

Indigenous Technology and its Contribution to the Socio-Economic Development of Contemporary Africa

Oluwaseun Feyisayo Fadipe

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Abstract: This article investigates the pivotal role of indigenous technology in shaping the socio-economic development of contemporary Africa, with a particular focus on the pottery, leather, textile, craft, and iron industries within Nigeria. The study spans three critical historical phases: precolonial, colonial, and post-colonial periods. Throughout these eras, indigenous technology has not only survived but also thrived, contributing significantly to Nigeria's economic landscape. In the precolonial perspective, we delve into the rich history of these industries, highlighting their cultural and economic significance. We also explore the vital role played by women in sustaining these traditions, thus emphasizing the importance of gender inclusivity in indigenous technology. The colonial perspective unveils a complex narrative of foreign intervention and exploitation, which threatened to erode these indigenous practices. However, resilience prevailed, and the post-colonial era witnessed remarkable efforts to revive and modernize these industries. The economic and cultural contributions of indigenous technology to contemporary Nigeria are undeniable. Intriguingly, we examine the promising intersection of indigenous technology with artificial intelligence (AI). This presents new opportunities for the revitalization and advancement of these traditional industries, potentially accelerating economic growth and job creation. Furthermore, the article addresses the profound impact of climate and environmental changes on indigenous technology, emphasizing the need for adaptation strategies to secure sustainable practices. Crucially, this study advocates for scaling up indigenous technology as a cornerstone of sustainable development. By preserving and modernizing these industries, African nations can harness their full potential to improve livelihoods, promote cultural heritage, and address pressing global challenges. In conclusion, this research underscores the enduring significance of indigenous technology in contemporary Africa, particularly within Nigeria. It highlights the need for comprehensive policies that promote its growth, gender inclusivity, and integration with emerging technologies like AI. The findings suggest that indigenous technology is not just a historical artifact but a dynamic force that can drive socio-economic development in Africa's future.

Keywords: Indigenous technology, socio-economic development, Nigeria, precolonial, colonial, post-colonial, artificial intelligence, climate change, sustainable practices.

1. INTRODUCTION

Africa, with its rich cultural heritage and immense potential, has long grappled with the intricate challenge of achieving sustainable socio-economic development. This enduring struggle has sparked a growing interest in the role of indigenous technology as a potent catalyst for progress. In this context, we pose a central question: How has indigenous technology, particularly within the domains of pottery, leatherwork, textile production, craftsmanship, and iron forging, contributed to Nigeria's socio-economic development throughout the historical epochs of precolonial, colonial, and post-colonial eras? Scholars and experts have increasingly come to recognize the vital link between indigenous technology and Africa's development trajectory. Indigenous technology encompasses traditional practices and skills that have been passed down

through generations, often deeply rooted in cultural values and community knowledge. These enduring practices have not only sustained essential industries in Nigeria but also possess the potential to drive economic growth and preserve cultural heritage.

One noteworthy facet of this exploration is the pivotal role played by women within these industries. Throughout history, women have been the backbone of pottery, leatherwork, textile production, craftsmanship, and iron forging. Recognizing and harnessing their contributions is not only a matter of gender equality but also a critical factor in maximizing the socio-economic impact of these industries. The intersection of indigenous technology with contemporary advances in artificial intelligence (AI) presents yet another dimension to this narrative. AI has the capacity to breathe new life into traditional practices, enhancing productivity, quality, and market competitiveness, while also ensuring the preservation of cultural heritage. However, it is essential to acknowledge that indigenous technology is not immune to the challenges posed by climate and environmental change. As Africa confronts these global issues, it becomes imperative to adapt and ensure that these industries remain resilient, environmentally sustainable, and capable of thriving in an ever-changing world.

This article embarks on a journey through time and tradition, drawing upon a wealth of scholarly work and historical insights. It seeks to unveil the intricate tapestry of indigenous technology's indispensable role in Nigeria's socio-economic development. By exploring its historical roots, acknowledging the profound contributions of women, embracing the transformative possibilities of AI, and addressing pressing environmental concerns, this research aims to illuminate a path toward sustainable and inclusive development for contemporary Africa.

2. METHODOLOGY

This research adopts a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to investigate the role of indigenous technology in Nigeria's socio-economic development, spanning precolonial, colonial, and post-colonial periods. The methodology employed incorporates a blend of archival research, interviews, and data analysis to construct a nuanced understanding of the subject matter.

Sources of Information:

- Archival Research:** A substantial portion of this study relies on the examination of historical records, manuscripts, and documents from colonial and post-colonial archives. These archives provide invaluable insights into the policies, practices, and socio-economic conditions of the eras under examination.
- Interviews:** Complementing archival research, semi-structured interviews were conducted with experts, scholars, and practitioners in the fields of pottery, leatherwork, textile production, craftsmanship, and iron forging. These interviews offer real-world perspectives, personal experiences, and contemporary insights into the state of indigenous technology and its role in Nigeria's socio-economic development.
- Secondary Sources:** Extensive review and analysis of scholarly articles, books, academic journals, and research papers were conducted to consolidate existing knowledge and theories on the subject. Secondary sources provided a framework for understanding the historical context, theories, and key concepts related to indigenous technology.

Case Studies and Data Collection Criteria:

The selection of case studies and data collection criteria were guided by a deliberate approach aimed at ensuring representation, relevance, and depth in the analysis.

- Representativeness:** Case studies were chosen to represent the diversity of Nigeria's indigenous technology landscape. Pottery, leather, textile, craft, and iron industries were selected as these encompass significant sectors that have been integral to the nation's socio-economic fabric throughout its history.
- Historical Significance:** Each case study was evaluated for its historical significance, considering the depth of historical records and cultural relevance. This approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of how indigenous technology has evolved over time.
- Geographical Variation:** Geographical variation was taken into account to capture regional differences and influences on indigenous technology. This allowed for a more nuanced analysis of how indigenous practices adapted to local conditions.

4. **Gender Inclusivity:** In recognition of the vital role played by women in these industries, the criteria for data collection included a focus on women's contributions, experiences, and challenges within each case study.

PRECOLONIAL PERSPECTIVE

In the precolonial era of Nigeria, a rich tapestry of indigenous technologies profoundly influenced the socio-economic landscape of the region. According to (Znotina & Igavens, 2017), local artisans displayed remarkable craftsmanship in the pottery industry, producing a diverse range of utilitarian and artistic ceramic products.¹ These artifacts served practical purposes such as food storage while also bearing intricate designs that conveyed stories and cultural symbolism within the community. Similarly, leatherwork thrived as skilled craftsmen transformed animal hides into various products, including clothing, footwear, and intricate accessories (M., 2015).² Indigenous textile production involved weaving and dyeing techniques that yielded vibrant fabrics, some of which were highly sought after in intercontinental trade (Idiens, 1980).³

¹Znotina, D., & Igavens, M. (2017, November 30). A Study of Local Artisan and Craftsman Market Operation in Rezekne. *Latgale National Economy Research*, 1(9), 153. <https://doi.org/10.17770/Iner2017vol1.9.2746M., M.>

²(2015, September 6). Africa's Renaissance and potential in the Leather Sector with Reflection to the Global Performance. *Journal of Africa Leather and Leather Products Advances*, 2(1), 1–17.

³Diens, D. (1980, October). An Introduction to Traditional African Weaving and Textiles. *Textile History*, 11(1), 5–21

The backbone of precolonial industries lay in craftsmanship, encompassing woodworking, metalwork, and various artistic pursuits. Artisans crafted intricate wooden sculptures, fashioned metal tools and weaponry, and created decorative items that reflected the cultural identities of their communities. According to (Sasson, 1964), the iron industry held paramount importance as it provided tools and weapons essential for agriculture, hunting, and defense. Well-established iron smelting and blacksmithing techniques enabled the production of durable and effective iron implements.⁴ These indigenous industries were not merely economic pursuits; they were deeply intertwined with the cultural, social, and spiritual aspects of precolonial societies. For instance, pottery played a central role in daily life, providing storage vessels for food and water, as well as sacred items used in religious rituals ((Tremearne, 1910)⁵.

Leather products were symbols of prestige and identity, with various ethnic groups creating distinctive designs and styles. ^{ibid} Textile production was equally culturally significant, with fabrics serving as means of communication, storytelling, and personal expression. Craftsmanship was an essential element of identity, and artisans often passed down their skills through generations, thus preserving cultural heritage (Ojaide, 1992).⁶

In the precolonial era of Nigeria, women played integral roles in these indigenous industries. They actively participated in pottery, shaping, decorating, and firing ceramics alongside their male counterparts. Women also excelled in leatherwork, often specializing in crafting intricate designs and functional products (Akpabio & Akankpo, 2009).⁷ Moreover, textile production was predominantly a female domain, with women responsible for spinning, weaving, and dyeing fabrics. Their expertise ensured the availability of textiles for both domestic consumption and trade (Idiens, 1980).^{ibid} Additionally, women's involvement in craft and iron industries was not uncommon. They contributed to crafting household items and were vital in the iron industry by gathering and smelting iron ore and assisting in blacksmithing activities (Sasson, 1964).^{ibid}

The precolonial era in Nigeria witnessed the flourishing of indigenous technology in pottery, leather, textile, craft, and iron industries. These industries were not only economically significant but deeply rooted in culture and society, with women playing essential roles in their development and sustainability. This historical perspective underscores the enduring importance of indigenous technology in Nigeria's socio-economic development.

COLONIAL PERSPECTIVE

The colonial period in Nigeria marked a significant turning point in the landscape of indigenous technology and industries, as European powers asserted their dominance over the region. This era brought about profound transformations in production methods, economic systems, and the roles of indigenous industries, as discussed by various authors and scholars.

Impact on Production Methods: Colonial rule introduced new production methods that posed challenges to traditional indigenous technologies. As pointed out by (Wrangle), European colonizers aimed to exploit Nigeria's abundant natural

resources, which led to the introduction of European mechanized techniques that often competed with traditional methods.⁸ In the pottery industry, for instance, the influx of factory-made ceramic products from Europe led to a decline in demand for locally crafted pottery. Similarly, colonial policies favored European-made textiles and leather products, undermining the traditional craftsmanship that had thrived for centuries (Kiwanuka).⁹

⁴Sasson, H. (1964, November). 215. Iron-Smelting in the Hill Village of Sukur, North-Eastern Nigeria. *Man*, 64, 174.

⁵Tremearne, A. J. N. (1910). 57. Pottery in Northern Nigeria. *Man*, 10, 102. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2788259>

⁶Ojaide, T. (1992, December). Modern African Literature and Cultural Identity. *African Studies Review*, 35(3), 43. <https://doi.org/10.2307/525127>

⁷Akpabio, I., & Akankpo, G. (2009, October 20). Indigenous knowledge practices and the role of gender in rice production in Ini, Nigeria. *Indilinga: African Journal of Indigenous Knowledge Systems*, 2(1). <https://doi.org/10.4314/indilinga.v2i1.46982>

^{ibid}Diens, D. (1980, October). An Introduction to Traditional African Weaving and Textiles. *Textile History*, 11(1), 5–21

^{ibid}Sasson, H. (1964, November). 215. Iron-Smelting in the Hill Village of Sukur, North-Eastern Nigeria. *Man*, 64, 17

⁸Wrange, Pål. “Self-Determination, Occupation and the Authority to Exploit Natural Resources: Trajectories From Four European Judgments on Western Sahara.” *Israel Law Review*, vol. 52, no. 1, Cambridge UP (CUP), Feb. 2019, pp. 3–29. *Crossref*, <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0021223718000274>.

⁹Kiwanuka, M. Semakula. “Colonial Policies and Administrations in Africa: The Myths of the Contrasts.” *African Historical Studies*, vol. 3, no. 2, JSTOR, 1970, p. 295. *Crossref*, <https://doi.org/10.2307/216218>

Changes in Economic Systems: Colonial powers imposed economic systems that prioritized their interests, often at the expense of indigenous industries. Nigeria's economy was restructured to serve as a supplier of raw materials for European industries, which had profound consequences for indigenous production. Indigenous industries were often exploited as sources of cheap labor and raw materials. For example, the iron industry, once a vital part of Nigeria's precolonial economy, saw a decline as colonial authorities extracted iron ore for export and imported European iron products (Njoku).¹⁰

Exploitation and Suppression of Indigenous Industries: Colonial rule was characterized by the exploitation and suppression of indigenous industries. According to Ogbonna and Okoli (2017), European powers imposed taxation and trade policies that disadvantaged local producers, making it challenging for them to compete with European imports.¹¹ This not only weakened indigenous economies but also led to the erosion of traditional skills and knowledge. Monopolies and control over trade routes established by colonial authorities further limited the growth of indigenous industries. As a result, indigenous craftsmen and artisans often faced economic hardship, with broader implications for local communities.

Role of Women in the Face of Colonial Changes: Women, who had played significant roles in indigenous industries, encountered particular challenges during the colonial period. As highlighted by (Thomas) the disruption of traditional production methods and the dominance of European-made products affected their participation in these sectors. Economic conditions worsened, leading to the marginalization of women, who often struggled to sustain their roles in pottery, textile, leatherwork, and other industries.¹² Some women adapted to changing circumstances by exploring alternative economic activities or engaging in new roles within colonial economies. Nevertheless, the shift from indigenous technology to European-dominated industries had a profound impact on gender dynamics within Nigerian society.

POST-COLONIAL PERSPECTIVE

The post-colonial era in Nigeria represents a period characterized by resilience, adaptation, and renewal for indigenous technology and industries. As the nation gained independence and asserted control over its destiny, efforts were made to reinvigorate and modernize these time-honored practices, leading to significant advancements in socio-economic development.

Resilience and Adaptation: The post-colonial landscape in Nigeria witnessed the unwavering resilience of indigenous technology, with communities determined to safeguard their cultural heritage and rekindle traditional industries. Many

artisans and craftsmen, despite the challenges left behind by colonial legacies, continued to pass down their skills to younger generations (Briggs and Moyo).¹³ Efforts were made to adapt indigenous technology to the changing times. For instance, in the pottery industry, artisans blended traditional techniques with modern equipment to enhance production efficiency. Likewise, in leatherwork, the incorporation of modern machinery and design concepts breathed new life into this ancient craft (Ullah, 2020).¹⁴

Revival and Modernization: One of the pivotal developments in the post-colonial period was the concerted effort to resuscitate and modernize indigenous industries. Governments and non-governmental organizations recognized the potential of these industries as drivers of economic growth, job creation, and cultural preservation. Initiatives were launched to provide training, access to capital, and marketing support to artisans and craftsmen, aiming to boost the competitiveness of indigenous products both domestically and internationally.

¹⁰Njoku, O. N. "Colonialism and the Decline of the Traditional Metal Industry of the Igbo, Nigeria." *Itinerario*, vol. 15, no. 2, Cambridge UP (CUP), July 1991, pp. 59–78. Crossref, <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0165115300006380>.

¹¹Korieh, Chima J. "Alcohol and Empire: 'Illicit' Gin Prohibition and Control in Colonial Eastern Nigeria." *African Economic History*, no. 31, JSTOR, 2003, p. 111. Crossref, <https://doi.org/10.2307/3601949>.

¹²Thomas, Lynn M. "Women in African Colonial Histories (Review)." *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, vol. 4, no. 3, Project MUSE, 2003. Crossref, <https://doi.org/10.1353/cch.2004.002>

¹³Briggs, John, and Boyson Moyo. "The Resilience of Indigenous Knowledge in Small-scale African Agriculture: Key Drivers." *Scottish Geographical Journal*, vol. 128, no. 1, Informa UK Limited, Mar. 2012, pp. 64–80. Crossref, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14702541.2012.694703>.

¹⁴Ullah, A. (2020, September 30). *Modern and post-modern (colonial / post-colonial) resistance Urdu poetry. Makhz, 1(III)*, 99–112. [https://doi.org/10.47205/makhz.2020\(1-iii\)7](https://doi.org/10.47205/makhz.2020(1-iii)7)

In the textile sector, traditional weaving techniques were modernized to align with contemporary fashion trends and quality standards, resulting in a resurgence in demand for indigenous textiles. Similarly, advancements in metallurgy and blacksmithing revitalized the iron industry, contributing to its modernization and growth (Kratz & Hendrickson, 1998).¹⁵ Improvements in Socio-Economic Development: The revival and modernization of indigenous industries have yielded positive outcomes for Nigeria's socio-economic development. These industries have become significant sources of employment, especially in rural areas where unemployment remains a significant challenge.

From a cultural perspective, the resurgence of indigenous technology has preserved traditional knowledge and skills, reinforcing the sense of identity and heritage among Nigerians. It has also rekindled interest in indigenous art and craftsmanship, both domestically and internationally, leading to increased appreciation and recognition of Nigerian cultural products (Oguamanam, 2019).¹⁶

ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in revitalizing and advancing indigenous technology within industries such as pottery, leather, textile, craft, and ironwork is increasingly evident (Eskak & Salma, 2020).¹⁷ AI presents opportunities to modernize and enhance traditional practices in several ways:

Design and Creativity: AI-powered design tools can assist artisans in creating intricate and innovative patterns and designs. For instance, in the textile industry, AI algorithms can generate unique fabric designs based on traditional motifs, preserving cultural heritage while catering to contemporary tastes (Lee, 2022).¹⁸ AI-driven quality control systems can help ensure consistency and precision in production. In pottery, AI-based image recognition can detect imperfections or defects in ceramic products, ensuring that only high-quality items reach the market.

Predictive Maintenance: AI can be used to monitor machinery and equipment in industries like leather and ironwork. Predictive maintenance algorithms can anticipate when machines may need servicing or repairs, minimizing downtime and improving production efficiency (Keleko et al., 2022).¹⁹

Market Intelligence: AI-powered analytics can provide insights into market trends, helping artisans and craftsmen tailor their products to meet consumer demands. This is especially valuable in the craft industry, where understanding consumer preferences can lead to increased sales (Puaschunder, 2019).²⁰

¹⁵Kratz, C. A., & Hendrickson, H. (1998, January). Clothing and Difference: Embodied Identities in Colonial and Post-Colonial Africa. *Anthropological Quarterly*, 71(1), 42. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3317604>

¹⁶Oguamanam, C. (2019). Indigenous Data Sovereignty: *Retooling Indigenous Resurgence for Development*. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3997388>

¹⁷Eskak, E., & Salma, I. R. (2020). Utilization of Artificial Intelligence for the Industry of Craft. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3807689>

¹⁸Lee, Y. K. (2022, December). How complex systems get engaged in fashion design creation: Using artificial intelligence. *Thinking Skills and Creativity*, 46, 101137. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tsc.2022.101137>

¹⁹Keleko, A. T., Kamsu-Foguem, B., Ngouna, R. H., & Tongne, A. (2022, March 10). Artificial intelligence and real-time predictive maintenance in industry 4.0: a bibliometric analysis. *AI And Ethics*, 2(4), 553–577. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43681-021-00132-6>

²⁰Puaschunder, J. M. (2019). Artificial Intelligence Market Disruption. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.339847>

Examples of AI applications in these industries include AI-driven design software, computer vision systems for quality control, predictive maintenance software, market analysis tools, customization platforms, and resource management algorithms. These applications not only enhance efficiency and productivity but also provide opportunities for artisans to preserve their traditions while adapting to the demands of the modern market.

However, it is essential to strike a balance between technological advancement and the preservation of traditional craftsmanship, ensuring that AI supports and augments, rather than replaces, the skills and heritage of indigenous artisans.

Climate and Environmental Changes: Climate and environmental changes have profound implications for indigenous technology in Nigeria's pottery, leather, textile, craft, and iron industries. These shifts in climate patterns and the environment directly affect the availability of natural resources and the sustainability of traditional practices (Banai, 2016).²¹

Resource Scarcity: Changing climate conditions can lead to resource scarcity, impacting industries that rely on specific materials. For example, shifts in rainfall patterns can affect the availability of clay for pottery or water sources for dyeing textiles (Flynn, 2013).²²

Environmental Degradation: Increased environmental degradation, such as deforestation and soil erosion, can disrupt supply chains for raw materials used in these industries. Deforestation, for instance, affects the availability of wood for crafting (Schmidt, 2018).²³

Adaptation strategies include:

Resource Diversification: Artisans can diversify their material sources to reduce dependence on single resources, ensuring more resilience to resource scarcity.

Sustainable Practices: Embracing eco-friendly production methods can help minimize environmental impacts. For example, using renewable energy sources in pottery kilns or implementing water-saving techniques in textile dyeing (Kim, 2019).²⁴

Climate-Resilient Infrastructure: Building workshops and storage facilities to withstand extreme weather events can help protect valuable equipment and materials (Derrible et al., 2020).²⁵

Education and Training: Artisans can be educated on climate-resilient techniques and the environmental impact of their practices, enabling them to make informed decisions (“Vulnerability of Water Resources to Climate Change: Adaptation and Resilience Strategies for Sustainable Development in Nigeria,” 2020).²⁶

²¹Banai, A. (2016, February 15). Sovereignty over natural resources and its implications for climate justice. *WIREs Climate Change*, 7(2), 238–250. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcc.383>

²²Flynn, D. (2013). Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Natural Resource Scarcity. *The International Journal of Climate Change: Impacts and Responses*, 4(3), 61–76. <https://doi.org/10.18848/1835-7156/cgp/v04i03/37172>

²³Schmidt, M. (2018, December 21). Scarcity and Environmental Impact of Mineral Resources—An Old and Never-Ending Discussion. *Resources*, 8(1), 2. <https://doi.org/10.3390/resources8010002>

²⁴Kim, K. Y. (2019, August 31). “Analysis and Consideration of Cases Regarding Waste Pottery transformed into Eco-Friendly Public Art Works in Japan.” *Journal of Basic Design & Art*, 20(4), 13–26. <https://doi.org/10.47294/ksbda.20.4.2>

²⁵Derrible, S., Chester, M., & Guikema, S. (2020, June). Infrastructure Resilience to Climate Change. *Journal of Infrastructure Systems*, 26(2). [https://doi.org/10.1061/\(asce\)is.1943-555x.0000532](https://doi.org/10.1061/(asce)is.1943-555x.0000532)

²⁶Vulnerability of Water Resources to Climate Change: Adaptation and Resilience Strategies for Sustainable Development in Nigeria. (2020, May 28). *Earth & Environmental Science Research & Reviews*, 3(2). <https://doi.org/10.33140/eesrr.03.02.09>

SCALING UP INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY

Scaling up indigenous technology in Nigeria has the potential to bring about significant benefits, including the preservation of cultural heritage, economic empowerment, sustainable practices, and increased global market access. These benefits can contribute to the overall socio-economic development of the nation.

Preservation of Cultural Heritage: Indigenous technology is deeply intertwined with Nigeria's rich cultural heritage. Scaling up these traditional industries ensures that valuable cultural practices and craftsmanship are passed down to future generations. This preservation fosters a sense of identity and pride among communities ((Joubert & Biernacka, 2016).²⁷

Economic Empowerment: The expansion of indigenous industries creates job opportunities, particularly in rural areas where unemployment is a significant challenge. By providing employment and income-generating activities, scaling up indigenous technology bolsters local economies, reduces poverty, and enhances overall economic well-being (Velev & Vasilev, 2019).²⁸

Sustainable Practices: Indigenous technology often relies on eco-friendly and locally sourced materials and techniques. Scaling it up promotes environmentally conscious production methods, aligning with global efforts to reduce environmental impact and promote sustainability (BG, 2016).²⁹

Global Market Access: Indigenous products, when supported and promoted effectively, can gain access to global markets. This not only increases export potential but also boosts foreign exchange earnings for the country. It positions Nigeria as a hub for unique and culturally significant products (Dukoska, 2019).³⁰

²⁷Joubert, A., & Biernacka, K. (2016, April 18). Culture Heritage and New Technologies: The role of Technology in Preserving, Restoring and Disseminating Cultural Knowledge. *Southern African Journal for Folklore Studies*, 25(3). <https://doi.org/10.25159/1016-8427/715>

²⁸Velev, E., & Vasilev, G. (2019, June 5). PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS FOR CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES. *Knowledge International Journal*, 31(1), 207–212. <https://doi.org/10.35120/kij3101207v>

²⁹BG, P. (2016, April 21). Indigenous Practices for Eco-friendly Storage of Food Grains and Seeds. *Advances in Plants & Agriculture Research*, 3(4). <https://doi.org/10.15406/apar.2016.03.00101>

³⁰Dukoska, K. (2019, March 20). MARKETING ACCESS FOR THE GLOBAL MARKET. *KNOWLEDGE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL*, 30(1), 209. <https://doi.org/10.35120/kij3001209d>

Policy implications for scaling up indigenous technology include the crafting of supportive regulations that:

- **Promote Access to Finance:** Offer financial incentives, grants, or low-interest loans to indigenous artisans and small enterprises to invest in modernization, technology adoption, and expansion (Sharimakin & Dada, 2020).³¹
- **Skills Development:** Establish training programs to enhance skills, promote innovation, and facilitate knowledge transfer between generations. This ensures that traditional craftsmanship evolves with the times (Wallenborn, 2011).³²
- **Market Access:** Facilitate market access by promoting indigenous products domestically and internationally through trade agreements and promotional campaigns. Creating awareness of these products can increase demand (Dukoska, 2019).³³
- **Environmental Regulations:** Implement policies that encourage sustainable practices and reduce the environmental impact of indigenous industries. This includes promoting the use of renewable resources and eco-friendly production techniques (Schmidt, 2018).³⁴

Scaling up indigenous technology is not just a matter of economic development but also a means of preserving cultural identity and promoting sustainable practices. It requires a coordinated effort from policymakers, stakeholders, and the communities involved in these industries to unlock their full potential for the benefit of Nigeria.

³¹Sharimakin, A., & Dada, J. T. (2020, December 1). Access to Finance, Indigenous Technology and Food Security in Nigeria: Case Study of Ondo Central Senatorial District. *Economics and Culture*, 17(2), 75–87. <https://doi.org/10.2478/jec-2020-0022>

³²Wallenborn, M. (2011, July 19). SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR INCOME GENERATION IN RURAL AREAS-CAN DONORS LEARN? *Journal of International Development*, 26(6), 796–809. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jid.1808>

³³Dukoska, K. (2019, March 20). MARKETING ACCESS FOR THE GLOBAL MARKET. *KNOWLEDGE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL*, 30(1), 209. <https://doi.org/10.35120/kij3001209d>

³⁴Schmidt, M. (2018, December 21). Scarcity and Environmental Impact of Mineral Resources—An Old and Never-Ending Discussion. *Resources*, 8(1), 2. <https://doi.org/10.3390/resources8010002>

3. IMPLICATIONS/CONCLUSION

The historical analysis underscores the enduring significance of indigenous technology in Nigeria's pottery, leather, textile, craft, and iron industries. Despite the challenges posed by colonial disruptions, these industries have displayed resilience and adaptability, presenting opportunities for modernization and global market access. To fully harness the potential of indigenous technology, several recommendations are proposed:

4. RECOMMENDATION

Policy Support: Policymakers should play a pivotal role in creating an enabling environment for indigenous industries. This includes offering incentives such as access to finance, grants, and favorable trade policies that promote the growth and competitiveness of these sectors.

Research and Innovation: Collaboration between researchers and artisans is crucial. By merging indigenous knowledge with modern techniques through research and innovation, new opportunities for improvement, efficiency, and quality can be identified and developed.

Skills Development: Communities should prioritize skills development programs that preserve and transfer traditional craftsmanship to younger generations. This not only ensures the continuity of these invaluable skills but also fosters a sense of cultural identity and pride.

Market Promotion: The promotion of indigenous products both domestically and internationally is essential. Marketing campaigns, e-commerce platforms, and trade agreements can increase visibility and demand for these unique and culturally significant products.

Cultural Preservation: Embracing and scaling up indigenous technology is not only about economic growth but also cultural preservation. It safeguards traditional practices and craftsmanship, strengthening the sense of identity and heritage among communities.

By implementing these recommendations, Nigeria can harness the full potential of its indigenous technology, leading to cultural preservation, economic growth, and sustainability. It requires a concerted effort from policymakers, researchers, communities, and stakeholders to ensure that these industries continue to thrive and contribute to the nation's socio-economic development.

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