

country like Nigeria, privatisation of electricity service delivery is detrimental to socio-welfare and socio-spatial equality (World Bank, 1987 in Etieyibo, 2011).

Prior to privatisation, a large percentage of the Nigerian populace mostly in rural areas and the urban poor do not have access to power supply. However, in privatisation, the literature averred that the deplorable, ineffective service delivery of electricity has neither change nor improved, (IseOlorunkanmi, 2014). Socio-spatial inequality would be eased when the above negative issues and challenges of power supply are addressed. This is posited by Oyelami and Adewumi (2014) that adequate supply of electricity would bring about economic development and national growth where industries would thrive well to employ a larger percentage of the teaming labour. People would similarly become easily empowered and possibly self-employed as they are able to embark at domestic level on various economic activities even to industrial level thereby enhancing the nation's economic development from small scale to medium and to large scale level.

The privatisation of electricity and its social-inequalities outcomes in Nigeria

Electricity service delivery in Nigeria is in a deplorable condition, this has virtually affected all facets of life since economic development and the growth of any nation is solely dependent on its effectiveness as observed by (IseOlorunkanmi, 2014; Oghogho, 2014; Amoo and Fangbale 2013; Newsom, 2012; Oyedepo, 2012). While a good number of industries and establishments have packed up due to poor electricity supply, the majority of other functioning industries are running their activities using the generator on daily bases, (Edukugbo, 2013; Obasi, and Ayansina, 2013; Leech, 2011). The negative implication of this kind of economy is hydra-headed; ranging from high production cost, downsizing and rightsizing of labour, outright lay off of workers, increase in unemployment rate, pauperization and poverty development leading eventually to social inequality (Briceno-Garmendia,&Shkaratan, 2011).

It has been observed that the outcome of privatisation further impoverishes the poor and widen socio-spatial inequality in the nation (Aminu and Peterside, 2014 and Tetteh, 2013). Deprivation and social exclusion, (Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation, 2015) of some social groups from access to some public and private services such as light, among other indicators of poverty mentioned by Townsend (1979), has been observed as one of the outcomes of privatisation causing socio-spatial inequality in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion

The social implication of the privatisation approach to electricity service delivery in Nigerian context has formed the background for its major criticism as it has no social face, not having an inclination for people's welfare. The reason for this is the skewed distribution of electric facilities over the space, long time disinvestment in electric facilities. Moreover, the arrangement of these facilities was not in consonance with the neighbourhood setting and also do not follow the developmental trend. These lead to deterioration of these facilities and overstretching of available ones thereby leading to a total breakdown of the facilities. Privatisation approach to electricity service delivery without an initial solution to this deplorable condition of the facilities forms a veritable ground for its abysmal failure. In this case, Investors in the electricity service delivery, who are profit-minded have no interest in the social implications of their operations as they are only concerned with how to recoup their money back within the time frame of their investment.

Hence, the government has the onus to find a solution to the proper arrangement of electric facilities for effective service delivery in order to bridge the gap between the different social groups. The resultant effect of this is that manufacturing industries would thrive well to give room for employment, and opportunity for cottage and small scale industries to spring up. With this improvement, the nation would not only witness unprecedented economic development and growth but would also have the gap between the rich and the poor bridged as an eventual solution to socio-spatial inequality.

Recommendations

- Development policies and decision making of the sort of privatisation of electricity service delivery should not be independent of social welfare and equity.
- A comprehensive strategy that will integrate implementation of electric facilities distribution alongside with different social groups should be embarked upon.
- It is therefore required that a level playing ground for everyone from the poorest to the wealthiest individual within the society be given equal right and opportunities when it comes to service delivery of public utility such as electricity supply.
- Carrying out the procedure of privatisation of public utilities service deliveries like electricity with due diligence as against the disjointed, muddling through, trial-by-error kind of planning and policy implementation of the kind of power reform process should be embraced. In doing so, every fabric of society would be given equal consideration.
- Socio-spatial inequality would be easily addressed, where human-centered policy, realistic tendency, and social welfare undertone, forms the fundamental focus of the policymakers and are guided in the course of implementing its privatisation approach, such as public utility like electricity supply.

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