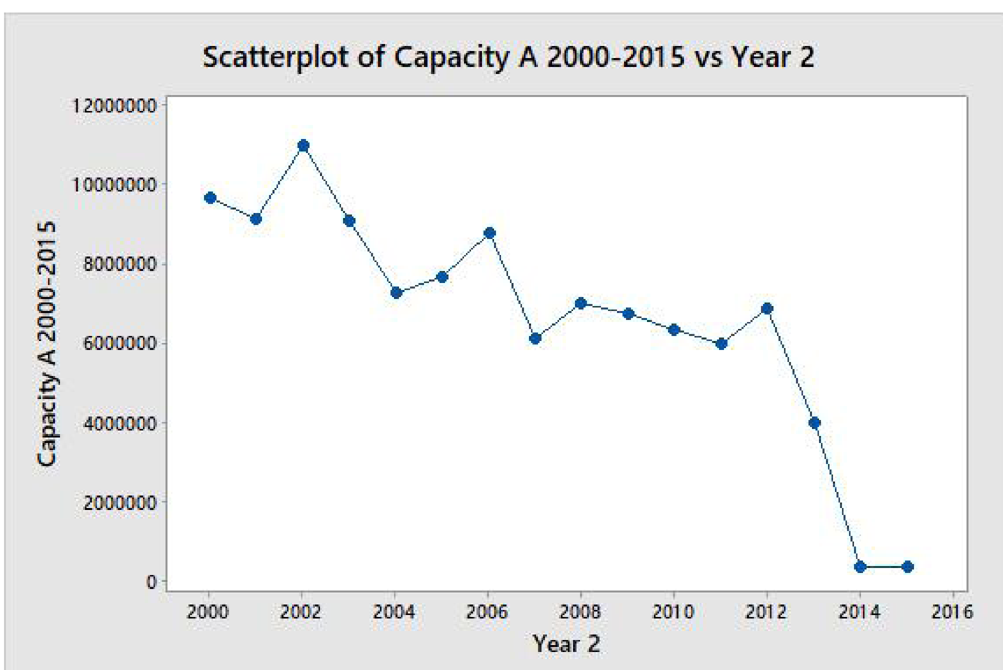

Figure 8. Factory A, weaving department production capacity (2000–2015).

the average capacity utilization for printing department falls from 37% in 2004 to 27% in 2007 and 19% in 2011. A similar trend was seen in the pre-treatment unit. However, a study conducted by Kano state committee on industrialization in 2004 reported a much lower dismal performance (KSCI, 2012).

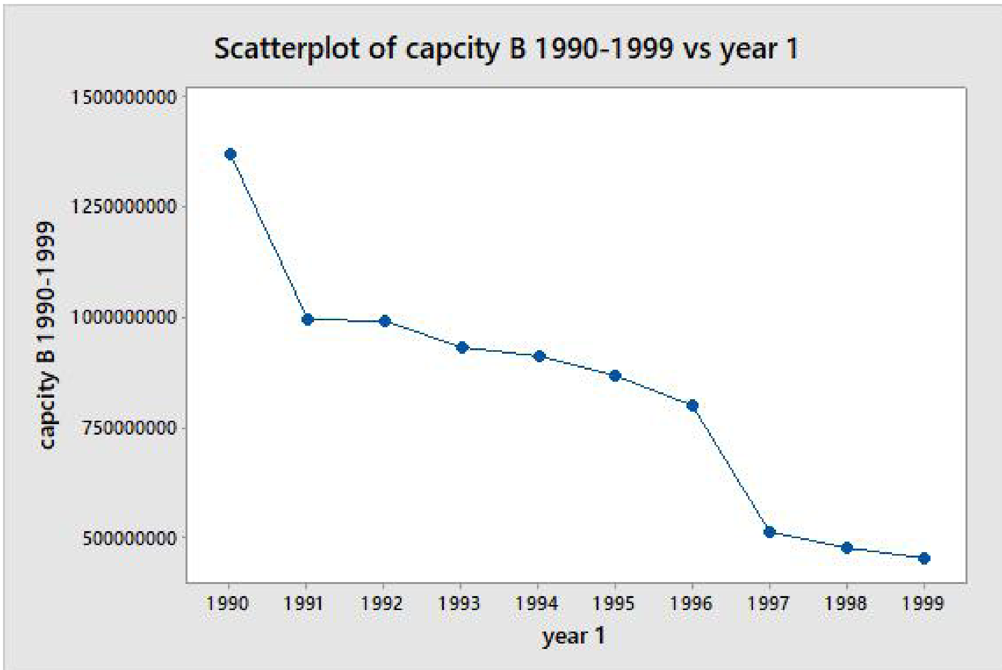

Figure 9. Factory A, weaving department production capacity (1990–1999).

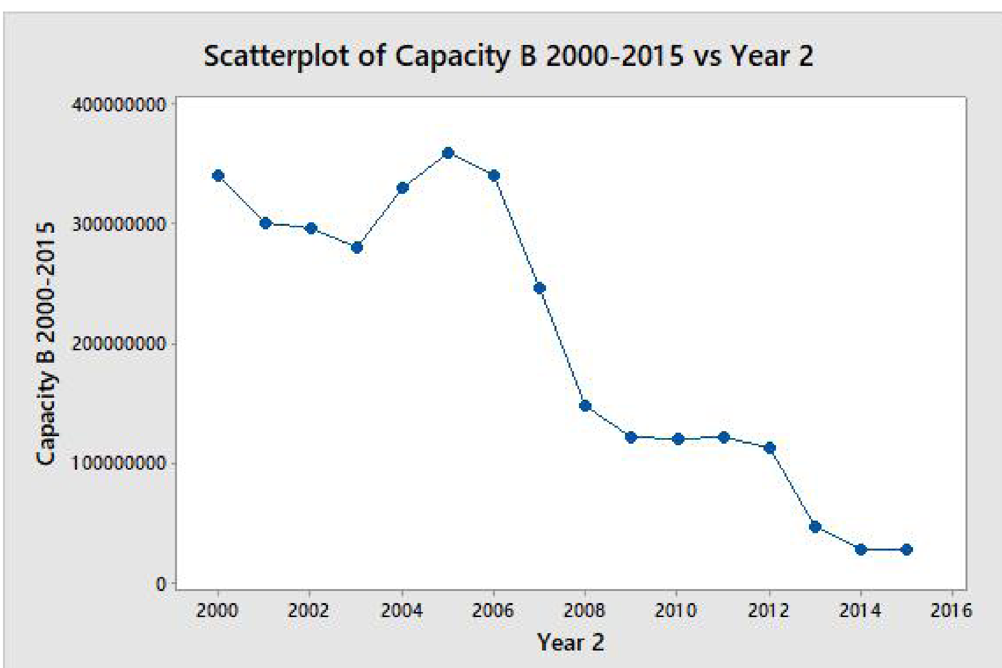

Figure 10. Factory B, weaving department production capacity (2000–2015).

Kano is trading with China without products to trade with. The result today is that Kano has become a huge market for dumped products from China leading to huge low-capacity utilization. China now sells African prints at a price local producers knew not how to make them. Chinese workers earn less and work longer hours, but it is hard to think what to make that will ever beat the Chinese on price. China's miracle economy can come at you in a lot of ways, from all directions. It is the world's work-shop because it sits in a relatively stable part of the globe

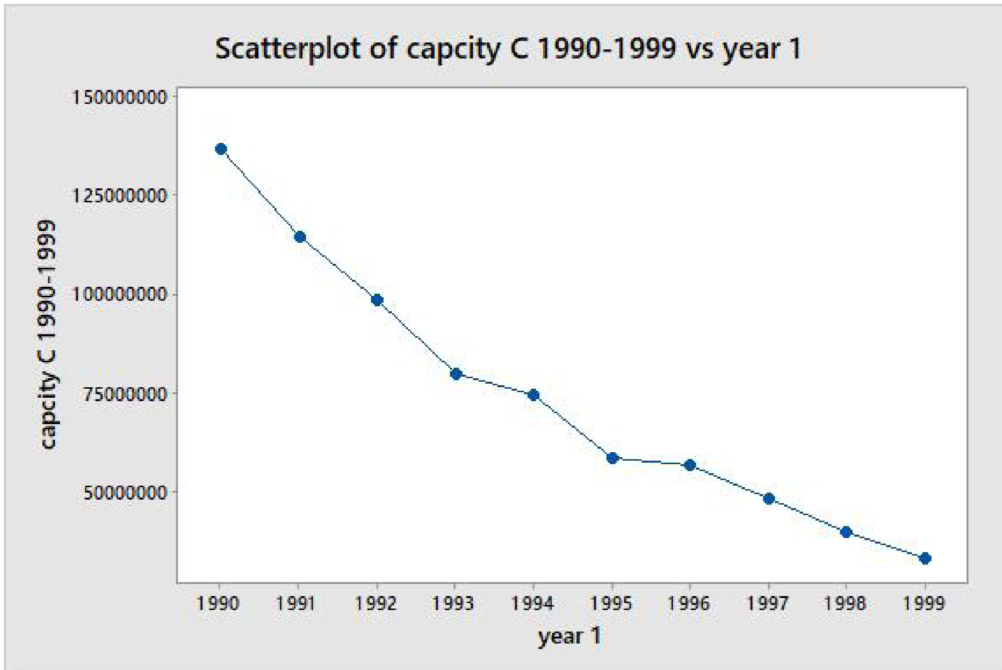

Figure 11. Factory C, weaving department production capacity (1990–1999).

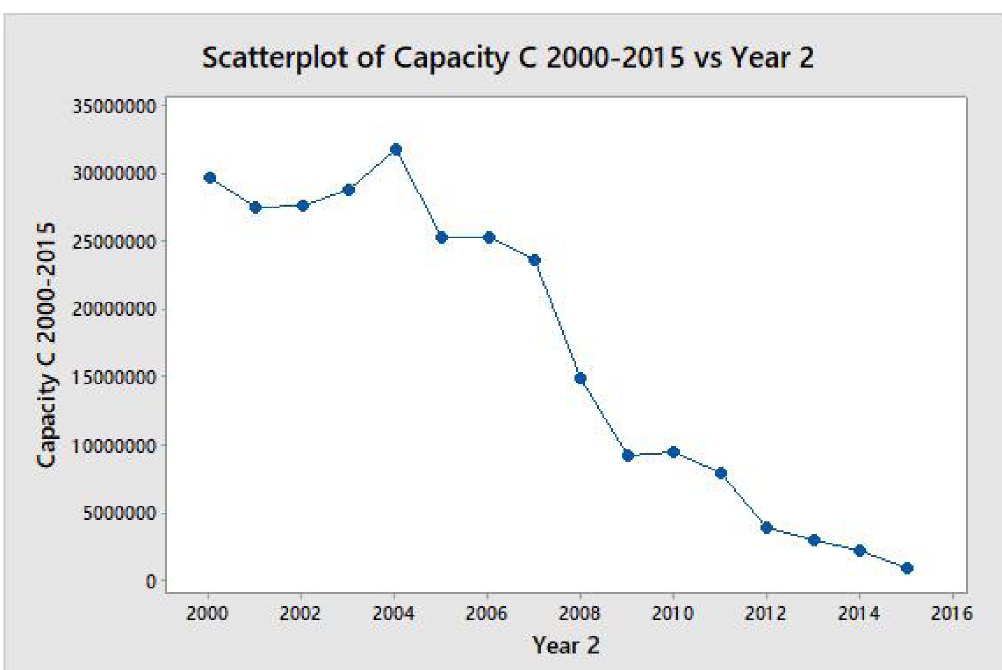

Figure 12. Factory C, weaving department production capacity (2000–2015)

and offers the world's manufacturers a reliable, docile, and capable industrial workforce, groomed by the government. It is near impossible for local factories to compete with China factories that produce in an environment that completely kills labor rights as a result of capacity utilization decipher (Monson, 2013). Many factories with very low-capacity utilization collapsed. The government must make a critical review of the textile industry and articulate measures that would engender full capacity utilization growth and expanded production of products for the domestic market, export to West Africa sub-region and ultimately the global market to generate employment.

Succinctly, evidences from other studies generally indicated that communities all over the world had been affected negatively in several forms by integration (Hopkins, 2002; Jinadu, 2010; Munck, 2010; Yeung, 2000). As it is in most developing nations in the late 1980s and 1990s, the adoption of the free market policies affected the manufacturing base including the textile sector. The consequential problems affecting the Kano textile industry as in the 1990s is a direct result of the implementation of the policies of the "Washington Consensus" in the mid-1980s compounded by subsequent governments failing to transcend the transitory stage. This research is a wakeup call for the local authority to use the comparative advantage provided by textile manufacturing to challenge the neoliberal onslaught and the China factor in providing employment opportunities to the teeming unemployed youths. Drawing from the peak and impressive performance of the industry in the past, one can safely conclude that the sector has tremendous potentials in pioneering the development of non-tradable exports, if only appropriate policies and incentives are put in place.

5. Conclusion

In this article, the deindustrialization phenomena affecting Kano's textile industry encouraged by neoliberal tendencies were analyzed. The study specifically discussed the adverse effect of neoliberal reform on production performance indicators. It equally evaluated employment trend and capacity utilization from 1990 to 1999 when the policies were aggressively promoted. Also analyzed were the information obtained from the year 2000–2015 when China forcefully came into the Kano textile market environment. A descriptive statistic was carried on the data set to have a clear picture of the data for the years under consideration. The data used was drawn from three factories selected. Trend analysis was conducted by plotting a set of observations for both the number of employees and the production capacity trends for 1990–1999 and 2000–2015. The study gives vivid explanations on the gradual collapse of the textile industry in Kano.

The most remarkable transformation encouraged by neoliberal globalization manifested in the sudden collapse of the Kano textile industry. The Kano economy is fully integrated into the global system as in the earlier periods of key transformations in the historical development of global capitalism. Factories in Kano which thrived on textile manufacturing activity have closed down as mill after mill shut down in the last 15 years. Holborn a conglomerate with six textile factories that has a huge treatment plant when challenged by China factor had to stop producing textile to switchover to plastic tank production. Sadly, African textile manufacturers employing 26,000 workers years ago are today left with only 1,500. Before the year 2000, there were 74 textile factories in Kano and Kaduna textile clusters, which has now dwindle to less than 10 factories.

For centuries, the Kano economy relied heavily on textile industry because of its benefit in providing jobs and large market range. The revitalization of the industry will stimulate economic development. The industry's contribution to value addition will increase tremendously and exports to the ECOWAS market will also multiply. The industry will assist a great deal in boasting the percentage of the manufacturing share of GDP.

Productivity will increase and so would GDP growth rate as imports take a greater share of markets. Employment will continue to rise as the productive sector grows. The only alternative is the development of a comprehensive and workable homegrown African strategy on China. This will at long run ensure mutually beneficial interaction and indeed perhaps build the system for the genuine win–win position.

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