

## Environmental Opportunities and Challenges That Can Change The Behavior of School Graduates Around Niger State

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### Abstract

This paper attempt to verify the environmental opportunities and challenges available in Niger state. These served as basic factors for trance and local migration among youth, resulting to unemployment in towns and cities, that is if it is properly checked, development can sustain life and properties. Such opportunities are numerous for utilization, management and conservation of natural resources to sustain life and development. This paper also discusses the advantage of geographical location and availability of a potentially large market, transport, abundant arable land and good climate, available financial institution, manufacturing industries, power supply and different occupation that can easily change behaviors of school graduates in Niger State.

### Introduction

Climate is a major problem to mankind despite recent technological and scientific development, weather is still the most important variable in agricultural production. Climate factors affect agriculture and determine the adequacy of food supplies in two major ways, one is through hazard to crops and the other is through the control exercised on the types of agriculture feasible or viable in a given area. Climate parameters have an influence on all stages of agriculture production in chain including land preparation, sowing crops, growth and management, harvesting stages, transports and marketing. Any agriculture system is man made ecosystem. The main climate elements that affect crops production are the same as those affecting or influencing natural vegetation include solar radiation, temperature and moisture. Although these climatic parameters and others that depend on them largely determine global distribution of crops and livestock as well as crop yield and livestock production within climatic zones. Also included are some other natural resources that can easily be exploited by the majority of youths, especially the school graduates.

### Study Area.

Niger state is located on lat  $4^{\circ}$ - $42^{\circ}$   $7^{\circ}$  $30^{\circ}$ E And long  $8^{\circ}$   $20^{\circ}$  N- $11^{\circ}$   $4^{\circ}$ N. It has two distinct rivers: the river Niger and the river Kaduna. There are many streams and springs. It has three distinct dams such as Kanji dam, Jebba dam and Shiroro dam, and the fourth, Gurara, which is currently under construction. The temperature is constant about  $27^{\circ}$ -  $32^{\circ}$  F, and rainfall averaging between 1200mm to 1400mm, good soil .and vegetations throughout the state.

### Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this paper is to verify environmental opportunities around Niger state, climate relief and manmade features. The objective of this study is to identify some opportunities and challenges around Niger state in the area of relief and climate. This is to enable school graduates of all educational levels change their behavior to provide enabling

environment for self employment opportunities and development. This climate and relief deem more, of mans activities for sustaining life and property

### Methodology

This research made use of library publications, questionnaires, interviews and physical observation of the environment. The physical and mental services people render to humanity in the state was zone to four geographical areas with twenty five questionnaires each. e.g. Bida, Kontagora, Minna and Borgu.

### Data Analysis and Discussion of Results

The climate reports obtained from Niger State Agricultural Development Project (N.A.D.P.) and Minna Airport for relevant and adequate description of weather relates influence on the occupation of the dwellers in the study area. This led to an out lined records on rainfall and production records of guinea corn across five senatorial zones of Niger state were collected.

Table1. Agricultural products and climatic variables across Niger State for Ten Years.

Year	Rainfall	Guinea/Corn
1996	12367	800000
1997	1442.2	10,000
1998	135.7	90000
1999	110.6	700,000
2000	116.8	60000
2001	1236.8	60000
2002	784.5	40,000
2003	1155.1	50,000
2004	1206 6	600,000
2005	1195 8	10,000

The opportunity and challenges around Niger state can be seen in different sources such as relief and human resources and man made features like industries, economic and educational institutions. For example, drainage pattern of Niger state basin, several fundamental features like rivers, landscape, vegetation and climate should be born in mind because of series of terraces of escarpment surrounding mountains are veritable chances for employment through tourism and land use activities. For example River Kaduna and Gurara all fall in Niger state, these together have positive and negative effects that most of the rivers formed falls and rapids, where they descent from mountains to cover course. These rapids caused hindrances to Nigeria and most of the rivers are seasonal. Although an opportunity here is that the rapid could help to irrigate the surrounding farm land rapids and falls served as basis for electric power potentials which is an avenue for allied industries and soft drink industries. Agricultural potential in Niger state offers great advantages in economic wise. For example, the varied tropical climate of Niger state has created opportunities for wide range of tropical plants, guinea corn products and other cereal crops and animal products like tropical animals that survive in tropical weather like goats, camels, cows, e.t.c. which could serve as raw materials for industries. The landscape has potentials for grazing animals resulting in abundant livestock as meat and fat source. The above agricultural produce serves as internal and external means of income to dwellers around Niger state and within Nigeria at large.

### Transport

Transport opportunities such as rail from Lagos to far Northern states and Trunk A roads from Lagos to the same Northern states and many Trunk B roads across Niger state are motorable year round. These two distinct rivers Niger and Kaduna Rivers are navigable to

different villages in few distances for fishing and other domestic activities. So also they are used for irrigation in farm land. There are airport in the following towns e.g. Minna, Bida, and air tripe at kontagora and nearness to Abuja. Its economic opportunities can be observe in area of mountains that are good for grazing animals, mining locally and farming activities and hunting favorably in some area of the state. Therefore vegetation and dams, financial institutions, educational institutions are general opportunities for dwellers to change their behaviors to sustain life and properties.

Challenges were mainly obtained through questionnaires and interviews of respondents in four senatorial zones Bida, Minna, Kontagora and Borgu  
Table 2 Shows challenges so far.

	Bida	Minna	Kontagora	Borgu	Total	%
No of financial institution	6	8	4	2	20	20
Railway line	-	1	-	-	1	1
Trunk a road	1	1	1	-	3	3
Manufacturing industries	-	-	-	-	0	0
Different occupation types	4	3	3	3	13	13
24 hours electric power supply	-	-	-	-	0	0
Integration air transportation	-	1	-	-	1	1
Allied industries	1	2	1	9	4	4
					42	42%

Used 42% in all.

Table 2 reveals that in the part of financial institution to supplement the economic opportunities as challenge to unemployment and poverty account for only 20% this proved that challenges for financial institution in creating employment is narrow and weak.

Table 2 revealed that railway line accounted for only 1% to economic development in addition to that, road net work accounted for only 3% in supporting economic sustainability of the state. Table 2 also reveals that manufacturing industry accounts for (0) zero percent which one can imagine that absence of manufacturing industries accounted for low employment instead of high/mass employment. Table 2 shows that occupation opportunities accounts for 52% indicating that various ways of acquiring skills is available to people, especially, young school graduates of all educational levels throughout the state. Table 2 also indicates that electricity supply for 24 hours required for manufacturing industries is not available throughout the state, even in some major towns and cities in the state.

In the same table 2 air transportation is very weak throughout the state. It accounts for only 1%. This makes situation worst for perishable goods and services in the state. In Table 2 allied industries with which the agriculture products account for only four percent 4%. Inadequate of above challenges could not meet the demand. This is likely may be responsible for unemployment that created poverty increases.

### Conclusion

Niger State with these types of challenges, have to speed up for change in order to earn development. These areas of financial institutions, transportation and communication of road net work, most especially railway, roads, air and water transport are necessary to facilitate development of goods and services to grass roots.

So also, manufacturing industries are major sources of employment opportunities and revenue collection targets. In addition, opportunities of different occupation sources, without capital incentives is half 'cake' to development in rapid form, as sign of modernization and socialization processes.

Lastly, inadequate electricity supply is hindrance to industrialization. This in turn created unemployment. Inadequate international air transport (network) is critical both in communication and transportation of some perishable goods and urged needed services.

### Recommendations

- Government and private individuals should put up financial institutions in towns and rural areas with good services to facilitate fast development.
- Federal, state, local government and private ownerships of roads maintenance should be encouraged.
- Government should put enabling environments for establishments of both cottage industries and manufacturing industries for fast growing population in Niger State.
- Governments/private individuals should be encouraged to establish public relation to provide national gride for both soft and hard wares manufacturing goods in the cottage in Niger state.
- Government should create enabling environment to various occupation activities available in the state through possible means to encourage both urban and rural dwellers from migration.
- Government and public of different societies in Niger state, should allow all hands on desk to develop and prepare our natural resource, for now and future.

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