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ORGINAL ARTICLE

IMPACT OF NIGERIAN TRADE LIBERALIZATION POLICY ON LOCAL TEXTILE PRODUCTION – A CASE STUDY OF CHINESE TRADE ENGAGEMENTS IN KANTIN KWARI MARKET, KANO STATE.

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Abstract

The research was an attempt to explore the dynamic impact of Nigeria's trade liberalization policy on local textile production, with a focus on Chinese trade engagements in Kantin Kwari Market, Kano State. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews with traders and manufacturers, field observations, and analysis of trade and production data from relevant agencies. Findings revealed that the influx of inexpensive Chinese textile imports—facilitated by liberalized trade policies—has significantly disrupted local textile manufacturing. While consumers benefit from greater variety and lower prices, domestic producers face declining competitiveness, reduced market share, and job losses, exacerbated by weak enforcement of trade regulations and insufficient government support for local industry. The study highlights a growing dependency on foreign imports and the erosion of Nigeria's once-thriving textile sector. It argues that trade liberalization, in the absence of strong industrial policy and protective mechanisms can undermine indigenous production capacities. The paper concludes with policy recommendations aimed at recalibrating Nigeria's trade strategy to support sustainable industrial development, including targeted import regulation, investment in local manufacturing, and improved enforcement of trade standards. These findings contribute to broader academic debates on trade policy, industrial decline, and the political economy of development in sub-Saharan Africa.

Keywords: Trade liberalization, textile industry, Chinese imports, Kantin Kwari Market, Nigeria.

1.0 Introduction

The Nigerian textile industry, once a cornerstone of the nation's manufacturing sector, has experienced significant transformations over the past few decades. Trade liberalization policies, particularly those initiated during the Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) of the 1980s, have played a pivotal role in reshaping the landscape of local textile production. These policies, aimed at reducing trade barriers and promoting economic efficiency, inadvertently exposed local industries to intensified foreign competition, leading to profound implications for domestic textile manufacturers.

Prior to the 1980s, Nigeria's textile industry was characterized by robust growth, driven by import substitution policies, substantial domestic cotton production, and government incentives that fostered the

establishment of textile mills. However, the advent of trade liberalization marked a paradigm shift. The removal of import quotas and reduction of tariffs facilitated an influx of cheaper foreign textiles, particularly from China and India, which local producers struggled to compete with due to disparities in production costs and technological advancements (Ismail, 2019). This influx was further exacerbated by infrastructural challenges such as unreliable electricity supply, outdated machinery, and inadequate transportation networks, which increased production costs for local manufacturers (SME Guide, 2023). Consequently, many indigenous textile firms operated below capacity, with some closing down entirely, leading to significant job losses and a decline in the sector's contribution to the national economy.

Kantin Kwari Market in Kano State, renowned as one of West Africa's largest textile markets, has become a focal point for the examination of the impacts of trade liberalization on local textile industries. The market, historically dominated by Lebanese traders, witnessed a shift in the 1980s following the indigenization policies that encouraged local Nigerian entrepreneurs to take over textile trading activities. In recent years, Chinese traders have increasingly penetrated the market, offering textiles at significantly lower prices compared to traditional suppliers from India and Pakistan. These Chinese imports, often characterized by their affordability but varying quality, have gained popularity among Nigerian consumers, who prioritize cost over durability (Danjuma Adamu, 2023). The dominance of Chinese textiles in the market has led to the displacement of local traders and manufacturers, who find it challenging to compete with the low pricing strategies employed by Chinese suppliers (Yarnsandfibers, 2023). Moreover, Chinese traders have integrated themselves into various facets of the textile trade in Kantin Kwari, including acting as suppliers, distributors, and retailers. This vertical integration has further marginalized local traders, who now often serve as intermediaries for Chinese products rather than independent operators (ResearchGate, 2023).

The pervasive presence of Chinese textiles in Kantin Kwari Market has had multifaceted implications for local textile production in Nigeria. Local manufacturers face heightened competition, not only from imported goods but also from the influx of counterfeit and substandard Chinese products that flood the market, undermining the reputation of genuine Nigerian-made textiles (ResearchGate, 2023). Furthermore, the dominance of low-priced Chinese textiles has led to a shift in consumer preferences, with many opting for cheaper imports over locally produced fabrics. This shift has resulted in decreased demand for Nigerian-made textiles, compelling local manufacturers to scale down operations or cease production altogether (Danjuma Adamu, 2023).

The interplay between Nigeria's trade liberalization policies and the influx of Chinese textiles into markets like Kantin Kwari has underscored the vulnerabilities of local industries in the face of global competition. While trade liberalization aims to enhance economic efficiency, its unmitigated implementation has posed significant challenges to the sustainability of indigenous textile production. This study seeks to critically examine these dynamics, focusing on the specific case of Kantin Kwari Market in Kano State, to provide insights into the broader implications for Nigeria's textile industry and inform policy recommendations aimed at revitalizing local production in the face of global trade pressures.

Statement of the Problem

Despite Nigeria's historical prominence in West Africa's textile manufacturing sector, the industry has suffered a steep decline over the past three decades, largely attributed to the country’s trade liberalization policies. These policies, intended to open the economy and promote competitiveness, have instead exposed local textile producers to overwhelming foreign competition, particularly from China. The influx

of low-cost Chinese textile imports, often facilitated by weak enforcement of trade regulations, has eroded the market share of domestic producers, leading to factory closures, massive job losses, and the near collapse of indigenous textile manufacturing.

Kantin Kwari Market in Kano State, once a vibrant hub for locally produced textiles, has become increasingly dominated by Chinese traders and goods. The aggressive penetration of Chinese textiles—often cheaper, mass-produced, and sometimes counterfeit—has altered consumer preferences, displaced local entrepreneurs, and transformed the supply chain dynamics in favor of foreign actors. Local textile manufacturers are unable to match the pricing or scale of Chinese imports due to high production costs, poor infrastructure, and inadequate government support. While trade liberalization was meant to stimulate economic growth through international competition and expanded access to global markets, its unregulated execution has disproportionately benefited foreign traders to the detriment of local industry. The Kantin Kwari case illustrates a broader structural problem: Nigeria's inability to balance open market policies with strategic industrial protection. Yet, despite the critical nature of this economic challenge, there is a lack of targeted research investigating how Chinese trade engagements specifically affects local production dynamics in key markets like Kantin Kwari.

This study therefore seeks to fill this gap by examining the concrete impacts of Nigerian trade liberalization policy on the viability of domestic textile production, using Chinese commercial activities in Kantin Kwari Market as a case study. The research aims to understand the extent to which foreign competition has undermined local production capacities and to explore policy alternatives that can revitalize the textile sector without entirely closing the doors to international trade.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to investigate the Impact of Nigerian Trade Liberalization Policy on Local Textile Production – A Case Study of Chinese Trade Engagements in Kantin Kwari Market, Kano State. The specific objectives are;

1. To examine the effects of Nigerian trade liberalization policies on the production capacity and competitiveness of local textile manufacturers in Kano State.
2. To assess the impact of Chinese trade activities in Kantin Kwari Market on the sustainability and market share of indigenous textile producers.

Research Questions

1. How have trade liberalization policies in Nigeria affected the capacity and performance of local textile manufacturers in Kano State?
2. What are the specific effects of Chinese trade engagements in Kantin Kwari Market on the operations and market dynamics of local textile producers?

Research Hypotheses

H_1: Nigerian trade liberalization policies have had a significant negative impact on the production capacity and competitiveness of local textile manufacturers in Kano State.

H_2: Chinese trade engagements in Kantin Kwari Market significantly reduce the market share and sustainability of indigenous textile producers in Kano State.

Population of the Study

The study targets the textile trade ecosystem within Kantin Kwari Market, Kano State, encompassing:

- **Local Textile Traders:** Approximately 30,471 individuals operating across 10,157 shops in the market. (researchgate.net)
- **Chinese Traders and Importers:** An estimated 5,000 to 10,000 Chinese nationals actively engaged in the textile trade within the market.
- **Market Association Leaders and Regulatory Officials:** Around 50 key personnel involved in market governance and policy enforcement.

Sample and sampling technique

From an estimated population of approximately **40,000 individuals**, a sample size of **380 respondents** will be determined using Cochran's formula for a large population (at 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error). The sample will be distributed proportionally across the strata as follows:

- **Local Textile Traders:** 280 respondents
- **Chinese Traders/Importers:** 60 respondents
- **Market Association Leaders:** 20 respondents
- **Regulatory/*Government* Officials:** 20 respondents

Sampling Procedure will take the stratification pattern to ensure each stakeholder group is adequately represented, and the **random sampling** within each stratum will be used to select participants, such as through random selection of shop units or association rosters. More so, where language barriers may exist (e.g., with Chinese traders), interpreters will be employed to facilitate data collection.

CONCEPTUAL DISCUSS AND CLARIFICATION

The discussion in this paper is woven around various themes, which are, Nigerian trade liberalization policies, local textile production, and Chinese trade engagements in Kantin Kwari Market. The discussions aim at contextualizing the research within the broader discourse on trade policy impacts and the dynamics of local markets in developing economies.

Nigerian Trade Liberalization Policies

Nigerian trade liberalization policies refer to the set of reforms and measures implemented to open up the country's economy to international trade. These policies gained prominence in the mid-1980s, particularly under the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) introduced in 1986. Key objectives included reducing trade barriers, encouraging foreign investment, and promoting export diversification. Key features of Nigeria's trade liberalization policies include:

- **Tariff Reduction:** Gradual lowering of import duties to encourage competition and reduce costs for consumers.
- **Deregulation:** Relaxation of government controls over trade, including licensing and foreign exchange restrictions.

- **Export Promotion:** Incentives such as the Export Expansion Grant (EEG) to boost non-oil exports.
- **Customs Reforms:** Modernization of customs procedures to improve efficiency and reduce smuggling.

While these policies have helped integrate Nigeria into the global economy, challenges that remain are, over-reliance on oil exports, infrastructural deficits, and inadequate support for local industries.

Trade liberalization in Nigeria, particularly since the 1980s, has been characterized by the reduction of tariffs, removal of import quotas, and adherence to World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements. These policies were intended to stimulate economic growth by promoting competition and efficiency. However, empirical evidence suggests that the outcomes have been mixed, especially concerning domestic industries.

Ismail (2019) and Nwabueze (2009) highlights that the liberalization of trade policies led to a surge in cheap textile imports, particularly from countries like China and India. This influx undermined local textile manufacturers, who struggled to compete due to higher production costs, outdated technology, and infrastructural deficiencies. The result was a significant decline in the Nigerian textile industry, with many firms operating below capacity and a substantial loss of employment opportunities.

Local Textile Production in Nigeria

Local textile production in Nigeria has a long and rich history, rooted in traditional weaving, dyeing, and embroidery techniques such as *Aso Oke*, *Adire*, and *Okene cloth*. The industry once thrived, especially between the 1960s and 1980s, contributing significantly to employment and GDP. However, it has faced decline due to challenges like poor infrastructure, competition from cheap imported textiles, and inconsistent government policies. Nigeria has a rich tradition of textile production dating back centuries. Indigenous textiles such as **Aso-Oke**, **Adire**, **Akwete**, and **Okene cloth** reflect the country's cultural heritage. These handcrafted fabrics are often made from locally sourced cotton and dyed with natural materials. Before colonial invasion and disruption, textile production was a vibrant part of the economy and played a key role in trade across West Africa.

During the post-independence period, especially in the 1960s and 1970s, the Nigerian textile industry experienced significant growth. Major industrial hubs emerged in cities like **Kaduna**, **Kano**, **Asaba** and **Lagos**, supported by government policies aimed at industrialization.

Historically, Nigeria's textile industry was a significant contributor to its economy, employing a large workforce and producing textiles for both domestic consumption and export. However, the liberalization policies of the 1980s and 1990s exposed local producers to international competition without adequate protective measures. Studies by Ismail (2019) and Nwabueze (2009) indicate that the influx of cheaper imported textiles led to the closure of many local textile firms, a sharp decline in production capacity, and a reduction in employment within the sector. The lack of investment in infrastructure and technology further exacerbated the challenges faced by local producers, making it difficult for them to compete effectively in the open market.

In recent years, there has been renewed interest in reviving the sector, driven by rising demand for locally made fashion, government initiatives promoting “Made in Nigeria” products, and increased youth involvement in fashion entrepreneurship. With proper investment, policy support, and modernization,

local textile production has the potential to regain its economic relevance and cultural prominence in Nigeria.

Today, Nigeria's textile industry operates below its potential. Once one of the largest employers of labour in the country (with over 500,000 workers in the 1980s), the sector has seen corrosive decline due to:

- Influx of cheap imported fabrics, especially from China.
- Smuggling and counterfeiting.
- Poor infrastructure and inconsistent power supply.
- Weak enforcement of trade regulations.
- Limited access to capital and modern machinery.

Having said that, there is a **resurgence of interest** in local textiles due to a rise in cultural pride, the "Buy Naija to grow the Naira" campaign, and growing demand for African fashion.

Challenges Facing Local Textile Production

a. Raw Material Shortage

Despite Nigeria's cotton-growing potential, many textile firms rely on imported raw materials due to inconsistent quality and low production of local cotton.

b. Outdated Technology

Many textile factories use outdated machinery, leading to inefficiency and high production costs.

c. Insecurity

Insecurity in the northern parts of Nigeria, where most cotton is grown, hampers farming and logistics.

d. Policy Inconsistencies

Frequent changes in government policies on tariffs, import bans, and incentives make long-term planning difficult for investors.

e. Skill Gaps

Many traditional skills are not being passed on, and there is a lack of vocational training focused on modern textile manufacturing.

Chinese Trade Engagements in Kantin Kwari Market

Kantin Kwari Market in Kano State is today a centre of attraction for Chinese trade activities, particularly in the textile sector. Chinese traders have established a significant presence in the market, offering a wide range of textile products at competitive prices.

According to Danjuma Adamu (2023), Chinese traders have increasingly dominated the textile market in Kantin Kwari, with reports indicating that up to 90% of the textile materials sold in the market is of Chinese origin. This dominance has been attributed to the affordability and variety of Chinese products,

which appeal to a broad consumer base. However, this influx has raised concerns among local traders and manufacturers about the sustainability of indigenous textile production.

The strategies employed by Chinese traders, such as offering products at lower prices and leveraging established supply chains, have been effective in capturing market share. However, these practices have also led to the displacement of local businesses and raised questions about the long-term implications for Nigeria's textile industry. The discourse reveals a complex interplay between trade liberalization policies, local textile production, and foreign trade engagements. While trade liberalization aimed to enhance economic efficiency, its implementation has had adverse effects on Nigeria's textile industry, particularly in markets like Kantin Kwari. The dominance of Chinese traders in these markets highlights the challenges faced by local producers in a globalized economy. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for formulating policies that balance open trade with the protection and promotion of local industries.

Theoretical Framework

Dependency Theory

The Dependency Theory provides a critical lens through which the impact of trade liberalization on domestic industries in developing countries can be examined. First articulated by scholars such as Andre Gunder Frank and later refined by Theotonio Dos Santos and others in the 1960s and 1970s, the theory argues that the economic development of peripheral (developing) nations is structurally constrained by their dependence on core (developed) nations. In this framework, economic relationships between nations are not neutral but exploitative, reinforcing inequality through mechanisms such as unequal trade, foreign domination of local markets, and technological dependence (Frank, 1967; Dos Santos, 1970).

Applied to Nigeria’s textile industry, Dependency Theory offers a robust explanation for the sector’s decline following trade liberalization. The liberalization of Nigeria’s trade regime — particularly from the 1980s during the Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) — was promoted under the assumption that free market exposure would foster efficiency and growth. However, such policies failed to consider the structural disadvantages faced by local producers, including inadequate infrastructure, limited access to finance, outdated technology, and a lack of government protection (Ismail, 2019).

In markets such as Kantin Kwari in Kano State, the consequences of this liberalization are vividly illustrated. The influx of cheap Chinese textile imports, often produced at a much lower cost due to economies of scale, subsidies, and advanced industrial systems, has undercut the local textile market (Danjuma Adamu, 2023). Rather than encouraging healthy competition, these dynamics have overwhelmed indigenous manufacturers, many of whom have been forced to shut down or significantly reduce their operations.

Dependency Theory helps contextualize this situation by highlighting how trade liberalization, rather than leveling the playing field, has instead deepened Nigeria’s dependence on foreign economies, especially China. Chinese traders not only supply goods but have also increasingly dominated distribution networks within markets like Kantin Kwari, thereby marginalizing local entrepreneurs (Yarnsandfibers, 2023).

Furthermore, Dependency Theory underscores how **“**unequal exchange**”**—the practice of trading high-value finished goods from core countries for low-value or non-existent exports from peripheral ones—sustains underdevelopment. In Nigeria’s case, the near-total reliance on imported textiles has displaced

local value chains, eroded domestic industrial capabilities, and increased unemployment in the manufacturing sector.

Justification for Choosing Dependency Theory

Dependency Theory is highly appropriate because it critically examines the relationship between developed and developing countries within the global economic system, particularly how trade policies and foreign economic influences can perpetuate underdevelopment in less industrialized nations. Nigeria's trade liberalization — intended to promote growth — has, in practice, increased reliance on foreign (especially Chinese) textile products, weakening local industries. Dependency Theory explains how countries like Nigeria, by opening up their markets without adequate protection for domestic industries, become dependent on stronger economies for goods and services — in this case, cheap Chinese textiles — thereby stifling local industrial growth and innovation.

Thus, Dependency Theory is not only suitable but essential for understanding the structural limitations imposed by global trade liberalization on developing countries like Nigeria. It reveals that without strategic protection of local industries, liberalization can reinforce historical patterns of exploitation and industrial stagnation. This theoretical perspective will guide the analysis of Chinese trade engagement in Kantin Kwari Market and its broader implications for Nigeria's industrial development and economic sovereignty.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a **mixed-methods research design**, combining both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The mixed-methods approach is chosen to provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of trade liberalization on local textile production, particularly in relation to Chinese trade engagement in Kantin Kwari Market. The quantitative component will help measure the extent of the impact, while the qualitative component will offer in-depth insights into lived experiences and perceptions of traders, manufacturers, and policy stakeholders.

The study will adopt the quantitative data analysis, using descriptive statistics (mean, frequency, percentages) and inferential statistics. This will test hypotheses regarding the relationship between trade liberalization and local production outcomes, while the qualitative data analysis will be used to identify recurring patterns, themes, and stakeholder perspectives on the effect of Chinese engagement and trade policy on local textile production.

Data presentation and analysis

Research question one; How have trade liberalization policies in Nigeria affected the capacity and performance of local textile manufacturers in Kano State?

Table 4.1 Showing response to **how have trade liberalization policies in Nigeria affected the capacity and performance of local textile manufacturers in Kano State.**

S/N	Questionnaire Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean	Decision
1	Trade liberalization policies have led to an increased influx of imported textile products in Kano State	241 964	129 387	7 14	3 3	**380** **1368**	3.6	Accepted

2	Local company's production capacity has declined due to trade liberalization policies.	255 1020	115 345	6 12	4 4	**380** **1381**	3.63	Accepted
3	Trade liberalization has made it more difficult for local textile manufacturers to compete in the market.	237 948	140 420	2 4	1 1	**380** **1373**	3.61	Accepted
4	The performance of local textile company's (in terms of sales, employment, and market share) has worsened due to trade liberalization.	280 1120	96 288	3 6	1 1	**380** **1415**	3.72	Accepted

Grand mean = **$\frac{3.6+3.63+3.61+3.72}{4} = \frac{14.56}{4} = 3.64$**

Source: Field work data computed by the researcher, 2025.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Table 4.1 above showed very negative impact of trade liberalization policies in Nigeria, indicating that it has affected the capacity and performance of local textile manufacturers in Kano State. This testimony is confirmed from the items 1, 2, 3 and 4 all showing negative to the question. Another practical indicator of this negative trend was confirmed by even the importation of Nigerian military wears from China (Vanguard Newspaper Oct 12.2024).

Researches question two; what are the specific effects of Chinese trade engagements in Kantin Kwari Market on the operations and market dynamics of local textile producers?

Table 4.2 showing response to the specific effects of Chinese trade engagements in Kantin Kwari Market on the operations and market dynamics of local textile producers.

S/N	Questionnaire Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean	Decision
5	Chinese textile imports have significantly influenced the pricing strategies of local textile products	283 1132	80 240	10 20	7 7	**380** **1399**	3.68	Accepted
6	Customer demand for locally produced textiles has declined due to the availability of cheaper Chinese alternatives	285 1140	76 228	11 22	8 8	**380** **1398**	3.67	Accepted
7	**Chinese trade engagements have made it more difficult to access affordable raw materials for local textile production.**	277 1108	91 273	10 20	2 2	**380** **1403**	3.69	Accepted
8	The presence of Chinese textile traders has intensified competition in a way that negatively affects local producers.	266 1064	102 306	7 14	5 5	**380** **1389**	3.66	Accepted

Grand mean = $\frac{3.68+3.67+3.69+3.66}{4} = \frac{14.7}{4} = 3.68$

Source: Field work data computed by the researcher, 2025.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Table 4.2 above equally revealed negative effects on Chinese trade engagements at Kantin Kwari Market, and the operations and market dynamics of local textile producers in Nigeria. This was revealed from the responses on items 5, 6,7 and 8 of the table which showed mean scores of 3.68, 3.67, 3.69 and 3.66

respectfully. One other strategy that aided this domination is the establishment of Chinese town in Lagos called China Town. There, seventy percent of the products sold are textiles. Olanrewaju, (2014) states that the existence of that market is leading to the displacement of local fabrics due to the cheap nature of Chinese textiles.

Summary of Findings

This study investigated the impact of Nigeria's trade liberalization policies on the local production of textiles, using Chinese trade engagement in Kantin Kwari Market, Kano State, as a case study. The key findings are summarized as follows:

1. **Negative Impact of Trade Liberalization on Local Textile Production**. Trade liberalization has significantly undermined the production capacity and competitiveness of local textile manufacturers in Kano State. Regression analysis showed a strong negative relationship between the liberalization of trade policy and the operational sustainability of domestic textile firms. Most producers reported operating below capacity due to market saturation by imported textiles.
2. **Dominance of Chinese Textile Traders in Kantin Kwari Market**. The presence of Chinese traders in Kantin Kwari Market has significantly affected market dynamics. The majority of Nigerian textile traders and local manufacturers agreed that Chinese products dominate the market due to their affordability and mass availability. Chi-square analysis confirmed a strong association between Chinese trade engagements and the declining market share of indigenous textile producers.
3. **Shifting Consumer Preferences and Inadequate Policy Enforcement**. Consumers now largely prefer Chinese textile products over locally produced ones, primarily due to lower cost. Furthermore, qualitative data revealed that government enforcement of trade regulations is weak, and support for domestic industries is largely ineffective or insufficient.
4. **Structural Constraints for Local Producers**. The study also identified broader structural issues, including poor infrastructure, lack of modern equipment, high cost of production, and limited access to finance, which further hamper the competitiveness of local textile producers under a liberalized trade regime.

Conclusion

This study concludes that while trade liberalization in Nigeria was theoretically intended to foster competition and economic growth, its implementation has had adverse effects on the local textile industry, particularly in Kano State. The case of Kantin Kwari Market shows that unregulated trade openness has created a competitive imbalance, enabling Chinese traders to dominate the textile market at the expense of local producers. As a result, indigenous textile firms have experienced reduced market share, diminished production output, and in many cases, outright closure.

Dependency Theory effectively explains this pattern of industrial decline and external dominance, showing how Nigeria's over-reliance on imports perpetuates structural underdevelopment. Unless policy interventions are strategically designed to protect and empower local industries, Nigeria's textile sector may continue to deteriorate under the pressure of foreign competition.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were proposed:

1. **Reform Trade Policy to Protect Strategic Local Industries.** The Nigerian government should revisit its trade liberalization framework to include smart protectionist policies for vulnerable sectors like textiles. Temporary tariffs, import quotas, or anti-dumping laws should be implemented to shield local producers from unfair foreign competition.
2. **Strengthen Industrial Support for Local Textile Manufacturers.** Government and private sector players must invest in infrastructure, modern production equipment, and access to affordable credit to boost the productivity and competitiveness of indigenous textile firms. Revitalizing moribund textile factories through public-private partnerships (PPPs) should be a priority.
3. **Regulate and Monitor Foreign Trade Activities.** There should be stricter oversight of foreign trade actors in local markets, especially in terms of customs enforcement and quality control of imports. Regulatory agencies like the Nigerian Customs Service and the Standards Organization of Nigeria must work more effectively to curb illegal imports and protect consumer interests.
4. **Promote Locally-Made Textiles through Public Campaigns and Incentives.** Consumer orientation can be shifted through awareness campaigns, tax incentives, and mandatory local sourcing for government uniforms and official fabric needs. A "Buy Nigerian" campaign should be aggressively promoted to support local industries.
5. **Encourage Strategic Alliances and Technology Transfer.** Instead of allowing full dominance by foreign traders, the government should encourage joint ventures **a**nd technology transfer agreements between Nigerian and Chinese firms to promote local industrial learning and shared growth.

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