

THE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE, 2000-2020

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Abstract

This study undertakes a comprehensive examination of the impact of globalization on entrepreneurship and economic development in Anambra State, Nigeria, over two decades (2000–2020). By adopting a historical perspective, the research provides nuanced insights into the complex and multifaceted relationships among globalization, entrepreneurship, and economic development. The study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data from both primary and secondary sources. These include interviews with entrepreneurs, policymakers, and other stakeholders, as well as statistical data obtained from government agencies and international organizations. The findings reveal that globalization has had a profound impact on entrepreneurship and economic development in Anambra State, producing both positive and negative outcomes. On the one hand, globalization has created new opportunities for entrepreneurs to access global markets, technologies, and capital, thereby driving economic growth and development. On the other hand, it has led to increased competition, cultural homogenization, and economic inequality, which have undermined the viability of local businesses and exacerbated poverty and unemployment. The study contributes to a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics among globalization, entrepreneurship, and economic development within a Nigerian state and provides valuable insights for policymakers, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders seeking to promote sustainable economic development in the region.

Keywords: Globalization, Entrepreneurship, Economic Development, Anambra State.

Introduction

That the world is turning into a global village is an idea that today seems obscure to many. Today's reality presents a world that is in many ways, an actual global village. The idea of a village as an entity whereby one can traverse the length and breadth of it within a short time; or where one can stay at one end and reach out to the other end by a mere physical shout out; or a geographical entity where everyone knows everyone is currently a regular phenomenon playing and replaying itself out on a global scale. Tomlinson (2008), for instance, examined the contemporary global interconnectedness driven by technology, economics, and culture.

One cannot deny the tremendous transformation brought by globalization to the present age. It has transformed education, transportation, entrepreneurship, politics, medicine, and in fact, everything. Its impact resounds in all the continents and even in other planets besides the earth. It has affected both humans and non-humans, and the impact is both positive and negative. Schaeffer (2016), presented a comprehensive overview of how globalization reshapes economies, societies, politics, and environments worldwide.

A key concern is how globalization affects entrepreneurship which is key in economic development. This draws our attention immediately to the impact of the imports from different parts of the world on local technological and technical initiatives, as well as the survival of local enterprises in the face of external pressure and competition. Hence, the challenges faced by policy makers in driving the entrepreneurial sector for positive and sustainable economic development in any nation. It becomes expedient to periodically evaluate the growth and development of entrepreneurship, so as to place a nation's economy on a sound pedestal.

In Nigeria, Anambra State is strategic in economic affairs. It ranks among the biggest economies in Nigeria. Its strategic importance to Nigeria's economy derives especially from the prided Onitsha market that, for long, served as the largest market in West African; the Nnewi hub, the root of the Igbo fame as industrialists and entrepreneurs. Nnewi town virtually popularised the "Apprenticeship Model" in business enterprise, which has encapsulated the entire Igbo nation. Hence, the focus of this study on Anambra State as a hub of entrepreneurs, with a view to highlighting how global technologies such as Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and imports of all kinds of products among others, from across the world have improved or discouraged innovation and de facto economic development.

This study will employ a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative data from primary and secondary sources, to investigate and drive down its points. Equally, adopting the historiographical critical method, its presentation will be thematic.

Conceptual Explanations

To help fathom the focus of this paper, certain key concepts need to be explained and the very broad ones narrowed down to fit into the nature and size of this paper.

The concept of **globalization** has received so much attention in the last few decades. Volle, observed that though it began in the 19th century following the Industrial Revolution, an American economist, Theodore Levitt, is “credited with having coined the term *globalization* in a 1983 article titled, “The Globalization of Markets”” (Encyclopaedia Britannica online). Explaining globalization, Williamson (1998), remarked; “We mean that the whole of the world is increasingly behaving as though it were a part of a single market, with interdependent production, consuming similar goods, and responding to the same impulses.” Putting together the opinion of many, Alkharafi & Alsabah explained that; “Globalization refers to the integration between the world’s nations, markets, and social and political systems.” And that, “It links distant locations in such a way that events in one place may affect or become affected by events in other locations around the world” (2025, p.1). Globalization, therefore, is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that relates to the increasing interconnectedness and interdependence of the economies, the societies, and the cultures of the world which has been largely driven by advances in technology and trade.

The term, **entrepreneurship**, lacks a consensus definition. It has often been used synonymously with the term, “entrepreneur”. For Mwatsika, et al. (2018, pp. 451-452), “It is surprising that despite the number of studies conducted and the prominence of the concept, there is no consensus on how the concept should be defined.” Despite this, it is agreed to have a French origin, taken from the word *entreprendre* which means “to begin” or “to undertake” (Bouwer, 2015). Costa (<https://www.britannica.com>) states that an Irish, Richard Cantillon, was the first to apply the concept of “entrepreneurship” in his *Essay on the Nature of Trade in General* in 1755. The multidimensional nature of the concept accepted, suffice it to generally take from Gartner’s proposal of eight themes for the concept as alluded to in Mwatsika, Kambewa, & Chiwaula (2018, p.452), including; entrepreneur, innovation, organisation creation, creating value, profit versus non-profit, growth, uniqueness and the owner-manager. We, however, narrow our focus to Costa’s definition of entrepreneurship as “the state of being an entrepreneur, or a person who organizes, manages, and assumes the risk of a business with the goal of generating economic value.” It is the act of engaging in affairs driven by an intent to make economic gains. Such affairs or establishments so engaged are regarded as enterprises. In Nigeria, Anambra State is strongly seen as a home for entrepreneurs and enterprises.

Economic Development is also a multifaceted concept that encompasses not only economic growth but also social and institutional development. It has been defined as the process of improving the economic well-being and quality of life of a country or region. It involves increasing the production and consumption of goods and services, creating jobs, and raising the standard of living (Todaro & Smith, 2015). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2020) noted that it can be measured using a range of indicators, including GDP per capita, poverty rates, and human development indices. As a major determinant in various aspects of life of individuals, communities and nations, economic development is an issue of great concern to every nation.

In furtherance, **Sustainable Economic Development** derives from the concept of Sustainable Development (SD), also a multidimensional concept which has been presented as the solution to all the crisis of our time. According to Nwaigwe:

Although the term emerged during the 1970s, the first real attempt to define SD was made by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), led by Gro Harlem Brundtland in 1987. The Earth Summit of Rio de Janeiro in 1992 saw the world heads of state taking it up from where Brundtland and friends left it by having over a hundred and fifty countries endorse SD. (2009, p.11)

This paper will lean partly Brundtland’s definition which sees SD as “a process of change in which the exploitation of natural resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional change are all in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations” (1987, p.46).

Theoretical Framework

Two theories are borrowed to anchor this work: Globalization Theory and Sustainable Development (SD) Theory; however, much regard will be given to the latter, especially as the direct object of the paper is sustainable economic development.

- **Globalization Theory**

Globalization is often associated with the significant transformations that occurred after World War II, particularly the establishment of international institutions, the rise of multinational corporations, and the technological advancements that characterized the late 20th century. Several theories have followed the development of the concept with varied contributions. For instance, Bhagwati (2004), argued that it has led to the free flow of goods, services, and ideas across borders, creating a more interdependent world. On another hand, Stiglitz (2006), notes that globalization could bring about significant economic benefits, including economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction. Critics argue, however, that equally, globalization has significant negative consequences, including increased income inequality, cultural homogenization, and environmental degradation (Shiva, 2005). This paper considers so much the above viewpoints. The summary of globalization theory as adopted here has is that it is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has linked the world, transformed the world economy, creating new opportunities, but also challenges for entrepreneurs and nations alike.

- **Sustainable Development Theory**

Brundtland, et al. (1987, p. 43) presented **Sustainable Development (SD)** theory as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. This theory is chosen as anchor for this paper based on the quest for what is appropriately desirable. Nwaigwe, quoting Vandana Shiva, remarked that, “without sustainability and a just sharing out of the earth’s bounties there is no justice, and without justice there can be no peace” (2009, p.10). Economic development that thrives on inequality does not guarantee justice and peace, and thus, is not a wholesome development. Globalization seems to encourage inequality especially in the developing world. Thus the reason for preferably anchoring this work on sustainable development theory, since Anambra State of Nigeria, being part of the developing world, is exposed to the positive and negative aspects of globalization.

For a close relationship, we dare also to link the SD theory with Integral Development (ID) theory in this work. ID theory proposes development that considers the totality of the human person and the society. Elsewhere, Okafor and Ojiakor remarked that the “notion of ‘Integral Human Development’ was given popularity by *Populorum Progressio*, an Encyclical of Pope Paul VI on “the Development of Peoples”” (2020, p.260). The Pope held that:

The development we speak of here cannot be restricted to economic growth alone. To be authentic, it must be well rounded; it must foster the development of each man and of the whole man. As an eminent specialist on this question has rightly said: “We cannot allow economics to be separated from human realities, nor development from the civilization in which it takes place. What counts for us is man—each individual man, each human group, and humanity as a whole” (March 26, 1967, No. 14).

His successors, John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis furthered the popularity of Integral Development in their teachings. The theory considers what extent one aspect of development in a person can lead to, or hamper other aspects of development in the same person and in the society. Brown explains that,

Integral Sustainable Development practitioners recognize that the more dimensions of reality a SDv initiative takes into account, the greater chance it has of becoming a long-term, sustainable solution. For example: a solution based on economic analysis alone is less sustainable than one that incorporates economic, ecological, and social understandings; this, in turn, is less viable than a solution that also includes psychological, cultural, and religious perspectives. (2005, p.3)

Integral Sustainable Development theory is all about the holistic approach to changing a people for the better. The concern here, therefore, is if the impact of globalization on entrepreneurship and economic development in Anambra State complied with this holistic approach.

Interactions between entrepreneurship and Globalization in Anambra State

- **Improved technology adoption**

The business environment in Anambra State, and by extension, Nigerian, was for many decades tied to analogue technology. Until the late 1990s, business communications, be it domestic or international, were best exchanged via phone calls that were quite expensive, involving a few thousand landline connections managed by the state-

owned Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL); or by telegram or fax. Even when emails came on board, it remained alien to many well into the first decade of the 21st century.

At the beginning of our period under review, the use of Automated Teller Machine or Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) was next to nothing. The now-defunct SocieteGenerale Bank Nigeria (SGBN) installed the first ATM in Nigeria, in 1989. Agboola, cited in Olatokun and Igbinedion reported that “although only a bank had an ATM in 1998, by 2004, fourteen of them had acquired the technology” (2009, p.374). However, at the dawn of the new millennium, with the introduction and evolution of new and improved global technologies in Nigeria, the entrepreneurial space in Anambra State began to witness far reaching changes. At this period, the use of ATMs, for instance, bloated. Mitchel Elegbe, a Nigerian electrical engineer founded Interswitch in 2002, to tackle the lack of infrastructure to power digital payments through cards. It facilitated the seamless use of one card on multi-bank ATM points (Muoto, 2022). “The number of ATM transactions through the Interswitch network had increased from, 1,065,972 in 2004, to 14, 448, 615 between January 2005 to March 2006.... More than 800 ATMs have been deployed on the network, while about 2 million cards have been issued by 23 banks as at March 2006” (Olatokun & Igbinedion, 2009, p.374). The ATM system became popularised in Anambra entrepreneurial landscape with the involvement of other systems like Mastercard, Verve cards, Quickteller, among others.

The introduction of “Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) in Nigeria in 2001 when the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) awarded GSM licenses to three key operators: MTN Nigeria, Econet Wireless (now Airtel Nigeria), and NITEL (via its subsidiary, M-Tel)” (Omeni, 2024), revolutionized the use of global technologies in Anambra State’s business ecosystem. Since then, the GSM in Nigeria has evolved, with four major active operators today: MTN, Airtel, GLO and 9Mobile. Primarily, Anambra State is among their fields of operation. The innovations that came with the GSM opened up new possibilities, especially with the introduction of digital services and enabled the growth of sectors like e-commerce, fintech, and digital media. Mobile banking and Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) technology (which can make money transfers without internet access) became major drivers of financial inclusion even amongst rural and semi-urban areas, making possible, quick and secured transactions by Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (SMEs).

With time, innovative technologies flooded the Anambra State economic landscape. Several financial digital services such as Mobile Money, Digital Wallets, and Payments Fintech (including second and third generation fintechs) have taken over the space, facilitating transactions through such services as Paystack, Flutterwave, MoniePoint, OPay, Paga, and PalmPay, among others, thus further amplifying market reach. The widespread deployment of point-of-sale (POS) systems and mobile payments in the State transformed trade dynamics in across the State. For example, Moniepoint has digitized financial flows by moving transactions away from cash and into traceable digital systems, thus facilitating faster transactions, creating wholesale and retail linkages, and granting improved access to credit and market data.

Other technological services employed in the business ecosystem in the State include Online banking, Internet banking, Zero-Cash, Digital Revenue Collection by Government, and Internet, WiFi Access Initiatives. Social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram have become marketing and e-commerce tools for SMEs, enabling them to reach both national and diaspora customers. In Nnewi, the automotive cluster demonstrates adaptive manufacturing technologies. Local firms often retrofit imported machines and reverse-engineer components, producing spare parts and machinery suited to domestic and regional demand. These innovations reduce costs and enhance competitiveness while relying on knowledge transfers linked to global trade.

- *New market opportunities*

In globalization, new market opportunities are implied. In Anambra State, the Onitsha Main Market, for instance, the largest in West Africa, functions as a distribution hub for goods across Nigeria and neighbouring countries. Digital payments through such platforms as Moniepoint have improved settlement efficiency and credit access. Moniepoint alone processes more than \$2 million daily in Onitsha, with an estimated annual transaction volume exceeding \$5 billion and servicing over 20,000 merchants (Moniepoint, 2025). Also with diaspora networks and remittances, family and community ties abroad provide both financing and direct entry points into foreign markets, thus expanding market access. World Bank (2023), confirmed that Nigeria received about \$20 billion in remittances in 2023, a portion of which, evidently, sustains SMEs in Anambra. The Anambra State Export Strategy of 2023 further identifies priority products and logistical improvements to promote exports, underscoring the link between local entrepreneurship and international markets. Market reach is also expanded through international platforms such as **Amazon**, and e-commerce platforms like **Jumia** and **Konga**, as products and services can now be exchanged, even with far away countries.

- ***Access to foreign investment***

African markets are increasingly major targets for International investors and venture capitalists, and Nigeria, with its large population and emerging market potential, is a prime one. Many platforms such as **Seedstars**, **Techstars**, and **Y Combinator**, have opened up avenues, for startups to access seed funding and venture capital which allows entrepreneurs to scale their businesses quickly, enhance operations, and introduce innovative products to global markets.

Foreign investment has thus been attracted into Anambra State. Granted that foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into Anambra are limited compared to national totals, local entrepreneurs have gained access to external capital in several forms. The Anambra State Investment Promotion and Protection Agency (ANSIPPA) facilitates joint ventures, licensing arrangements, and project finance. Some local firms enter into partnerships with foreign suppliers for equipment and distribution rights. Infrastructure projects, including industrial parks and market modernization, attract foreign project financing. The African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank, 07/09/2023), published that it “signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Nigeria’s Anambra State Government to collaborate on state development efforts through the provision of project preparation and advisory services, including a potential debt financing programme of up to US \$200 million.” There are other foreign investors as Shanghai Jiahang Investment Co. Ltd aiming at manufacturing, technology, and industrial infrastructure development in the State (Odili & Isikala, 2025); Meta, collaborating with the State’s institutions for technological advancement; Google, partnering with the State to help SMEs improve their digital presence; Shenzhen Great Bay, a Chinese multinational engaged for strategic partnerships in the State (Solution Innovation District, 2024).

Many Nigerian and Anambra businesses have formed partnerships with global corporations to share resources, expertise, and technology. Nigerian **agri-tech** companies partner with international groups to increase agricultural output and improve food security by adopting global best practices and technologies. Again, fintechs, backed by foreign investors push credit and digital financial services into Anambra’s informal markets, linking local merchants to global financial capital. At the macro level, Nigeria’s FDI inflows run into billions of dollars, and some filter into Anambra through targeted projects and partnerships (UNCTAD, 2023).

Impact of Globalization on entrepreneurship and economic development in Anambra

Evidently, the impact of globalization on entrepreneurship and economic development in Anambra State is multifaceted. Generally, it touches on capital, technology and technical services; job creation, extended market, ease of doing business, competition that stimulates, but at times also drowns ones’ business, business growth, increased revenue, and economic advancement among others. Generally, too, the impact of globalization on entrepreneurship and economic development in Anambra have both positive and adverse natures. Some of these effects are taken in more specific terms below.

- ***Availability of capital, technology and technical services***

It is already noted that globalization led to increased foreign direct investments (FDI) through joint ventures or partnerships with foreign components, licensing arrangements, diaspora remittances and project financing among others. This led to increased availability of capital, technology and technical services when compared to yesteryears. Evidently, the availability of these translates to business growth and economic development. The beauty of it is that all kinds of enterprises benefited from these, including large scale enterprises and MSMEs.

- ***Wider market reach***

In many ways, globalization aided entrepreneurs to access new markets. This was helped by the improved availability of capital and technology. The effect of this has been tremendous. Onyinye G. Okeke (Personal communication, 22/07/2025), a vegetable producer and trader at Onitsha, said that she is able to export dried vegetables and foods with the help of technologies and diaspora connections. She communicates with her diaspora connections and business contacts through social media and internet technologies. Her products are seamlessly shipped to them through courier services such as DHL and FedEx. Similarly, Cecelia Okonkwo (10/08/2025), a dealer on babies’ and household products at Onitsha Main Market, confirmed that her diaspora connections in China and Dubai, do help her secure and bring in wares, the availability of which has given her an encouraging market access to Cameroon. Mr Jude Ezenwa, of TConnect Deuics/ Electric Ltd, Onitsha (personal communication, 05/08/2025), noted that his partnership with some Asian manufacturers and distributors greatly aided the expansion of his phone and electronics businesses, noting that in the last five years, the volume of sales and turnover from his shops have increased by more than three hundred (300) percent.

Currently, with the aid of the internet and social media, people can simultaneously engage in multiple enterprises. Many students in tertiary institutions engage in online businesses with Jumia, Konga and their likes, some created

their own business outfits through which they buy and distribute products. The positive impact here is that the profit yields help much in offsetting their bills, including tuition fees in some instances. Unfortunately, such circumstances have made students lose focus and encouraged poor academic performance and school drop-out, believing that with money coming in, school is needless. Many ended up regretting such decision later in life. Dr Linus Ogbuefi of the Chukwuemeka Odimegu Ojukwu University (COOU), Uli campus, (13/03/2024), confirmed that he knew of about five of such school drop-outs in his department. Thus, the need to embrace the market opportunities with caution.

- ***Globalization and job creation***

Globalization also led to job creation. With more capital and technologies available, expansion of business and market reach apparently resulted, and with such, recruitment of more hands in businesses became imperative. This was the case in Anambra State, especially with its major trading and industrial hubs like Onitsha, Awka, Nnewi and others taking in countless labour across value chain. Chuks-Ezekwibe (2024), observed that the markets in Onitsha which are key to Anambra State revenue, and other markets across the state, absorb large direct and indirect employment in the areas of wholesale, retail, logistics, warehousing, transport, security, finance/FX services. It is observed that globalized supply chains in the manner of imports and exports, boost these effects by expanding product variety and turnover.

The Nnewi hub houses industrial and manufacturing clusters with such notable companies as Innoson Vehicle Manufacturing Co. Ltd (IVM), Cutix Cables Plc; the Ibeto Group (including Ibeto Industries, Ibeto Cement, etc.), and auto spare-parts dealers like Ibk Auto Parts Industries Company Limited, Machromes Limited, and Geofabros. These with others provide direct and indirect jobs in production, distribution and in repairs respectively; thus lowering unit costs and production times, and sustaining competitiveness against imported products. They, more effectively, supply domestic markets but also greatly contribute to exports to regional markets. Evidence shows that clustering and supplier networks help these firms to compete with imports from elsewhere and to retain employment; noting that capital and labour are noteworthy drivers of output and job retention (NES/NJESS, 2019; Alex-Ekwueme Fed. Univ., 2019). One good thing relating to job creation in these hubs is that labour is rarely abruptly sought. In a survey of over 1,100 respondents in Onitsha and Nnewi, Ekésiobi and Dimnwobi (2020) reports that the Igbo Entrepreneurship Model (IEM) (the Apprenticeship/Mentorship System) systematically onboards youths into trading/manufacturing firms, facilitating rapid job placement and firm formation. Thus, in most of these fields, labour is rarely scarce.

It has also been observed above that available new technologies equally opened up business opportunities. Students and many others could stay at the comfort of their rooms and get themselves self-employed. Nearly everybody has become an entrepreneur. This opinion is credibly sustained by the NBS (2020) Q2 Labour Report which presented Anambra as the state with the lowest underemployment rate (17%). The experience of globalization has indeed reawakened the entrepreneurial spirit and opened up job opportunities in Anambra State.

- ***Competition and Market Pressures***

In practically all fields of enterprises, the experience with globalization has brought in much competition. Local manufacturers, be that plastics, textiles, footwear, and household utensils among others, are often challenged by cheaper imports from Asia, especially China, India, and Turkey. Even the Nnewi's automotive component producers barely find their feet in the face of imported spare parts from Asia, even as they defend a competitive advantage in cost-effective repairs and regional distribution. Unlike hitherto when online import channels were rare, Anambra's traders are now faced with competitions from Lagos, Kano, and international suppliers who take advantage of online channels. The pressure from this have at times, forced some entrepreneurs out of business. Henry Ekemezie (12/05/2025) lamented that such situation forced him to abandon his textile business to take up a driving job. So many such others exist. The reality is that while globalization offers wider opportunities, it forces entrepreneurs to remain viable through innovation and restructuring or be pushed out of business.

- ***Globalization and entrepreneurship development***

Globalization is seen above to result to availability of capital and technology, widened market horizons, and job creations. These are equally tied to entrepreneurship, and thus, form part globalization's impact on entrepreneurship development. Suffice it to say that globalization has significantly impacted on entrepreneurship in Anambra State. One mirrors this especially through the industrial cluster system, the mentorship systems, and the diaspora networks.

Reports indicate that in the Nnewi cluster, for instance, global linkages in the manner of supplier/buyer networks and exposure to foreign inputs, have encouraged innovation and firm spin-offs (NES/NJESS, 2019). This was much aided by the IEM which minimizes barriers to becoming entrepreneurs, by combining training and start-up

capital, ensuring a continuous rise of new proprietors participating in global trade flows (Ekesiobi & Dimnwobi, 2020). Researches also reveal the crucial roles of diaspora remittances in entrepreneurship spin-offs and development as they are used to finance business start-ups, provide working capital, and to acquire equipment (Olubodun, 2025; SEJPS Journal, 2024). In addition to such impact, globalization has undoubtedly, enabled entrepreneurs in Anambra to adopt global standards and diversify their markets (Udegbunam, 2019). Therefore, even though we had earlier seen the competition arising from globalization stifling some entrepreneurs, it has equally gone a long way to increase and diversify business growth.

- ***Globalization and economic growth***

Between 2000 and 2025, globalization has reinforced economic development in Anambra State by improving trade hubs in parts of the state, especially the hubs around Onitsha, Nnewi, Awka, Ekwulobia, Ihiala, among others. Efforts have been much on encouraging manufacturing, and leveraging diaspora remittances, with focus on Onitsha and Nnewi as gateways to global commerce, anchoring the state's push into export markets (Anambra State Government, 2023). The already noted impact of globalization, including availability of capital, market expansion, and entrepreneurship growth, among others, are evidently vital indices in economic development. A fact too, is that diaspora remittances stimulate household demand and encourage investment in education, housing, and small businesses. These have effect on the state GDP growth (Olubodun, 2025; SEJPS Journal, 2024). Apparently, these end up at increasing revenue for the individuals and the State. This agrees with Chuks-Ezekwibe's (2024) report that Onitsha's markets show their critical role in state revenue, infrastructure funding, and spill over effects into sectors such as transport and hospitality. It proved difficult to obtain accurate data on economic growth in Anambra for the period under study. But the little available indicated steady growth. The GDP grew from N735.80 billion in 2009 to N1.005 trillion in 2011 for Anambra, showing 40% growth over two years (Vanguard News, February 18, 2014). Then from ₦4.255 trillion in 2018 to ₦4.673 trillion in 2019 and ₦4.712 trillion in 2020, probably affected by the pandemic (anambrastate.gov.ng). Reports placed Anambra's GDP on the sixth position in Nigeria in 2022, netting approximately ₦5.14 trillion. This, no doubt, is a big stride. The State also believes that globalization-driven levers such as exports, cluster integration, and logistics are expected to drive further GDP expansion and structural transformation in the years ahead (Government of Anambra State, 2025).

Conclusion

The interaction between globalization and entrepreneurship and economic development in Anambra State from 2000 to 2025 as seen here, reveals varied positive and negative impacts of globalization on these. Evidently, if the opportunities offered by African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) are also well exploited, and greater efforts made in strengthening industrial clusters, improving cargo logistics, and encouraging and supporting MSMEs in the State, it can accelerate the GDP growth and enhance competitiveness in the regional and global economy.

The above successes, notwithstanding, one wonders if they make for integral sustainability. The presumed successes should not make one turn a blind eye on the ills of globalization, especially as it relates to putting persons out of business or job arising from unfavourable competitions. Also, the new technologies have not only provided opportunities for defrauding the uninformed, some of them have equally taken over human jobs, thus rendering many jobless and miserable. One observes that "What counts for us is man—each individual man, each human group, and humanity as a whole" (Paul VI, March 26, 1967, No. 14). More importantly too, it should be noted that "a solution based on economic analysis alone is less sustainable than one that incorporates economic, ecological, and social understandings; this, in turn, is less viable than a solution that also includes psychological, cultural, and religious perspectives (Brown, 2005, p.3).

Granted that globalization impacted greatly on entrepreneurship and economic development in Anambra State in the years 2000 to 2025, the government should prepare the grassroots public adequate enough for a balanced positive and sustainable impact. Thus, it is recommended that the government should develop policies to support entrepreneurship and economic development in Anambra State by encouraging investment in technology and infrastructure to improve productivity, and to provide training and support for entrepreneurs that will help them access capital, new markets and technologies to prepare them into the competition.

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