



THE IMPACT OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NNEWI

¹Daniel Chukwuma Nzereogu, ²Prof. Ben B. Naanen

¹Department of History and International Studies, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka.

danielnzereogu@gmail.com 07066823400

²Department of History & Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Port Harcourt

Abstract: Often it is believed that there is a nexus between industrialization and development. Some development theorists are of the view that industrialization leads to increase in wealth and would definitely flow down to the larger population. Their opinion is that if a nation wants to develop it should industrialize, and thus they argue that the transition from a traditional to modern society can be explained as a rise in the rate of investment to a point that is more than population growth. On the other hand there are others who have challenged this view on the grounds that industrialization is not the same as development, and that output can expand without meeting the basic needs of the population. They further questioned this view, without necessarily rejecting the idea that industrialization is necessary for development but their definitions of development often include attention to basic needs such as decent health-care, education, income for all, and environmental sustainability and not industrialization alone. Hence these yardsticks question the view that industrialization and development are the same thing, although they do not necessarily undermine the view that there is a close correlation between the two. Therefore, this work is aimed at determining which of these two schools of thought is valid regarding Nnewi, which has been an industrial hub for about six decades now. It would ascertain whether or not the industrial activities in Nnewi have impacted on the development of the city in any way and the extent it has, if it has.

Keywords: Development, Industry, Nnewi, Economy

Introduction

This work deals mainly on the relationship between industrial activities and development in Nnewi. Nnewi over the past decades had become an industrial hub, hence there is the need to access the extent at which the industrial activities in the city have affected its development. What is today seen as an industrial hub started originally as trading ventures embarked upon by mostly unschooled men who were dealing mainly on the

retailing of motor and motorcycle spare parts but as they accumulated capital they ventured into the assemblage and eventually the production of automobile, some as well moved into the production of other products that are very different from automobile. This process has gradually turned Nnewi city into not just a centre of trade and commerce but an industrial hub where various kinds of manufacturing and production are done. Thus, this situation has brought a level of development to the city.

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In a literal sense, the word development means the gradual growth of something so that it becomes bigger or more advanced. But from the economic view point, development means different things to different scholars. Njoku (2002) noted that development has been defined at different times to mean both a process and a goal. As a process, he points out that development is seen as an activity that people undertake with clear aims in mind and with a certain amount of planning. As a goal it is often presented as a desired stage, usually the stage already reached by Western Europe of which technologically less-developed nations seem to strive to reach. According to Nafziger (2006), a major goal of poor countries is economic development or economic growth. He noted that the two terms are not one and the same. Growth may be essential but not enough for development. Economic growth has to do with increases in production or income percapita. Production is mostly assessed by gross national product (GNP) or gross national income (GNI), (used interchangeably), an economy's total output of goods and services. He then referred economic development to as economic growth accompanied by changes in output distribution and economic structure. These changes could involve an improvement in the material well-being of the poorer half of the population; a decline in agriculture's share of GNP and a corresponding increase in the GNP share of industry and services; an increase in the education and skills of the labor force; and substantial technical advances originating within the state. Also, Njoku (2008), states that development refers to the general and continuous improvement of man's quality of life here on earth. He further stated that the physical development of human society includes the improvement of the quantity and quality of man's nourishment, clothing, shelter and general environment for which economic, scientific and technological advancements are indispensable.

Ake (1981), on his part defined development as a systematic increase of man's capabilities for mastering his environment, satisfying basic human needs and realizing his potentialities. For Rodney (1972), a society develops economically as its members increase jointly their capacity for dealing with the environment. This capacity for dealing with the environment is dependent on the extent to which they understand the laws of nature (science), on the extent to which they put that understanding into practice by devising tools (technology), and on the manner in which work is organized. He further stated that on the long-term view, it can be said that there has been constant economic development within human society since the origins of man, because man has multiplied enormously his capacity to win a living from nature. Indeed, Rodney's assertion has been the case with Nnewi and its people who had over time increased their capacity to deal and dominate their environment, this is seen in the way they ventured into auto spare parts business. It was in the bid to enhance the ease of movement from one destination to another that some prominent sons of Nnewi led Sir Louis Ojukwu invested in the transportation business, as they purchased buses to transport people from one point to the other. Auto spare part business thus, arose in Nnewi to support the transportation industry, as the vehicles used for the business would from time to time be needing servicing and replacement of worn out parts. This was therefore how Nnewi people displayed their capacity to deal with their environment, laying the foundation of what is today an industrial hub.

On the other hand, Chandra (1992), notes that Industrialization refers to an increase in the share of the gross domestic product (GDP) contributed by the manufacturing sector. It is a process that involves a change in the structure, or make-up, of the economy. According to Hewitt, et al, (1992), industrialization can be defined in three ways: first, as the production of all



material goods not grown directly on the land, or second, as the economic sector comprising mining, manufacturing and energy and the third definition, which sees industry as a particular way of organizing production and assumes there is a constant process of technical and social change which continually increases society's capacity to produce a wide range of goods. In this third definition, industrialization is regarded as a total process, impacting on society through an unprecedented increase in the production of goods and services. This total process that impacts the society is what brings about development. Hence it is the quest of this work to highlight on how the increase in the production of goods and services in Nnewi has impacted the Nnewi society.

Statement of the Problem

Some scholars like Gavin Kitching have defended the view that industrialization is a prerequisite for development, (Kitching, 1982). Likewise Walt Rostow (1985), argued that the transition from a traditional to modern society "can be properly be explained as a rise in the rate of investment to a level which frequently and to a large extent outgrows population growth". Nevertheless, such views have been greatly kicked against with the reason that industrialization and economic growth are not the same as development, and that in most cases output had increased without meeting the basic needs (health, education and so on) of the population. Also a few scholars had further argued that the whole idea of development was Eurocentric, and formed to propagate the interests of specific social groups in the West (together with their allies in the Third World). For example, George (1976) argued that the West has worked hard to extend its own ideas of "development" to the Third World, they are achieving this by using indigenous elites in the guise that the resources poured on them would extend to the ordinary, middle class as well as less privileged in the society. When properly assessed it would be discovered that these strategies have not led to

the emergence of a single independent and viable economy in the whole of Third World—and it could be established that that was not even the real aim in the first place. Hence these scholars are of the view that "development" has been the entry ticket for forcing a different style of dependency, for enriching the already rich western world and for making other societies to meet its commercial and political needs. Thus with this varying views from different scholars this work seeks to place the industrial activities in Nnewi and its development in the right perspective as it assesses the impact of industry on the development of the city.

Aim and Objectives

According to Ullrich (1992) the main argument of "anti-development" theory is that industrial technology has not really freed the entire people of the Western world, so it may likely not free people in other parts of the world. Furthermore, anti-development scholars are of the view that the optimism of modernizers is not properly placed, and that industrialization has brought some social problems, social inequalities and environmental destruction. The recent worries about global warming and the partial destruction of the ozone layer are pure evidences that the industrialization has led to pollution, and there is a limit to which resources can be renewed if every nation decides (or are able to choose) to industrialize speedily.

In view of the above therefore, the aim of the study is to determine how Nnewi has fared in terms of development in the midst of the various industrial activities going on in it. The city of Nnewi has over the years become an industrial hub associated with numerous industrial activities, thus this study is aimed at finding out how much Nnewi as a city has developed as a result of the industrialization of the city. It has the objectives of finding out how much the industrial activities in Nnewi has contributed to infrastructural development and how much it has contributed to the basic needs of the people in



the city such as education and employment. It would also find out how much wealth has trickled down to the ordinary people in Nnewi as a result of the wealth accumulated by the industrialists. Finally it would find out if there is any environmental degradation in the city as result of the various industrial activities going on therein.

METHODS

This work was carried out using a historical research approach, which involves a systematic and objective location, evaluation and synthesis of evidence in order to establish facts and draw conclusions. It involved a qualitative/descriptive analysis of data collected from oral tradition, and published works. The study used discrete analysis of the interviews and materials to achieve the desired goal of the research.

Theoretical Framework

The Liberal Perspective on Development

Development in the Liberal perspective has been variously defined. In its elementary form the term is inextricably tied to the economic domain. Most Liberal theorists see it as economic development, which could be gauged in terms of the growth of the Gross National Products (GNP). So in line with the Liberalist view, according to Meier (1989), development is defined as the maximization of growth of the GNP through capital accumulation and industrialization.

The Marxist Perspective on Development

The Marxist school of thought on development view development as a multi-dimensional process. Scholars in this school of thought are of the opinion that when viewed from the dialectical materialist lenses, development instead of being restricted to macro-economic variables focuses on man and his well-being, consequently human beings constitute the fulcrum on which development revolves. These theorists thus contend that a thorough and comprehensive understanding of the meaning of development provides

the most functional path towards overcoming the endemic problem of backwardness. Along the same line, a lopsided or faulty understanding of what development is, provides a veritable avenue for tackling just the symptoms of backwardness and not the main problem.

Hence the Marxist view on development is that it should be all encompassing affecting every facet of human life leading to the overall upgrade of the general standard of living. Therefore Walter Rodney a radical Marxist scholar noted that “development in human society is a many sided process. At the level of the individual, it implies an increased skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material well being, (Rodney, 1972).

According to Okereke and Ekpe (2002), at the individual level, human beings are seen as the epicenter of development. Therefore human development is seen as a pre-requisite for real development. In line with this reasoning, development at the individual level implies mental and academic sophistication, moral rectitude as well as material well being. It is contended that the acquisition of this aspect of development will definitely shoot the society to the frontiers of genuine development and thus break the shells of backwardness. This is because the development of the individual will lead to increase in productivity, ability to harness the forces of nature and the capacity for man to eke out a living in the face of harsh natural forces. It must be noted that this process is not influenced much by increase in capital or the rise in GNP. In line with this, the Marxist theorists strongly insist that the first step towards development is the overall improvement of man who is expected to be the harbinger of transformation and change. In order to ensure the development of man so as to serve as the vanguard of society’s development, Kuzretsov (1985), advocates the following:

- i. Free, compulsory and universal education.



- ii. Improvement of the general educational, cultural and technical training of the working population.
- iii. Raising of peoples living standards to a qualitative and new height.
- iv. Improvement of people's health and extending their active life through a system of universal health checks in the polyclinics, hospitals and sanatoriums.
- v. Ensuring that the levels and structures of consumption of material and social goods and services are raised.

Kuzretsov (1985), thus notes that if the above conditions are met, it is assumed that the aims of forming a well-rounded individual and creating the conditions for the full flowering of the individual capabilities and endowments for the benefit of the society as a whole will be attained. Therefore in line with the Marxist school, in assessing the impact of the industrial activities in Nnewi on its development, the industrial activities alone would not be considered in isolation rather it would be evaluated with regards to how it has assisted in the actualization of the above stated conditions.

Along the same line, Kay (1975) notes that the essence of material production consists of the actions men take upon nature in their efforts to humanize it. Its aim is to transform natural objects of little use in their original form into condition where they satisfy human needs. He points out that hollowing out a tree to make a canoe is a simple example while using iron, coal, tin, rubber and so on to manufacture a car is a more complex one, but in both cases, the principle is the same. Both canoe and car are products as opposed to natural objects, since their existence depends upon human action-labour. Kay (1975), further contends that since development is dependent on human labour, as can be proven when a product as a natural object is transformed by human labour so that it satisfies human need, development should therefore centre around human beings. Hence, he

defined development as the interplay between man and nature in the process of production to meet material needs.

Therefore in the light of the two schools of thought considered above, the Liberalist would consider Nnewi as having been developed given the level of industrial activities that has been going on and is still ongoing in the city. But the Marxist would consider Nnewi as not having been developed properly as the living standard of majority of the people would not be considered highly qualitative yet and not at a commensurate height considering the level of industrial activities going on in Nnewi.

How Industrial activities started in Nnewi

According to Nnewi Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NCCIMA), the emergence of Nnewi auto industrial community is a spontaneous development arising mainly from a historical background. Down the long corridor of ages, people of Nnewi and environs have been great sojourners to be seen in distant locations all over Nigeria and the whole world. In these places they operate as traders, technicians, office workers, transporters etc, after the Civil War (1967 – 1970), there losses in properties and wealth taught them a rather harsh lesson that what they looked for outside could be realized at home.

Without a formal meeting, a great many of them opted to stay home and apply the same gifts, talent and industry which made them prosperous abroad in developing a trade centre at home. The rewarding result is now the great Nnewi market formally famous only for motor spare parts, but now a massive shopping centre where almost anything can be bought or sold. This revolution did not begin and end with buying and selling; it branched off to the establishment of industries. The reward has been that the whole of old Nnewi Local Government, which comprises Nnewi North and South and Ekwusigbo Local Government areas, is dotted with industries and many



more are in the pipeline. Spanning Nnewi, Ichi, Ukpok, Ozubulu, Oraifite, Ekwulu-mili, Amichi, Ezinifite and other satellite towns, one sees towering factory chimneys and almost countless number of custom made buildings where equally countless number of products are manufactured. Today, Nnewi prides itself for being the home of the first indigenous car manufacturing plant in Nigeria – Innoson Vehicle Manufacturing Company.

According to Ilechukwu (2018), Nnewi abinitio embraced commerce as a way of life. An average Nnewi person is actually a trader. Farming especially in the contemporary times is basically being practiced in Nnewi by a few and mostly at the subsistence level, just to keep busy and produce vegetables to eat. The profession of the Nnewi man is business.

Like earlier stated one of the factors that stimulated industrial activities in Nnewi was the Nigerian civil war, as many Nnewi people who had established and invested heavily outside Igbo land had all their investments destroyed and lost. Thus they had to relocate to Nnewi to start their businesses afresh and from then on most of their investments were situated in Nnewi.

Ilechukwu (2018) noted that the first major industry Nnewi embraced was the transport industry. He stated that the transport industry became prominent in Nnewi with Sir Louis Ojukwu the father of Ikemba Nnewi, Emeka Ojukwu and others like Atamuna Transport, Egwuatu Transport, Chidiebere Transport, Ekenedilichukwu Transport, Izuchukwu Transport and several other transport companies that came out of Nnewi. Thus the first major regional and national business outfit that came out of Nnewi was the transport industry. Igbokwe (2018), along the same line acknowledged as well that a key factor that inspired industrial activities in Nnewi was the establishment of transport businesses by some Nnewi indigenes like Sir Louis Ojukwu as well as Chief Ubajaku (Izuchukwu) and Chief Ilodibe (Ekenedilichukwu). He noted that these

transport companies thus employed a good number of Nnewi indigenes.

Hence Ilechukwu (2018) further stated that with transport companies established, so many other things began to happen as people were then given to transport business they have to repair their vehicles and as they continued in the motor spare parts business some of the traders began to accumulate capital. Thus as time went on some of these traders began to wonder if they should always be importing the spare part products, so with that they ventured into the production of motor spare parts, thus they began to build industries where these motor spare parts are produced. Therefore, in this manner industrial activities of various forms began. People like Omata Holdings began to produce brake-pads, O.T.C industrial Ltd started producing cables, Cento industries produces both motor and motorcycle batteries as well as many other people that began to produce one thing or the other. Hence the building and establishment of industries to produce various kinds of things began. And in doing so the Nnewi town began to enlarge and grow up to the point where they moved beyond the production of motor spare parts to the production of vehicles with Innoson motors coming on board with such Innovation. It is important to note that Innoson motors does not just assemble the vehicles, it actually manufactures the vehicle from start to finish, hence the vehicles produced bear the name “INNOSON”. Thus it is very clear that the establishment of one industry attracts another and through this Nnewi has become a city of industries.

Likewise, Igbokwe (2018) along the same line acknowledged that due to the fact that the vehicles used by the transport companies in Nnewi from time to time would be needing servicing and replacement of parts, it gave opportunity for the emergence of the trade in motor spare parts in Nnewi which later became an industry also giving room for other industries to emerge. Igbokwe also highlighted that most of the industries existing in Nnewi



today were all started by individuals as small scale businesses.

Still on how industrial activities commenced in Nnewi, Okafor, I. (2018), pointed out that in the first place Nnewi people started by doing importation of mostly spare parts of motor and motorcycle in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He noted that initially they used to import from Japan and Germany but later Taiwan was introduced as they started importing from Taiwan. It was when they started importing from Taiwan that they discovered that they can produce certain things locally in Nnewi. Companies like Ibeto started production by producing motor and motorcycle batteries, motor and motorcycle shoe-brake as well as wheel covers and some other plastic components of motor and motorcycles. Then later some other persons joined him and started producing their own, persons like Louis Carter, Ofotraco, Ofodeme, Johnwhite and so on, these are some of the companies that first started big manufacturing factories for plastic and other components of both motor and motorcycles. According to Okafor, I. (2018), Cutix company is also another production factory in Nnewi which produces electric cables which are among the best in Nigeria. Chicason went into the production of engine oil and some other domestic items. Some of them have moved into the production of some other items, like Ngobros who was producing spare parts, had gone into the production of pampers and other baby materials as well. He also noted that there are other producers in Nnewi who are now producing various spare parts but are doing that at the small scale level.

The Impact of Industrial development on Nnewi

According to Ilechukwu (2018), Nnewi used to be a dignified village but today due to the impact of the industrial development in the city it has now become one of the major cities in Nigeria. One cannot discuss the economic history and development of Nigeria without mentioning Nnewi. It has brought development to Nnewi

and helped provide employment opportunities for job seekers both within and outside Nnewi. It has also helped to reduce the poverty level in Nnewi, an average Nnewi man is not a poor person, he may not be a multi billionaire but he is not poor because there are various revenue generating activities in Nnewi today due to the industrial activities going on in the city.

According to Innocent Chukwuma (2018; Personal Communication), who is one of the major Manufacturers in Nigeria-he manufactures vehicles, plastic upholstery and plastic components of vehicles and motorcycles, as well as other spare parts of vehicles and motorcycles – he thus pointed out that the impact of what he is doing is not just felt in Nnewi alone but is also felt all over Nigeria and the African continent. He has the largest plastic company in the whole of West Africa. He currently has about 7,300 workers under his pay roll, thus the impact of what he is doing has provided massive employment for a huge number of people.

Okeke (2018), on his part noted that industrial activities in Nnewi has helped a lot, not just in creating opportunity for young people in Nnewi to be employed but also the industrial activities in city has brought some developmental works into the city as the various industries and factories situated in Nnewi from time to time embark on a few cooperate social responsibilities like grading of roads, fixing and replacing electric poles and transformers, renovating a few public schools and so on. He noted that the industrial activities in Nnewi have made the city very popular in Nigeria.

Chika Okafor (2018; Personal Communication), who is also one of the key manufacturers in Nigeria, as well noted that what he is doing has had great impact on Nnewi and beyond. He pointed out that what he runs include the biggest manufacturing companies in the whole of south east Nigeria and he has over 5000 persons under his employment. Thus his industrial activities and



manufacturing strides have helped reduce the level of unemployment in the society.

Chizoba (2018), on his part pointed out that the industrial activities in Nnewi have indeed brought massive development into the city. He noted that this is mostly because the breakthrough in the motorcycle spare parts business has to a great extent attracted a huge population to Nnewi making the city a hub for many other business activities since there is a large population to patronize the businesses. Thus there are now many schools, banks, shopping malls, restaurants and eateries, residential

apartments for rent and so many more investments being situated in Nnewi today. According to the last population projection in 2016 Nnewi has a population of about 205,700, this indeed is a huge population for a city like Nnewi making it a preferred destination for investments of various sorts.

Below is the statistical analysis of Nnewi's contribution to job creation in Nigeria as regards trend in employment by skill types as well as trend of profitability, turnover, capacity utilization and export by Nnewi entrepreneurs and manufacturers-

Trend in employment by skill types (number)

Staff Category	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Management	2.20	2.20	2.50	2.50	2.83
Technical Staff (Local)	2.87	2.80	1.89	1.86	1.86
Technical Staff (Foreign)	0	3.00	5.00	4.00	4.00
Other Unskilled	2.91	2.72	3.00	2.73	2.56
Total average	7.98	10.72	12.39	11.09	11.25

SOURCE: Nnewi Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (2015)

Trend of profitability, Turnover, Capacity Utilization and Export

	Capacity utilization	Profitability	turnover	% of Output Exported
1999	-	26.92	9,655,348.53	34.00
2000	67.98	29.36	9,363,174.81	44.17
2001	67.24	27.17	9,305,215.56	40.83
2002	63.63	26.22	8,985,132.69	40.33
2003	56.39	22.88	8,297,772.05	31.33
2004	52.98	20.03	8,017,301.29	32.83

SOURCE: Nnewi Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (2015)

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As earlier stated according to Njoku (2008), development refers to the general and continuous improvement of man's quality of life while along the same line Ake (1981), noted that it is a systematic increase of man's capabilities for mastering his environment, satisfying basic human needs and realizing his potentialities. On the other hand Hewit (1992) noted that industrialization regards to a total process impacting on society through an unprecedented increase in goods and services.

Hence the unprecedented increase in the production of goods and services in Nnewi through the process of industrialization had to some extent led to the improvement of the quality of life of the Nnewi population. Like Ilechukwu (2018) earlier noted, Nnewi used to be a dignified village but today due to the impact of the industrial activities in the city it has now become one of the major cities in Nigeria. One cannot discuss the economic history and development of Nigeria without mentioning Nnewi. In terms of infrastructures it has brought development to Nnewi, as Okeke (2018), highlighted that industrial activities in Nnewi has helped a lot in bringing some developmental works into the city as the various industries and factories situated in Nnewi from time to time embark on a few cooperate social responsibilities like grading of roads, fixing and replacing electric poles and transformers, renovating a few public schools, sinking of bore-hole water facilities and so on. Thus it is quite clear that the industrial activities in Nnewi have a direct connection to infrastructural development in the city.

Again the industrial activities in Nnewi have helped to provide employment opportunities for job seekers both within and outside Nnewi. According to Innocent Chukwuma (2018), (a major Manufacturer in Nigeria, manufacturing vehicles, plastic upholstery and plastic components of vehicles and motorcycles, as well as other spare parts of vehicles and motorcycles, he has the largest plastic company in the whole of West Africa) his

companies currently has about 7,300 workers under his pay roll, thus the impact of his industrial efforts have provided massive employment for a huge number of people, reducing the level of unemployment in Nnewi. Along the same line Chika Okafor (2018), who is also one of the key manufacturers in Nigeria, as well noted that what he is doing has had great impact on Nnewi and beyond. He pointed out that what he runs include the biggest manufacturing companies in the whole of south east Nigeria and he has over 5000 persons under his employment. Thus his industrial activities and manufacturing strides have helped reduce the level of unemployment in the city as well. By these it could be said that the wealth accumulated by these industrialists by means of employment opportunities they provide are flowing down to the larger population.

Regarding education, it has to be noted that due the fact that many industries are located in Nnewi today, most young persons in Nnewi endeavour to acquire education because they are aware that they stand a better chance of being employed into top ranking positions in these industries situated in their city. Hence currently an average Nnewi person educated. Also, these industries and businesses that go with them had attracted a sizeable population to Nnewi making investment in education and many other business activities by the private sector very much lucrative in the city, thus Chizoba (2018), on his part pointed out that the industrial activities in Nnewi have indeed brought massive development into the city. He noted that this is mostly because the breakthrough in the motorcycle spare parts business has to a great extent attracted a huge population to Nnewi making the city a hub for many other business activities since there is a large population to patronize the businesses. Thus there are now many schools, banks, shopping malls, restaurants and eateries, residential apartments for rent and so many more investments being situated in Nnewi today.



It has also helped to reduce the poverty level in Nnewi to some extent. Of course not everyone living in Nnewi is employed by all the industries situated in the city but the industrial activities in the city have attracted a huge population to the city. Hence the city provides a sizeable market for innumerable commercial interests, therefore anyone in Nnewi with any commercial interest whether in goods or in services will find an appreciable patronage. This may not have reduced the poverty level to the barest minimum but it provides an opportunity for people to get busy and at least fetch daily meal through hard work. Hence by this wealth trickles down to the ordinary person in the city who has either goods or services to market. Nevertheless, the industrial activities in the city of Nnewi have brought about environmental degradation, as emission by the various industries are adequately monitored and regulated. Furthermore, given that the increase in industrial activities in the city had led to increase in population, waste production in the city is increasing in a geometrical proportion and the waste management efforts made by both the business outfits and the government are not yet meeting the international environmental standards. Thus with the environmental degradation, the health of the inhabitants of the city is largely jeopardized.

Conclusion

In conclusion therefore Nnewi as a city has developed to a certain extent as a result of industrial activities. This is because the companies and factories domiciled in the city has been making little contributions by means of social cooperate responsibilities towards infrastructural development in Nnewi by assisting in road repairs, provision of pipe borne water, electric transformer and so on, though much still needs to be done. As a direct effect of industrial activities educational institutions have multiplied in the city and the industries and manufacturing firms are providing employment opportunities for a number of youths. Thus industrial

activities in Nnewi have to a certain degree encouraged development in the city.

However the increase in industrial activities in the city has not brought about sustainable development as there are still a large number of unemployed youths roaming around, basic infrastructures such as steady power supply, good roads, and standard health facilities are still not sufficiently available. Some other factors that are inimical to development that still needs to be handled include environmental degradation and insecurity. These issues to a large extent need government intervention to ensure that they are adequately handled.

Therefore, the argument by the “anti-development” theorists who are of the view that industrial activities does not completely lead to development can be true if developmental efforts are left only in the hands of the private sector. The fact is that industrialization can be attained through the efforts of the private sector but sustainable development can only be achieved through the combined efforts of both the government and the private sector. Both industry and developmental strides in Nnewi today are carried out mainly by the private sector and that is a contributory factor to why industrialization has not brought a sustainable development in the city.

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