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INTRODUCTION TO DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Dependency theories of development, how it applies in your own country affecting development progress negatively or effecting it positively. Discuss any development theory that you would recommend to enhance development progress in your country.

Dependency theory is a collective vision of theories about how desirable change in a society is best achieved. Dependency theory is a sociological theory which holds that economic events in history have encouraged developing countries to depend upon the support of more advanced nations (study.com). It is also known as foreign dependency. It does not have an internal domestic dynamic in the developing country and thus remains highly vulnerable economically unless they reduce their connection to the world market (Wikipedia). This theory has encouraged developing countries to depend upon advanced countries for support. This prevents developing countries from

having institutions and infrastructure that enable them to be an industrial country.

Dependency theory is categorized into two capitalism and structuralist. In capitalism dependency is where by under developed countries depend of foreign countries on monetary funds. Institutions such as world bank, European union offers grants to under developed countries. Developed countries such as United States of America, Britain, China, France, Germany have also been giving aid to under develop countries. Developed countries use capitalism in a way to control developing countries. Developing countries are like slaves to the developed countries, the rich ruleth over the poor and the borrower is the servant to the lender (Proverbs 22 verses 7). Structuralist on the other side is the infrastructure and mechanisms to distribute wealth. It focuses on structural aspects of economic growth of a given country. Under developed countries lack structuralist as they do not have infrastructure and mechanisms to distribute wealth since they are so much dependent on capitalism.

Take an example of my country Kenya, we are so dependent on foreign aid from developed countries. This have affected both positively and negatively. Positively in that the grants that we are given are used to improve the infrastructure in our country such as roads, hospitals, schools etc. hence

improving our economy. The capitalism has also affected our country negatively in a great deal such that Kenya is in great debt from the grants that we are given by the developed country. The grants that are given to our country we are expected to pay it back with interest. You find that the country pays back for many years dragging our economy back. Some developed countries will give monetary funds with conditions in that the developing country will have to make policies based on the conditions given by that developed country. This becomes a major problem to us as many a times these policies do not work. Another major problem that foreign aid brings to us is that we are incapable of thinking of ways in which we can generate fund with depending on developed countries. Being dependent on the foreign aid also leads to diplomacy trap such that if a country is unable to pay off the debt it owes then the country that gave the money takes over something that generates revenue to pay up the debt. This makes the primary country lose power over the thing that the developed country has taken over. A good example is China, according to Asia times Sri Lanka is the latest victim of China's debt trap diplomacy. Sri Lanka unable to pay the onerous debt to it has accumulated, gave Beijing a 99 years lease on Hambantota port as part of debt-reduction deal (Asia Times). Unlike International Monetary Fund and World bank lending, Chinese loans are collateralized by strategically

important natural assets with high term value. Kenya is at a great risk with China if it will not be able to pay up its loans as will lose some of its major minerals and facilities to China. The rate at which China is lending money to Kenya is quite alarming.

Kenya should adopt structuralist theory. This is the theory where by will have infrastructure and mechanisms to distribute wealth. If the country can distribute wealth, then will be able to sustain the economy thus stopping to depend on foreign aid. Here are some of the things that can help generate wealth in the country;

Exports of agriculture and mining: Kenya was the leading country in Africa to export tea. It also used to export coffee. These two commodities generated revenue and people used to depend on it as income. Now the coffee farmers no longer plant coffee and the farmers are decreasing every day. This is due to the delays in pay caused by the corruption in these two sectors. The government should come up with a plan to encourage the farmers to go back coffee and tea farming. There should also be an accountable body that will oversee the boards that used to represent the farmers to ensure that all the need are met. By doing so we will have revenue from both tea and coffee farming. The government also needs to encourage farmers who used to plant pyrethrum as this is another sector that died, and it used to generate revenue.

Kenya used to have tobacco farming it's no more as we failed to market the product and the farmers stop farming it. These are some of the produce the government should encourage the farmers to embark on and market it so that it can bring in revenue. We have many mining going on in Kenya titanium and uranium, these minerals are being exported as raw material hence generating revenue. There are also small scales mining of gold in different parts of the country. If we could have strong and accountable bodies to oversee that everything is done in order and no corruption is involve, then the mining and agriculture exports will do good to our country's revenue.

Industrial sector: Kenya should focus more in the industry section. A lot of raw materials are being exported to another country for processing then brought back home as finished good at a very high cost. If we could be able to make these finished goods from the raw materials, we have then will be able to profit a lot. Some of the industries we have made goods cheaply then export to developed countries who in term make a huge profit. EPZ is one of the industry in Kenya that is contracted by one of the developed countries to make clothes at cheap labor as in their own country it is expensive to make the clothes. Kenya should be making these clothes as their own and then sell to these countries thus growing the country's revenue. Raw material like uranium and titanium are been mined and exported outside the country, if we

could have industries that could process the two then we will have a good revenue from them as finished products. Also, many industries have collapsed due to corruption and poor management. These industries should be revived and put under good management thus boosting the revenue in the country. The sugar industry collapsed now we get sugar from Brazil which is costly then when we get our local sugar. These are the things that make the revenue of our country go down and we should revive these industries for our own benefits.

Subsistence agriculture: Is a self-sufficiency farming system in which the farmers focus on growing enough food to feed themselves and the entire families (Wikipedia). Our country should encourage this system of farming so that people would not starve. Many places of the country lack adequate foods hence the government is forced to seek relief food so that to feed them. This system will be of great help as the country will not seek help from other countries. Subsistence agriculture helps to curb food security in the country hence the government would not be forced to seek for relief food.

Agribusiness is another thing to be considered in the development of our country that will enable us to stop depending on foreign aid. Agribusiness is agriculture conducted on commercial principles, especially using advanced technology (dictionary.com). Agribusiness should be encouraged a lot in

Kenya as this will boost our economy. We should be trained on the importance of it and how to go about it. Now we have hybrid crops and animals that their yields are much better than the local ones. People need to learn about the advanced technology on both crops and animal's production. When we have the knowledge then it's easy to implement the new technology in our farming and be able to sell our produce in foreign countries thus increasing our revenue. Another area in which we can benefit in agribusiness is it will help us cut down cost in both crops and livestock production. For instance, a farmer has cows, poultry and has planted maize, when maize is harvested the farmer uses the maize stalk as cow feeds such that these maize stalks are milled and stored to be used during the dry spell. Then cow and the poultry dropping are being used as manure, this improves the soil fertility and structure hence boosting the crop production. Horticulture is another area we should venture to increase our revenue. Horticulture is the science and art of producing, improving, marketing, and using fruits, vegetables, flowers, and ornamental plants (ASHS). Horticulture helps us understand the different varieties of crops and animals, where they can flourish the best in terms of climate and type of soil, and the duration it will take to mature. For example, in the north eastern part of Kenya is semi-arid, the community living there are pastoralists the only depend on animals. Recently it was discovered that there

are certain types of crops that can do well in that area and now are doing farming boosting the economy and having food of their own. If this would be copied in other areas such that it is know what exactly can do well and the community benefits from it, it will be of great help to the country at large.

Community development is where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems. In Kenya we should encourage community development such that members of a given community will come together and discuss the issues that are affecting their community and come up with solutions to overcome them. This will make the community be strong in all areas that they are involved. For example, if it's a community that depend on farming to generate income, they will look for solutions to improve on their farm yields increasing their income. Same thing will happen to different communities that depend on trade or livestock. This will improve the revenue of the country as communities will be growing economically hence reduce the need of looking for foreign aid. It is common knowledge that community development practice has the capacity to build social capital, networks of trust, cooperation and organization (Bryant L. Myers,1999). Communities should also consider resource mobilization, this is whereby communities of a given area come together to undertake developmental activities to achieve sustainable development. Communities

have different resources therefore if they could come together and share ideas on how they could benefit from them. This will encourage good relationship in the communities and enhance development of the area.

Entrepreneurship is another area that the country should encourage its people to engage in. The world is integrating at an incredible pace due to technology and communication stimulating the flow of people, goods and capital in an increasingly interconnected world. These phenomena require us to integrate our frameworks, approaches and methods (Bryant L.

Myers,1999.) Many of our young people when they finish school are looking for jobs and cannot find any and this has made the number of unemployment to be high. We should be encouraging that even in business one can get income as those working in offices. Many of our young people look for white collar jobs and despise the small business. They should be encouraged and be trained to engage in business and by doing this the country will lower the number of unemployment. With the advance technology our young people can do their businesses anywhere one is comfortable. This will boost our economy tremendously as there will be revenue coming in from these small businesses.

Kenya has a fund for the youth that they are encouraging to come up with good business ideas then government gives them money in terms of loans to enable them start the business and in return pay the loan slowly until you pay

up the whole amount. One can also get a loan with an existing business to boost it. These has had a good outcome as more young people have started to embark on these small businesses. We also have a fund for women that helps with funding women groups start small projects that generate income for them and revenue to the country.

CONCLUSION

We should be able to fund ourselves. Kenya has vast resources that can enable to generate funds to sustain itself. We should also build systems that will encourage the young people that there is hope in our country. This will help a lot as many young people look up at developed countries for hope. The work force that they take out there is enough to make our country fund itself thus improving the economy. We should set good governances for our public resources and set systems to check accountability. We should also get out of this mindset of what the foreign countries can do for us.

If our country would observe all the methods that would bring in revenue and have good governance to this institution, then we will have our infrastructure and mechanisms to distribute wealth in place. Kenya will then stop to depend so much on foreign aid and be able to pay off its debts to the countries and institutions that gives us money. We should copy the example of Libya, which

uses its resources crude oil and petroleum products to sustain its economy without depending on foreign aid.

As we can see from the diagram below Africa is very rich as we have lots of natural resources that if managed well, we would not depend on foreign aid to sustain us. The diagram shows the major thing a country have but there another natural resource besides the major ones.

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