

**COVENANT UNIVERSITY  
NIGERIA**

*TUTORIAL KIT  
OMEGA SEMESTER*

**PROGRAMME: SOCIOLOGY**

**COURSE: SOC 423**

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## **SOC 423: SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT 2**

**Contributor: Dr. C. T. Iruonagbe**

1. As part of the process of ameliorating the suffering of the mass of the population, a number of development strategies have been adopted in Nigeria. Based on this, critically appraise the success of the Nigeria Vision 20:2020 and the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy, NEEDS.
2. There are five general types of societies distinguished by their level of technological development. Evaluate this in relation to the place of Nigeria among these societies.
3. In constructing their account of development, most theorists drew on the tradition – modernity distinction of classical sociologists. Analyze this assertion with particular reference to Durkheim’s Division of labour in society and Weber’s rationalization of society.
4. While technology remedies many human problems, it provides no “quick fix” for deeply rooted social problems. Analyze this assertion using relevant examples.
5. Using relevant examples, evaluate critically the theory of modernization with particular emphasis on the contributions of McClelland and Rostow.
6. Discuss the assertion of Durkheim that modernity rest far less on moral consensus and far more on functional interdependence.
7. In explaining the emergence of industrialization, Weber stated that members of pre-industrial societies rely on tradition, while people in industrial capitalist societies endorse rationality. Discuss.
8. Describe clearly your understanding of the assertion made by Karl Marx that the only way out of the trap of capitalism was to deliberately refashion society.
9. In explaining his “Need for Achievement” Theory, McClelland affirmed that the underdevelopment of third world nations was caused by their lack of proper “achievement motivation”. Discuss.
10. Enumerate and explain the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, with particular emphasis on how Nigeria has performed.

### **ANSWERS**

**As part of the process of ameliorating the suffering of the mass of the population, a number of development strategies have been adopted in Nigeria. Based on this, critically appraise the success of the Nigeria Vision 20:2020 and the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy, NEEDS.**

- By 2020 Nigeria is expected to be one of the 20 largest economies in the world.
- It is the biggest economy in West Africa with very strong resource endowment and great potential for growth.

- According to Goldman Sachs, a New York based Investment Banker, by 2020, Nigeria will emerge the strongest economy in Africa, superseding Egypt and South Africa.
- Challenges with its actualization include: Large Scale Corruption; Poor Quality of Information as well as weak Institutions of Planning. Also, Poor Leadership that does not appreciate the importance of developing productive structures that will free the country from its heavy consumption of foreign products.
- There should be improvement in the following areas: Agriculture; Transport Infrastructure; Land Reforms; Security: Power and Energy; Education; Political Will and Capable Leadership.
- The NEEDS programme is basically a Poverty Reduction Strategy in Nigeria.
- In spite of vast oil wealth, the country has suffered from severe corruption and poor leadership.
- The NEEDS programme of the Obasanjo administration was designed to lay the foundation for sustainable poverty reduction, employment generation and wealth creation.
- It was to help eradicate poverty by promoting self-reliance, entrepreneurship, innovation, reward hard work.
- To develop an economy that will be highly competitive, diversified market oriented, private sector led and open to privatization.

**1. There are five general types of societies distinguished by their level of technological development. Evaluate this in relation to the place of Nigeria among these societies.**

These societies include:

1. Hunting and Gathering
2. Horticulture and Pastoral
3. Agrarian Societies
4. Industrial Societies
5. Post-Industrial Societies

Bearing in mind the fact that these societies are ideal constructs, the place of Nigeria falls between the Pastoral, Agrarian and with some packets of industrialization.

**2. In constructing their account of development, most theorists drew on the tradition – modernity distinction of classical sociologists. Analyse this assertion with particular reference to Durkheim’s Division of labour in society and Weber’s rationalization of society.**

They placed emphasis on values and norms operating in these two types of societies and people's attitude to embrace change. In the traditional society, there was dominance of traditionalism, strong kinship system and people showed a strong emotional, superstitious and fatalistic approach to the world.

In contrast, for modernity, people were no longer slaves to tradition, kinship became less important as social mobility was hinged on hard-work, while members became more forward looking and innovative.

Emile Durkheim's theory of development focused on the dynamics of society from simple or primitive to complex or modern. This was due to the process of the division of labour in the society.

With mechanical solidarity, the simple society had common life styles and beliefs with strong moral sentiments.

With organic solidarity, the modern society focused on division of labour just as the population increased. It also created a new pattern of morality and a system of norms with social rules less rigid than those of traditional society. This was based on functional interdependence.

Max Weber in explaining the emergence of industrialization focused on differences in the ways people view the world. While members of preindustrial societies rely on tradition, people in industrial capitalized societies rely on rationality.

Tradition focuses on sentiments and tradition passed on from generation to generation.

Modernity focuses in rationality, using deliberate calculations of the most efficient means to accomplish a goal.

In terms of the development of Western Europe, he stated that this was due to savings and investment as widely encouraged among those of the protestant faith.

**3. While technology remedies many human problems, it provides no "quick fix" for deeply rooted social problems. Analyze this assertion using relevant examples.**

Emphasis here is on the limits of technology

- It has helped in raising productivity
- It has helped in eliminating diseases
- It has helped in relieving boredom
- It has introduced more powerful sources of energy for the earth use
- It has failed to address the compelling challenges of poverty
- It has failed to address issues of stratification in society
- It has worsened the challenges of conflict across the world with wars everywhere and some countries accumulating stock prices of nuclear weapons
- It has brought severe strains on the environment

**5. Using relevant examples, evaluate critically the theory of modernization with particular emphasis on the contributions of McClelland and Rostow.**

Modernization is the process whereby societies move from less developed ones to those that characterize the developed ones. For modernization theories, modernity and tradition are polar opposites

The n-Achievement theory was presented by McClelland in his book “The Achieving Society” (1961). According to him, a nation with a generally high level of n-Achievement will produce more energetic entrepreneurs who will in turn produce rapid economic development. He asserts that it is the values we share that will ultimately determine the rate of economic and social development. It is men and their deepest concerns that shape history. Under-development caused by society’s lack of proper amount of “achievement motivations”. Simply put, Africa’s cultural practices inhibits development.

To Rostow, it is possible to identify all societies in their economic dimension, as lying within five categories namely: Traditional societies; The Pre-Conditions for take-off; The take-off; The drive to maturity and The Age of high Mass consumption.

These were derived from analyzing Britain’s industrial revolution. The cause of the stage theory is that development has to proceed in a particular sequence of clearly defined steps as industrialization will occur after agriculture has been modernized.