GLOBALISATION AND POVERTY: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF BANGLADESH AND NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
Globalisation and Poverty are two key contemporary issues in economic development with the former assumed to be causing the latter in developing countries. Developing countries are characterised by international economic stagnation and generalised poverty within which they are caught, the current form of globalisation is actually tightening rather than loosening the international poverty trap. This paper addresses the linkage of globalisation and poverty in two developing countries of Bangladesh and Nigeria. The trend of poverty and the structures of their economies were compared from 1985 to 2006 using descriptive statistics survey to analyse the facts. The paper concludes that the pace of poverty alleviation requires policies that further integrate developing countries into the global economy that will enable the poor to take advantage of the new opportunities offered by globalisation.

BACKGROUND

Over the past decades, the economies of the nations of the world have become increasingly linked, through expanded international trade in services as well as primary and manufactured goods. It has also expanded through portfolio investments such as international loans, foreign aid, purchase of stock and increased foreign direct investment (FDI) especially through multinational corporations, who basically invest in hi-tech industries like telecommunications; oil and gas; capital intensive manufacturing industries; and banking industry in developing countries.

These linkages which are regarded by some economists as globalisation have had a marked effect on the developing world (Todaro and Smith 2003:510). Globalisation carries benefits and opportunities as well as cost and risks. For some in developed countries like United States of America (USA), Japan and United Kingdom it suggests exciting business opportunities, more rapid growth of knowledge and innovations, global economic policy making and the promotion of global culture. While for many in developing countries like Bangladesh and Nigeria globalisation connotes increased income inequality, environmental degradation, dominant and dependence on rich developed countries, sharpen dualism, unrealistic trade policies and above all a widespread margin between the poor and the rich which eventually lead to 'global poverty'.

Thus, globalisation and poverty are two of the main issues in today's global economic and political agenda. The argument on globalisation has evoked more heat than light and this is justifiably so because it forms part of the economic experience of the various countries depending on their geographical location, class interests and their reactions to the process of globalisation. Developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America have been victims rather than beneficiaries of the globalisation process especially as poverty and inequality increased in the last twenty globalisation years.

Although, a number of studies have been carried out on the impact of globalisation on poverty within countries, this paper intends to fill the vacuum by carrying out a cross regional study on the linkage between globalisation and poverty in Bangladesh and Nigeria and draw some policy conclusions. This study does not categorically link globalisation to poverty in the two countries, but rather assess the impact of the former on the latter. However, it is worth mentioning that scholars have argued more on the negative attributes of globalisation than the positive attributes though there is neither empirical nor theoretical evidence that links globalisation to poverty in any of the literatures. Therefore, this paper will access how globalisation with its elements such as trade liberalisation has helped reduce poverty in Bangladesh and Nigeria.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To assess the trend of poverty in Bangladesh and Nigeria by looking at the historical and economic antecedents of the two countries.
- To analyse the linkage between globalisation and poverty in Bangladesh and Nigeria through the structures of their economies
- To explain the trend of employment and unemployment rates in the two countries.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is on the linkage between globalisation and poverty in Bangladesh and Nigeria. The two countries are both very low income nations, Less Developed Countries (LDCS) with population of about 144.8 million for Bangladesh and 144.3 for Nigeria. The impact of globalisation on their poverty level will be addressed.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

In other to put the focus of this paper in its appropriate context, the concepts of poverty and globalisation need to be clarified.

POVERTY

Poverty is a complex and multidimensional problem which results from a combination of economic, political and environmental factors, and it comprises several different aspects. Friedman in Ijaiya and Umar (2004:3) defined poverty as disempowerment viewed from three dimensions: socio-economic, political and psychological. Socio-economic disempowerment refers to poor people's relatively lack of access to the resources essential for the self production of their livelihood; political disempowerment refers to poor people's lack of a clear political agenda and voice; and psychological disempowerment refers to poor people's internalised sense of worthlessness and passive submission to authority.

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNESCO) sixty-second (62^{nd}) Session held on 6 – 12^{th} April 2006 in Jakarta also agreed that poverty is first and foremost, a local phenomenon with three inextricable dimensions such as: poverty of income and productive assets, poverty of access to essential services and poverty of power and participation to claim a role as agent of self development. It further stated the interaction of the three dimensions which are social and economic, political, physical and cultural condition of place to place (2006:3-4).

Santarelli and Figini (2002: 4) view poverty as either relative or absolute, and poverty are computed on the basis of individual whose income is below a conventional threshold, the poverty line. Atoloye in Gold (2006:283) described poverty in more specific terms as the level of deprivation that encompasses a shortfall and inadequacies in basic human needs which prevent people from achieving internationally acceptable level of wellbeing.

Absolute poverty measures refer exclusively to the wellbeing of those who are defined as poor, hence excluding the overall society. Anyanwu (1997:101) states that relative poverty pertains to the position of an individual or household compared to the average income in the country. In other words, poverty in this sense is determined by the relative overall income of the population. According to Santarelli and Figini (2002: 6) the most popular, easiest to understand and simplest to compute poverty methodologies are: (i) the headcount poverty indices (HPI) given by the percentage of the total population of individuals (household) with the number income units (consumption) falling below the poverty line; (ii) the gap poverty index (GPI) which measures the average level of consumption of the poor with respect to the poverty line; (iii) and the family of indices (FGI) which simultaneously considers the percentage of the poor, their average consumption and the distribution of consumption among the poor. From the above concepts poverty can be viewed as an antithesis of wealth and growth.

GLOBALISATION

Globalisation is a contemporary global debate with its roots dated back to Adam Smith and David Ricardo's arguments for freer trade – domestic and international with its resultant benefits on societies and individuals (Diaz - Bonilla and Robinson 2001:2). Karl Max view globalisation from a different perspective, he argued that it leads to expansion tendency by the capitalist which to him is a negative process, leading inevitably to imperialism and war. In the same vein, Ravinder (2003: 1) argues that globalisation has become painful, rather than controversial, to the developing world, leading to corruption, environmental degradation and internal dissent.

The concept of globalisation is multidimensional, that is, it could be viewed from economic, social and political dimensions. But for the purpose of the present analysis, Osmani (2004:2), Diaz-Bonnilla and Robinson (2003:3), Round and Whalley (2003: 3), Jenkins (2005: 4) all defined globalisation as increasing integration of a national economy with the world economy through exchange of good and services, capital flows, technology, information, and labour migration. The economic aspects of globalisation usually receive the most attention; as it portrays the image of a borderless world trade through revolutions of various forms of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) such as internet, telephone and mobile satellite facilities. Todaro and Smith (2003: 510) gave globalisation core economic meaning; as the increased openness of economies to international trade, financial flows and foreign direct investment (FDI), rapid growth of knowledge and innovation which seems more visible in the developed countries. For the purpose of this paper, globalisation is understood as increasing interrelationships between countries; that is, what is happening within countries is increasingly related to what is happening elsewhere.

METHODOLOGY

The present study utilises recently published secondary data from influential studies; internet, libraries, various relevant books in carrying-out this study; more especially statistical data from World Bank Group; Economic Development Database (DECDG); Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Indicators; and National Bureau of Statistics.

Although aware of the difficulties arising when one attempts to identify the links between poverty and globalisation, the data gathered were used to analyse the trends of poverty over the decades. The trend of poverty in the two countries between 1985 and 2006 were analysed through descriptive methods which includes tables, graphs, charts; these were used in determining the significant relationships and the linkages of globalisation and poverty in Bangladesh and Nigeria.

HISTORICAL AND ECONOMIC ANTECEDENT OF BANGLADESH AND NIGERIA

The evolution of Bangladesh and Nigeria are not quite similar, Bangladesh was the former colony of Pakistan, a country with a predominantly Muslim population, which lies in the tropical region, in the Southern part of Asia, with a geographic area of 147, 570 km^2. While Nigeria is the former colony of the western powers, a country with multi religious and ethnic composition, located in Sub-Sahara Africa with a geographic area of 923,768 km^2. Bangladesh obtained her independence from Pakistan in 1971, while Nigeria gained independence in 1960 from Britain. Though, both countries had been subject to different colonial policies characterised by inconsistencies, contradictions and divide and rule tactics (Sambo 2006: 364).

Bangladesh is regarded as one of the poorest countries in Asia with about 144.8 million populations (World Bank 2007), stereotyped as the archetypical theatre of poverty with over 50 percent of her population in poverty (Islam 2004: 1) See Table 1. At independence, Bangladesh was largely a traditional economy with relatively low level of integration into the global economy, with GDP of about $480 US at Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) in 2006 and life expectancy of about 63 years. Bangladesh's labour force is highly unskilled and uneducated, its major export apart from agricultural products is textile and garment which accounts for 80 percent of their GDP and has attracted FDI since early 90s. Bangladesh is the pioneer in micro-credit scheme, beginning with Grameen Bank established in 1976. The bank has been a huge success with over 1000 branches in over 5400 villages catering for almost 2 million people in Bangladesh, 90 percent of whom are women (Todaro & Smith 2003: 456 & 744).

TABLE 1: Poverty Trends in Bangladesh by Percentage of Population

Year	National	Rural	Urban
1985	47.1	49.7	35.9
1990	49.7	52.9	33.6
1996	53.1	56.7	35
2000	49.8	53.1	36.6
2006	50	-	-

Source: **World Bank Group Development Indicators 2006, 2007 Issues; Aminul Islam (2004); MDG Indicators 2006.**

Like Bangladesh, Nigeria also exhibits some common characteristics of developing countries with population of about 144.3 million (2006 census estimate) - the most populous in Africa. Nigeria is made up of heterogeneous ethnic and multi-religious composition. Unlike Bangladesh, Nigeria is rich but its people are poor (World Bank 1996), this irony could be attributed to its failed government policies to combat poverty, fuelling corruption and mismanagement of its economy. Nigeria is the 7th largest oil producing country in the world and the 6th most important oil exporter in the world (Aina in Sambo 2006: 373) with GDP of about $640 US while 54.4 percent of her population live below $1 to $2 per day (World Bank 2007, Aigbokhan 2005: 355). Over 70 percent of her labour force reside in rural areas and engage in agricultural practices.

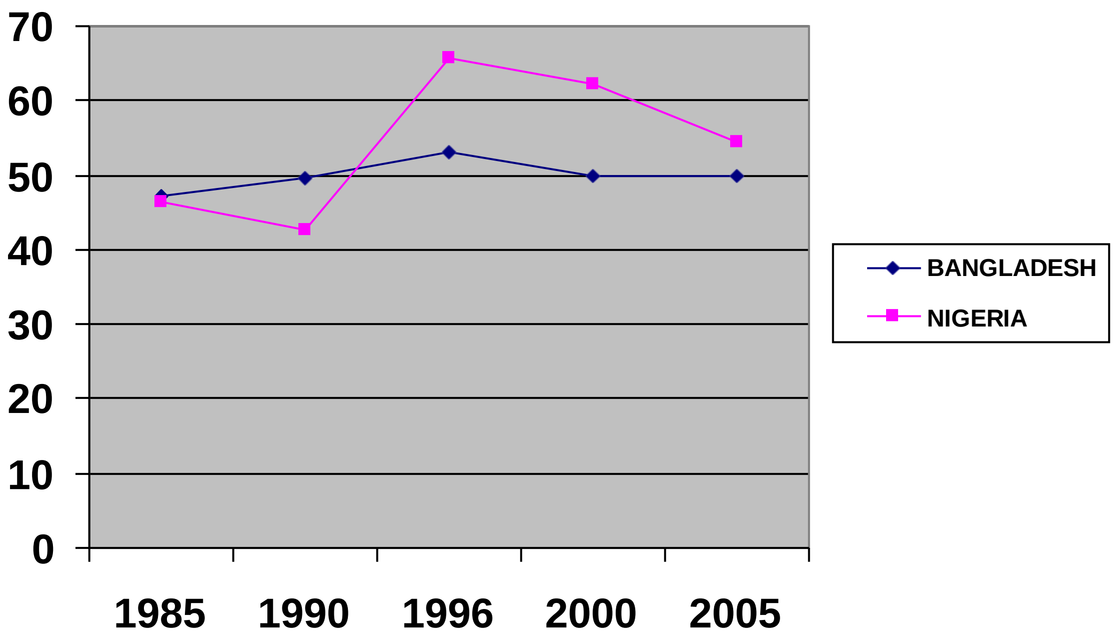
TABLE 2: Poverty Trends in Nigeria by Percentage of Population

Year	National	Rural	Urban
1985	46.3	51.4	37.8
1990	42.7	66.0	37.5
1996	65.6	69.3	58.2
2000	62.2	65.8	58.6
2006	54.4	63.3	43.2

***Source:* World Bank Group Development Indicators 2006, 2007 Issues; Aigbokhan 2005; MDG Indicators 2006.**

From the above statistics one can deduce that Nigeria is becoming a natural habitat for poverty, despite globalisation and the country's enormous resources, while Bangladesh has been recording a slight variation in the level of poverty since this present millennium. This could be attributed to the determined effort of their government to combat poverty through innovations, openness in terms of trade and other favourable policies put in place by their government.

FIGURE 1: Comparison of Poverty Trends in Bangladesh and Nigeria
Source: Author's computation



The above scenario gives an indication that Nigeria and Bangladesh are likely to continue to wallow in global poverty, except a faster diffusion of productive ideas, technological innovations, cultural, social, scientific exchanges, conventional trades (Todaro and Smith 2003: 511) and finance are adopted to integrate developing countries into the global economy.

TABLE 3: Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Social Indicators for Bangladesh and Nigeria

	Bangladesh			Nigeria		
Indicator	1996	2000	2005	1996	2000	2005
Annual pop. Growth rate %	2.5	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.7	2.4
Life expectancy at birth (years)	59.9	61.5	63.9	44.5	47.1	43.8

Infant mortality (per 1,000 live birth)	120	66	54	120	107	100
Child malnutrition (% under 5 children)	56	48	48	39	27	29
Access improved water (% of pop.)	72	-	74.4	40	49.0	48
Literacy (% of pop. 15 above	-	-	41	48.7	-	69
Fertility birth per 1,000 women %	3.5	3.2	3.0	6.2	5.9	5.5
Gross enrolment pry school %	-	89	109	82	95.5	109
Pry. Completion rate, total % all age group	-	84.0	76.6	-	76.6	81.8
Fixed line mobile phone subscribers (per 1,000 people)	3.2	6.0	71.0	3.8	5.0	150.6
Internet user (per 1,000 people)	0.0	0.8	2.6	0.2	0.7	38.0

Source: World Bank 2006, 2007; MDG Database 2006; Development Economics, Development Data Group (DECDG) 2006.

It could be observed from table that Bangladesh has recorded impressive social gains and taken significant strides towards reaching many of the MDGs in the past decades; with significant increase in life expectancy, improved access to water, more enrolment in primary schools and drastic reduction in infant mortality per thousand births since the 1990s. However, Nigeria ranks below Bangladesh in terms of welfare and social indicators despite the enormous physical and human resources, welfare and poverty conditions have become progressively worse. With severe child malnutrition, increase infant mortality rate, high fertility rate, poor water supply and fluctuations in life expectancy.

Just like Bangladesh, Nigeria has attracted a larger FDI in high-tech, oil and gas and other manufacturing sector of the economy leading to high rate of unemployment among the larger unskilled labour. In Nigeria, there has been neglect of agricultural and non-oil producing sector due to the discovery of oil in the 70s this led to the rural-urban migration and dilapidated infrastructural facilities in the urban centres. The embrace of globalisation and World Bank imposed Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in Nigeria is due to its leaders' notorious and overwhelming corrupt practices during the oil boom of the 1970s where the proceeds from oil were not used to develop any meaning project that will alleviate poverty among its citizenry. Rather the oil proceed were diverted and divided among its elites'. This made Nigeria to oblige and follow the World Bank and IMF imposed SAP in the 80s shortly after the oil glut. The introduction of the SAP in the 1980s was as a result of the mismanagement of its economy which led to enormous brain drain amongst its educated citizen, and has created a wider margin between the poor and the rich, lack of any worthy infrastructural development particularly in the rural area where about 79.2 percent live below poverty line; see Table 3.

Like Nigeria, Bangladesh also embarked on SAP which also had negative effect on the rural poor, which constitute over 40 percent of the population. Bangladesh has also experience authoritarian leadership plagued by corruption and inefficiency, however, Bangladesh has been more devoted to enhancing the quality of life of the poor than Nigeria in spite of her enormous resources.

Bangladesh moved decisively to embrace the wave of globalisation in the 1990s after a hesitant move in the 1980s. Ever since, the impact of globalisation on the lives of the Bangladesh has become a hotly debated issue (Osmani 2004: 1). With the series of liberal policies like trade and financial liberalisation and privatisation has helped though slowly reduce the level of absolute poverty among its populace, particularly the population of the rural poor to about 78 percent compared to that of Nigeria which stands at 79.2 percent. From the foregoing, Bangladesh and Nigeria have engaged in globalisation and the wave of globalisation has been felt in both countries with Bangladesh fairing better than Nigeria despite its limited resources.

TABLE 4: Key Economic Trend of Bangladesh from 1986 – 2006

Key Economic Ratios	1986	1996	2000	2005	2006
GDP ($US Billions)	21.2	40.7	47.1	60.0	62.0
GNI per capital (Atlas method $US)	260.0	360.0	390.0	470.0	480.0
GNI, Atlas method (current $US)	28.0	44.1	49.8	66.7	69.9
Gross capital formation/GDP %	16.7	20.0	23.0	24.5	25.0
Export of Goods & Services GDP %	5.4	11.1	14.5	16.6	17.8
Import of Goods and Services GDP %	12.2	18.7	19.9	23.0	24.4
Agriculture (% of GDP)	31.9	25.7	25.5	20.1	19.5
Industry (% of GDP)	21.5	24.9	25.3	27.2	28.1
Manufacturing (% of GDP)	14.0	15.4	15.2	16.5	17.2
Services (% of GDP)	46.5	49.5	49.9	52.6	52.4
Total Export ($US million)	819	3,884	-	8,573	10,422
Raw Jutes($US ml)	124	91	-	96	117
Leather and Leather Products ($US ml)	61	241	-	221	269
Manufactures ($US ml)	486	3,205	-	7,819	9,506
Total Imports ($US ml)	2,364	6,947	-	11,870	13,301
Food imports	356	274	-	1,602	1,795

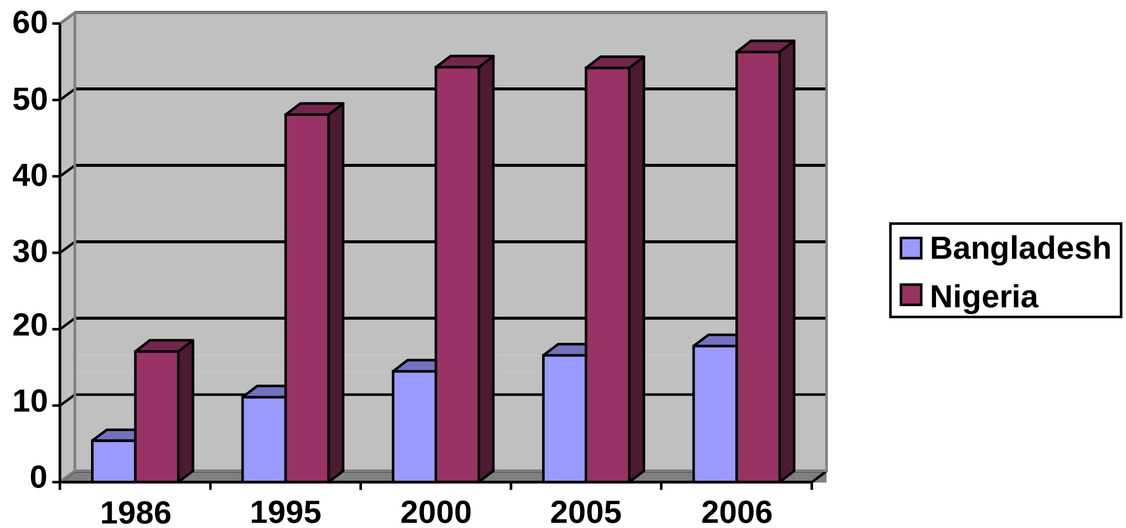
Source: **World Bank Group Data 2006, 2007; Development Economics, Development Data Group (DECDG) 2007.**

TABLE 5: Key Economic Trend of Nigeria from 1986 – 2006

Key Economic Ratios	1986	1996	2000	2005	2006
GDP ($US Billions)	20.0	35.3	46.0	97.0	114.7
GNI per capital (Atlas method $US)	264.0	290.0	270.0	520.0	640.0
GNI, Atlas method (current $US)	23.0	32.2	33.5	74.0	89.7
Gross capital formation/GDP %	15.0	14.2	20.3	21.3	22.0
Export of Goods & Services GDP %	17.0	48.1	54.3	54.2	56.3
Import of Goods and Services GDP %	20.5	27.4	32.2	35.9	34.7
Agriculture (% of GDP)	38.7	30.7	26.3	23.3	23.1
Industry (% of GDP)	26.0	49.2	52.7	56.8	57.5
Manufacturing (% of GDP)	8.5	4.8	6.4	9.12	10.00
Services (% of GDP)	35.3	20.0	21.0	19.9	19.4
Total Export ($US million)	6,784	16,117	20,441	52,100	61,600
Oil and Gas ($US ml)	6,385	15,830	-	45,708	46,144
Manufactures ($US ml)	73	89	-	-	-
Total Imports ($US ml)	10,311	6,881	12,372	28,118	34,096
Food imports ($US ml)	1,382	929	-	3,658	-
Fuel and Energy ($US ml)	73	89	-	-	-

Source: **World Bank Group Data 2006, 2007; Development Economics, Development Data Group (DECDG) 2007; National Bureau of Statistics 2006.**

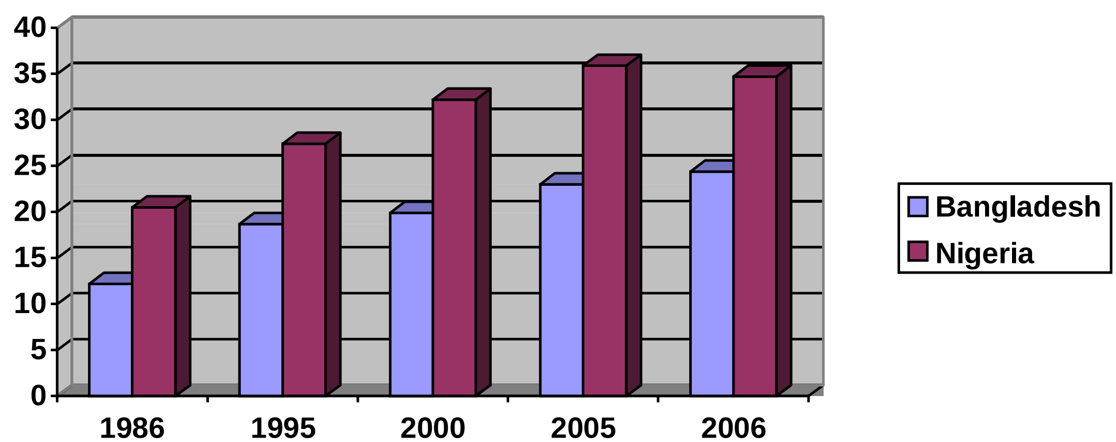
FIGURE 2: Bangladesh and Nigeria Export GDP % 1986 – 2006



Source: Author's Computation

Nigerian Exports witnessed great increase between 1986 and 1996 from 17.1% to 48.1%, this is as a result of crude oil exports which accounts for 90% of Nigerian exports; See Table 4 on total exports and proceed from Oil and Gas exports. While Bangladesh exports rose steadily from 1986 to 2006 with manufacturing in the textile and garment industry accounting for over 80%. The pattern of external trade in Nigeria shows that exports increased between 1986 and 1996, but decline slightly in 2005 as result of a drop in international oil price during the period, while Bangladesh exports rose steadily as a result of trade openness.

FIGURE 3: Bangladesh and Nigeria Imports GDP % 1986 – 2006



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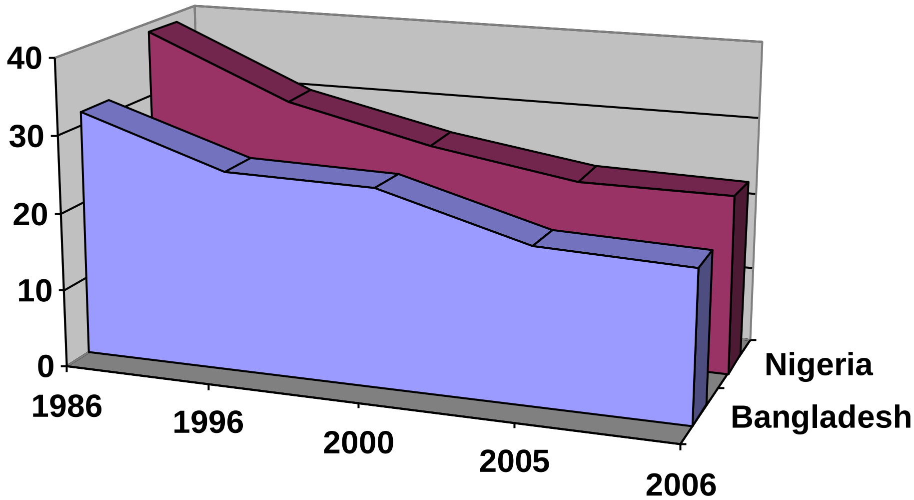
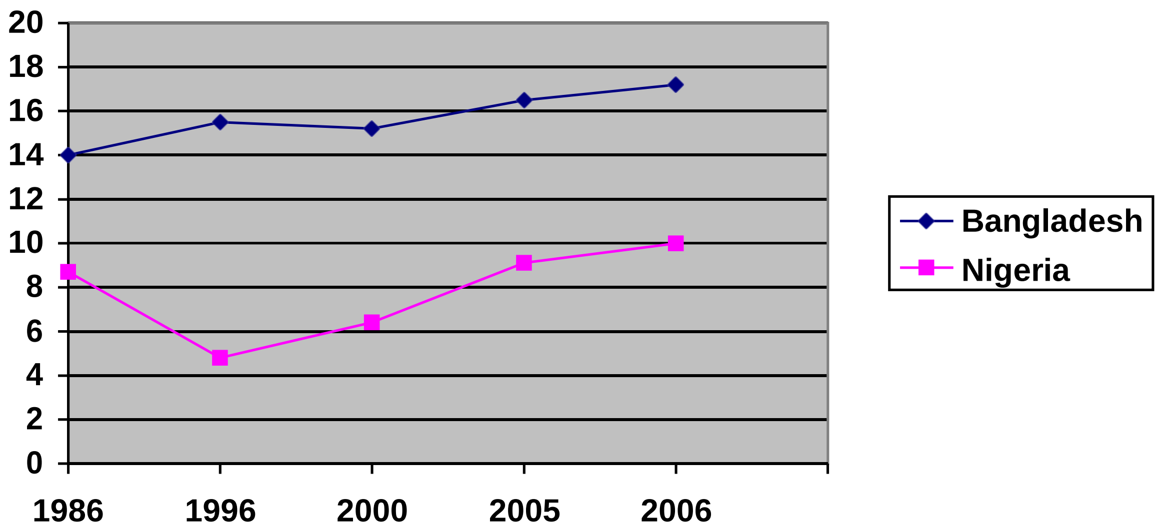
In the above figure, Nigerian imports increased as a result of increased demand for finished goods and foreign inputs for manufacturing sector with a slight decline in 2006. Bangladesh on the other hand, has over years consistently experienced balance of payment deficit due to huge food and energy imports – see table 3.

FIGURE 4: Bangladesh and Nigeria Agriculture in GDP % 1986-2006



Source: Author's computation

FIGURE 5: Bangladesh and Nigeria Manufacturing in GDP % 1986-2006



Source: Author's Computation

From the above figures Bangladesh and Nigeria both witnessed a consistent decline in Agriculture output which is due to varying factors. Like in the case of Nigeria, the decline was due to oil boom and the neglect of the agricultural sector from 1986 to 2006. The Nigerian economy was prematurely opened up and is depended on international economy for food and other consumer items. The high level of cheap food import (see table 3 & 4 on food imports) affects the income of domestics' farmers leading to a great decline in agricultural and manufacturing exports. See also table 4 and observe the decimal contribution of manufacturing sector to Nigeria's GDP. This figure compares with the contribution of agricultural sector to Bangladesh economy over the years which are as a result of shrinking land due to poor environmental practices, tornados, rising sea level resulting from global warming. On the other hand, Bangladesh has experienced consistent growth in manufacturing sector due to the textile garment modern sector enlargement which led to creation of 2 million jobs for women.

LINKAGE BETWEEN GLOBALISATION AND POVERTY

The linkage between globalisation and poverty has generated a lot of disagreements between the globaphobes and the globaphiles. The anti-globalisation movement has focused attention on the extent to which decisions affecting the lives of millions of the world's poorest people are made in international forum – at which the poor have no voice and they are subject to international inequality. On the other hand, globaphiles see globalisation as the key to eliminating world poverty through rapid economic growth that has integrated with the global economy. Despite the heated debate on globalisation, there is still a lack of empirical research linking poverty to globalisation.

TABLE 6: Employment and Unemployment Rate in Bangladesh

Year	Labour Force (ml)	Participation Rate (%)	Employment (ml)	Unemployment (%)
1986	30.9	46.5	30.5	1.3
1990	35.9	48.8	34.9	2.8
1996	41.7	48.3	40.3	4.9
2000	45.0	49.2	42.8	4.9
2005	-	65.3	44.2	10.2

Source: Osmani 2004; MDGs 2006.

In Bangladesh, unemployment was 1.35 in 1986 during the SAP out of its 30.9% labour force, with a steady increase in 1990 (2.8%) and 10.2% in 2005. Despite several rural development programmes in Nigeria, rural poverty is still widespread, though declined considerably from 15.1% to 12.6% from 2001 to 2005.

TABLE 7: Unemployment and Employment Rate in Nigeria

Unemployment %	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**
National	13.7	12.7	14.8	11.8	11.9
Urban	10.3	9.5	17.1	11.0	10.1
Rural	15.1	13.3	13.8	12.1	12.6
Employment (%)	0.15	0.16	0.17	0.21	0.23
Working Pop. (ml)	43.6	44.8	46.8	48.1	63.9

Source: National Bureau of Statistics 2006.

In Nigeria on the other hand, globalisation has been able to create new income earning opportunities particularly for the highly skilled workers in the telecommunication, banking and oil and gas sectors; leaving the majority of unskilled rural workers with limited employment opportunities.

Ravinder (2003: 1) argues that globalisation has become painful rather than controversial, to the developing world. Gore (2002: 2) however emphasised that the coexistence of globalisation with chronic poverty does not mean that the former is causing the latter rather it implies that what is happening within countries is related to what is happening elsewhere.

Others argue that LDCs failure in global growth is basically due to poor governance; fuelling corruption, environmental degradation, climate change, internal dissent, inadequate planning, high population and other factors which cannot be ignored are responsible for LDCs being stuck in international poverty trap. From the foregoing, it can be deduced that chronic poverty in LDCs are due to economic stagnation, which in a global context is expressed as their failure to share in global economic growth linked with changes in the pattern of international income inequality. Though, the current form of globalisation is tightening rather than loosening this international poverty gap.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The paper gives universal conclusion regarding to the impact of globalisation on poverty. It recognises that the outcomes of globalisation processes are highly context dependent. The paper argued that the full benefits of globalisation cannot be realised simply by pursuing policies designed to deepen the process of globalisation. Public policy will have to include structural changes associated with globalisation and also to enable the poor people to take better advantage of new employment opportunities opened up by globalisation.

Data from millennium development goals show that remarkable progress has been made by Bangladesh in reducing poverty, though, it remain a major challenge as large numbers of people still live in extreme poverty. This fact can be seen from the available statistical data on employment and poverty in the country. Also evidence suggests that despite the cost resources, government public expenditure on health and education sectors that enhance the capabilities of the poor has not been compromised, though the social sectors remain pitifully low. The wave of globalisation/trade liberalisation and privatisation in Nigeria has raised incomes and standard of living of the elites rather than the poor. However, the country is experiencing painful declines in human welfare, increase inequality giving rise to domestic and international tension.

While globalisation may promote economic growth and employment, it may have an adverse effect on the livelihood of small rural producers in the absence of institutions that ensure an equitable distribution of its benefits. Furthermore, the nexus between poverty and globalisation also requires careful consideration. The impact of globalisation on poverty hinges on the extent to which the poor participate in the income-growth process, and this is something that cannot be guaranteed.

The complexity of the relationship between poverty and globalisation makes it necessary to focus on the role of good governance in confronting poverty, the inclusion and empowerment of the poor, through the adoption of a right based approach and of participatory mechanisms for decision-making. In addition, as recognised in the MDGs, the view that poverty is only a matter of ‘money’ needs to be abandoned so as to recognise access to services as a critical component of poverty reduction, especially in the formulation of policies and strategies, and fundamental institutional changes.

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