

# ***THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL STUDIES***

## **Counter-Current Development Model (CCDM): A Perspective for Nigeria and other Developing Countries in the Knowledge Driven Economy**

**Chikwelu Chukwubuisi H.**

National Centre for Energy Research & Development, University of Nigeria

**Chimah Jonathan N.**

National Centre for Energy Research & Development, University of Nigeria

**Odo Finbarr C.**

National Centre for Energy Research & Development, University of Nigeria

**Ezegbe Bernedeth N.**

Ph.D, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

**Ezeani Chinwe N.**

Ph.D, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

### **Abstract:**

*This paper presents development model for both leaders and the citizenry in the developing regions of the world. This model is termed "Counter-Current Development Model (CCDM)". It is a systematically designed model for Nigeria and other developing countries that have experienced economic stagnation and backwardness for decades. A conceptual framework is presented in which the derivation of the CCDM model is explained. The CCDM equation is presented and expounded. Figures illustrating Counter current movement (an activity-based movement) and Down-current movement (movement caused by the current and outside forces) are shown. The model recommends that development must start from within and must be knowledge driven. It also demands that production must precede development and development must precede modernization. This development model therefore enhances a country's capacity to conquer and transform her environment for the benefit of her people, using mostly indigenous human capital experts.*

**Keywords:** Counter-Current, Development Model, Developing Economies, African Leadership, Productivity, Nigeria

### **1. Introduction**

There is steady stagnation or even backwardness of the countries in the African region including Nigeria which poses herself as the giant of Africa. Nevertheless, this frustrating state of affairs of Nigeria and most African economies has a historical context. Ake (1981:126) states that "it was in the process of the integration of Africa into the world capitalist system that both dependence and disarticulation became features of African economies". According to him, "dependence entails external control, which inhibits the ability of the national leadership to undertake the restructuring of the economy necessary to reduce disarticulation". No doubt, we know that our erstwhile colonial masters did not lay any meaningful foundation for the underdeveloped countries to embark on technological and industrial developments and so the operationalization of the concept of self-reliant development became clearly retarded or stultified. And as a result of this, therefore, Nigeria and the rest of these countries continue to depend on these industrialized countries both economically and technologically without any genuine attempt to make radical break from this age-long trend of continuously supplying raw materials to these industrialized countries in exchanged for manufactured goods. Because of this unequal trade relationship, foreigners and the multinational corporations have actually penetrated these countries and are in control of their economies. Counter-Current Development Model (CCDM) is derived from the fundamental law of motion which states that a body acted upon by two opposing forces will move in the direction of the bigger force. The advantage of moving counter-current is that one is in charge and in control of his movement and destination. He is an active participant and before long he will master and become an expert in his counter current movement which is in the right direction of locating the problem and terminating it. Counter-Current Development Model is a consciously and systematically designed and developed model for a country such as Nigeria and other developing and underdeveloped countries of the world community. This is to enable them face realities and intricacies of development in this present world of technological sophistication and economic competitiveness, where the fittest survives. This development model, therefore, enhances a country's capacity to conquer and transform her environment for the benefit of her people, using mostly indigenous human capital experts

## 2. Statement of the Problem

It is very unfortunate and painful to see Nigeria – “the giant of Africa” – and most African countries that are bounteously endowed with both human and natural resources wallowing in abject poverty and powerlessness in the world community. Paradoxically, these countries are abundantly blessed (or even superabundantly blessed in the case of Nigeria) with natural wealth but they still experience economic stagnation due to their inability to develop production capacity and properly harness these endowments for the benefits of their people. And no doubt stagnation brings about retardation and frustration. Worst still, these countries rely on important of virtually everything into their countries thereby allowing their economies to be grossly disarticulated and dependent on the economies of the industrialized countries. In this Counter Current Development Model, it is believed that Nigeria and most other developing countries have been moving down-current aimlessly, defenselessly and without resistance – moving away from the source of their problems, instead of moving counter-current to locate the root of their problems and then proffer solutions. They have been following the wrong economic equation and the development logic recommended for them by the industrialized nations of the world community; and such recommendations, more often than not, do not agree or correspond to the local realities of these developing countries. This is why most of the developing countries have been in the state of inertia in spite of their economic and development efforts over the years. On the other hand, the advanced industrialized countries are already in motion economically and technologically because they are applying relevant forces to supersede the force of the current and they will like to continue in that state of motion non-stopping; even in accelerated motion because they are now “opening” up frontiers in the outer-space and ocean beds’. This is because of their technological sophistication and accumulated human capital expertise. The problem is that Nigeria and other developing economies lack all these.

## 3. Literature Review

It is imperative to consider relevant literature to enable us appreciate the magnitude of the problem and then proffer a lasting solution. Nyerere (1990) observes that “while the countries of the North are by and large in control of their destinies, those of the south are very vulnerable to external factors and lacking in functional sovereignty”. The question remains: Why is it so? Gilpin, (1987) explains that “the essence of all underdevelopment theories is that the international capitalist economy operates systematically to underdeveloped and distorted the economies of the less developed countries...” He further explains that “the rich who controls the world economy are responsible for poverty of the third world due to what Arghiri (1972) has called “unequal exchange”. He continues that “for a variety of reasons the terms of trade between advanced and less developed countries are said to be biased against the later”. In his own views Odeyemi (2009:55) states that “contemporary experience have shown that underdevelopment is neither an African, nor Blackman issue. It has been a local problem arising from primordial greed for primitive acquisition of power and assets.” Nevertheless, in spite of the immense contributions of the colonialists towards the underdevelopment of Africa (Nigeria inclusive), these countries cannot afford to remain at the state of inertia in this present world of competitiveness. In fact, Africa has what it takes to set itself in motion on the path of sustainable development; and the time for action is now. This is because every object at rest needs a relevant force or forces to set it in motion. And these forces in the case of economic revitalization or progression can only be worked out without merely wishing for them. Africans must become instrumental to the forces at work for progress and steady growth. This is why the developing countries cannot continue to blame these foreigners forever for their economic failures and woes. Ikoku (2005:21) in support of this view states that:

*“While it is true that colonialism is a causal factor of our contemporary plight, which is essentially that of underdevelopment, it is inadmissible to continue to rationalize our underdevelopment by predicting it solely on colonialism and imperialism. What research and dispassionate analysis indicate is an inadequacy in management and leadership in most countries of contemporary Africa.”*

This is why Momah (1999:61) stated, “obviously, the non-utilization of Nigerian engineers cannot be blamed on only colonial prejudices and the lack of public patronage. In fact, the most important reason is as a result of a grossly deficient manpower development”. When critically consider all of the above views, we shall come to a realization that time has really come for these underdeveloped countries to turn inwards and have a change of strategy and direction in order to critically approach their problems themselves in their own way, and in accordance with their local realities or conditions for a lasting solutions.

It has become clearer that in international economic relations no country prepares a free luncheon for another country, especially in this era of globalization. But, even if there is a free luncheon, what matters most, after all, is what comes out of you – what you produce and not necessarily what you consume. This is why around the world, countries, especially those who have the knowledge and technology are searching for what they could use to develop and advance their economies. This is why nations engage in international trade and investments. When we look at countries like India, Malaysia and Singapore, for example, who were sometimes ago at the same level of development with Nigeria, but now they have gone very far in technological and industrial development because they started from the scratch; and again their early realization of the importance of activity-oriented education was indeed revolutionary for these countries. They progressively engage in an organized and constructively qualitative educational system which is the only key to sustainable national development. This educational system produces the right caliber and highly skilled human or intellectual capital that usually embarks on and sustains real national development for these countries because knowledge is the greatest asset of any nation or organization.

Emeagwali (2008:9) throws more light on the importance of acquiring high caliber intellectual capital and what it does for a country. He reveals that:

*“The striking economic gap that persists between rich and poor nations has increased sevenfold over the past century to what is now an all-time high. The accumulation of intellectual capital by rich nations has helped broaden this gap because it has enabled*

them to control technology and collect hidden taxes from less affluent nations. For instance, Nigeria pays a 40 percent “royalty” tax on its petroleum revenues that are ripping out its family jewels – the huge store of wealth in its oilfields.”

In fact, the most fundamental in all these is basically knowledge. We sincerely believe that the major problem has been the kind of unorganized educational system in operation and the type of development models Nigeria and most of these African countries have been following, most of which do not encourage sustainable and integrated development. Because of their align nature. However, the question still remains: why is Nigeria and indeed most of African countries facing such alarming magnitude of abject poverty, economic degradation in the midst of plenty? Can we design a development model which will correspond to the Nigerian and African peculiar realities that will make their economies become competitive in today’s globalized economic order?

#### 4. Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

##### 4.1. Derivation of Counter-Current Development Model

Any free motion has a natural course. Motion along the natural course by most bodies is referred to as current. Counter-Current Development Model (CCDM) is derived from the fundamental law of motion which states that “a body acted upon by two opposing forces will move in the direction of the bigger force. CCDM is derived from or likened to a flowing river or stream where counter-current movement is usually difficult and so, it needs strength (energy), dedication, diligence, creativity, ingenuity, skills and expertise. It needs focus (direction) and soundness of mind. This is an active movement. The swimmer, who moves counter-current, if he will succeed, must rise and jump with the tide i.e. hurdles, obstacles, barriers, etc. in his bid to move resolutely forward. He must move counter-current which demands counter-force and selflessness. For him to move forward, the force applied must supersede the force of the current. This actually means that he must do more work; because if the force applied is equal to the force of the current, there will be no movement because the action (current) and reaction (counter-force of the swimmer) are equal and opposite in accordance with the natural law. In this case, the swimmer may be apparently struggling but the effort does not yield any positive result because the force applied and the force of current is equal and opposite. But if the force applied is more than the force of the current, heat is generated, alertness is developed and accelerated forward-movement occurs or is realized.

##### 4.2. Counter-Current Development Model Equation

$$A = \frac{f_2 - f_1}{m}$$

Where  $A$  is the rate of accelerated forward movement,  $f_1$  is the force of the current,  $f_2$  is the counter-force applied by the swimmer and  $m$  is the inertia (that reluctance) of the swimmer. Observe that  $A$  is directly proportional to the difference between the opposing forces  $f_2 - f_1$ .

Let us assume that  $f_1$  is constant. Now, difference is governed or controlled by the applied force of  $f_2$ , i.e. the swimmer. But the advantage of moving counter-current is that one is in charge and in control of his movement and direction, although it seems difficult. So, he who moves counter-current is an ACTIVE Participant because he is in control of his destination. Full aware of his goal, before long he will master and become an expert in his counter-current movement because he would have discovered techniques and invented things that would help him make smooth, stead, safe and speedy movement, in order to resist any force or group of forces that would deter or hinder him from his counter-current movement. Fig.1 illustrates this model.

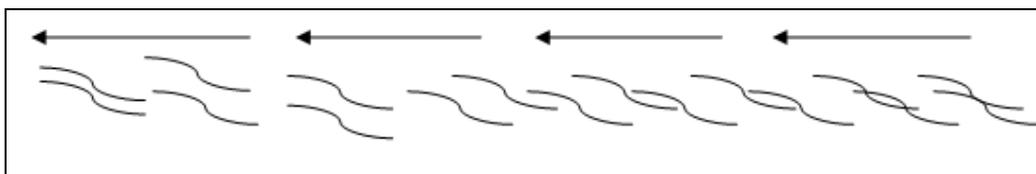


Figure 1: Counter-current movement (An activity-based movement)

##### 4.3. Down-current movement (movement induced by the current and outside forces)

The down-current or down-stream movement is different. This downward movement is controlled by the current of the sea and other forces that influence the water to flow downwards. So, in down-current movement which is a passive movement, things, including inanimate particles are forced down-current defenselessly and without resistance, in an unknown direction and destination. It is now clear that he who moves down-current is a PASSIVE Participant because he does not majorly control his direction or his destination. He does not apply any force to move and so heat is not generated and alertness is not created. Even if the swimmer applied any force to counter the current, the force being applied is less than the force of the current, hence, his down-current movement. He is moved by forces other than his own without his resistance. His downstream movement is dependent on other factors. He is not in control of his movement, and therefore, cannot determine the speed and safety of his movement; neither can he determine the destination because of his defenselessness and lack of initiative. He does not invent or task himself to produce things that will enhance his movement because of his incapacitation and powerlessness to control his direction. Fig.2 illustrates this model.

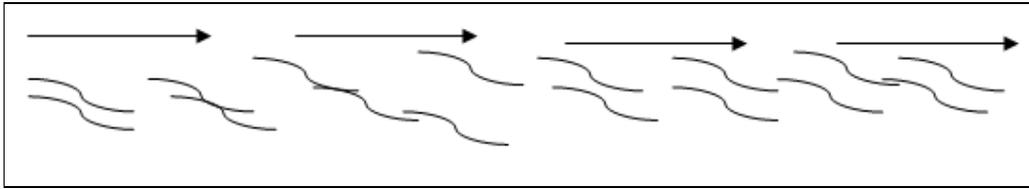


Figure 2: Down-current movement (Movement caused by the current and outside forces)

### 5. Discussion of Findings (Counter-Current Development Model)

As earlier indicated Counter-Current Development Model is strongly knowledge driven. It depends on the intellectual capital of a people – their skills, expertise, creativity, ingenuity and innovative ability which gives added impetus to their production capacity thereby making sustainable integrated development realizable. It calls for an organized teamwork for greater and efficient productivity. The CCDM maintains that development must be people-centred. In this development model the people themselves must be empowered in order to set in motion the forces of development. And so, the more the intellectual creative abilities and ingenuity of the people are developed and applied, the more the forces of development are set in accelerated motion because the productive knowledge of the people drive development. They, the people, should also be taught the need for selfless sacrificial service and also be made to understand the importance of developing a winning spirit or I-can-do-it spirit which propels the inner desire of the people to genuinely work very hard for the greatness of their country and for the fulfillment of their personal dreams. This kind of empowerment of the people and their winning spirit will enhance efficiency, productivity and competitiveness in today's globalized economy. This is because there is a time for foundation laying and a time for steady growth; a time of sowing and a time of reaping; a time of greater sacrifices and a time of fewer sacrifices. One cannot move counter-current without sacrifices or counter-force. More so, there must be protection of a country's possessions against external intrusion, exploitation, vandalization and extinction. For if you don't protect and manage what you have properly, you will lose it.

### 6. Conclusion and Recommendations

Counter-Current Development Model will not only ensure the availability highly skilled manpower, technological and economic independence for these developing countries, but will also enhance their competitiveness in today's global economic framework. When this happens, life becomes more comfortable because there will be transformational leadership, productive economy, employment generation, wealth creation, food security, infrastructural facilities, and more assured national security, peace and unity.

The Counter-Current Development Model, therefore, recommends that:

- Nigeria and other developing countries should still shift appropriate gears and move counter-current in their development efforts and follow their own economic equation and development logic that are attuned to their local conditions and realities.
- They (developing economies) must stop flowing down-current and must do away with peasant mentality and face the realities of sustainable development in this era of economic competitiveness in order to have control of their destiny and reach their destination.
- They must go to the root of the problem (swim counter-current to the source of the impurity) and address the issues of:
- Weak educational framework; (b) gross underutilization of manpower; (c) weak agricultural base; (d) backwardness in research and development; (e) de-industrialization; (f) modernization without development; (g) infrastructural backwardness; (h) weak leadership base; (i) escalating corruption, etc.

### 7. References

1. Ake, C. (1981). A Political Economy of Africa, Nigeria: Longman, Plc.
2. Arghiri, E.(1972). Unequal Challenges: A study of the imperialism of Trade. In Ikoku (2005). The battle for the mind and Black Survival, Enugu, Nigeria: Snapp Press Ltd.
3. Emeagwali, P. (2008). Technology is the Root of all Evil, The Guardian, Sunday January 6.
4. Gilpin, R. (1987). The Political Economy of International Relations, In Ikoku (2005). The battle for the mind and Black Survival, Enugu, Nigeria: Snapp Press Ltd.
5. Ikoku, C. (2005). The battle for the mind and Black Survival, Enugu, Nigeria: Snapp Press Ltd.
6. Nyere, J.K. (1990). The Challenge to the South, In Ikoku (2005). The battle for the mind and Black Survival, Enugu, Nigeria: Snapp Press Ltd.
7. Odeyemi, J. A. (2009). A Shame, No Visible major Scientific Work group on in any our laboratories. The Guardian, Sunday, October 18
8. Momah, S. (1999), Technology is Power: Memoir of a Soldier, Scholar, Strategist, and Engineer in Government, Ibadan, Nigeria: Spectrum Books Limited