

T16P05 / Policies to Enhance Sustainable Development in Africa

Topic : T16 / Sustainable Development and Policy

Chair : Geoffrey Nwaka (Abia State University, Uturu, Nigeria)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Note: This Panel is eligible for the GCPSE (UNDP) Grant.

According to the Global Policy Forum (2016), Africa, is a continent that is endowed with immense natural and human resources. It is a continent with great cultural, ecological and economic diversity that however, remains underdeveloped. The Forum posits that most African nations suffer from military dictatorships, corruption, civil unrest and war, underdevelopment and deep poverty. They then point out that the majority of countries that are classified by the UN as least developed are found in Africa. It can also be pointed out that accelerated growth of urbanization in many African countries has amplified the demand for key services that include the provision of shelter and basic services such as water and sanitation, education, public health, employment and transport. This has not kept pace with this increasing demand and in any case, numerous development strategies have failed to yield the expected results. While there are many who believe that the continent is doomed to perpetual poverty and economic slavery, there are also some who believe that Africa has immense potential for sustainable development if proper policies are crafted, adopted and implemented. The United Nations accepted Sustainable Development as an accepted approach to sustaining economic growth and prosperity without harming our planet and without exhausting our resources while at the same time improving the quality of life for all our current and future citizens. Sustainability in this case includes social, environmental and economic considerations. It helps global societies to sustain finite resources that are necessary to provide for the needs of future generations of life on the planet. In this case, human development thrust should ensure that they take care of the natural systems so that they continue to preserve the natural resources and the ecosystems upon which the economy and society depends on their sustainability. Ban Ki-moon once said:

“Together, by stepping up efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals throughout the continent, we can and must make the 21st century the African century.”

Hence, it is prudent that Africa must ensure that it starts to implement policies that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Abstracts are being sought from policy experts, researchers and PhD students on policies that enable Africa to attain the highest sustainable economic growth and employment. Policies that will help in achieving a rising standard of living in African countries and policies that will help Africa to maintain financial stability while contributing to the development of the global economy. What policies will help Africa reach a desirable future state for human societies in which living conditions and resource-use continue will meet human needs without undermining the "integrity, stability and beauty of natural biotic systems"? How can Africa fight poverty and inequality; improve health and nutrition; improve education and inclusivity; promote gender equality and women's empowerment and promote sustainable environmental management and climate change through policies that enhance sustainability?

Thus, abstracts must make efforts to balance economic, social, environmental and generational concerns in policy-making and implementation actions at all levels aimed at the prosperity and progress of the African continent.

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Session 1 Pathways to sustainable development in Africa

Friday, June 30th 08:15 to 10:15 (Block B 5 - 3)

Discussants

Joseph Obosi (University of Nairobi)

Indigenous Knowledge as Local Response to Globalization and Climate Change in Africa

Geoffrey Nwaka (Abia State University, Uturu, Nigeria)

As we now adopt the Sustainable Development Goals post-2015, indigenous knowledge may prove to be “the single largest knowledge resource not yet mobilized in the development enterprise”. Many critics of African development liken the current pattern of development in the continent to building a house from the roof down as “all the institutions of modernization appear to be suspended over societies that have no firm connection to them, and whose indigenous institutions, even when oriented in the right direction, lack the necessary scaffolding to connect them to their modern surrogates”. Africa contributes least to, but suffers the most from the disastrous consequences of climate change. While the industrialized and more affluent countries are rightly being called upon to take greater responsibility for the current global environmental and economic crises, Marshall Sahlins has emphasized the need for all peoples “to indigenize the forces of global modernity, and turn them to their own ends”, as the real impact of globalization depends largely on the responses developed at the local level. How can Africa engage profitably with globalization, and cope effectively with the worsening threats of flooding, droughts and other emergencies that result from extreme weather conditions?

For a long time African customs and traditions were mis-conceived as irrational and incompatible with the conventional strategies of development. But the current global economic and ecological crises have exposed flaws in the Western neo-liberal model of development which is largely to blame for these problems, and for widening inequalities within and between nations. With the obvious under-performance of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, there is now renewed interest in an alternative approach to development which emphasizes the cultural dimension of development, and the overlooked potential of indigenous knowledge. This paper considers how indigenous knowledge and practice can be put to good use in support of good governance, agriculture and natural resource management, poverty alleviation, and the mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Although poverty may sometimes force people to use resources unsustainably, most traditional African societies have deeply entrenched ideas about environmental protection and sustainability because their livelihood depends largely on the land and on the stability of the ecosystem. They believe that land and other forms of nature are sacred, and are held in trust by the present day users on behalf of dead ancestors and future generations.

The paper argues that the indigenous knowledge movement is not only a useful and creative way to respond to globalization, it also has great potential for the mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Africa cannot now contemplate an insular and entirely home grown approach to its development, but indigenous knowledge does offer a model for rethinking and redirecting the development process, and for enlisting positive traditional values and institutions in a way that enables and empowers local actors to take part in their own development. Development agents, researchers and donors, who often assume a knowledge or capacity vacuum in Africa, should instead try to tap into indigenous knowledge for locally appropriate ways of forecasting weather systems, traditional techniques of soil management, pest and disease control, adopting suitable crop and animal varieties, and so on. By building on the indigenous we can make development more participatory and sustainable, and also promote intercultural dialogue in African development.

African Traditional Approach: Sustainable Option in Curbing Corruption

Adewale Kupoluyi, (Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo, Nigeria)

Abstract

Corruption has been described as a major problem militating against the political, economic and social development of many Sub-Saharan African countries. To stem this tide, several policies, programmes and institutions have been put in place by the various African governments with the support, intervention and collaboration of civil society groups and international organisations to curb the malaise. Unfortunately, the more of such external interventions that are introduced, at the expense of local and indigenous initiatives, the incidence of corruption seems to remain on the alarming rate. Is there something fundamentally wrong with the Western model of curbing corruption that makes it ineffective in Africa? What better alternatives can be explored? The main objective of the paper is to clamour for a revisit and the rejuvenation of the African traditional approach, which have been found to be cheaper and more effective in curbing corrupt practices. The study is qualitative. Primary and secondary sources of data were used. The instruments of primary data collection were interviews and focus group discussion with key stakeholders such as traditional rulers, chiefs, religious leaders, rural dwellers and local historians in Yorubaland in all the six (6) Yoruba-speaking south-west states of Nigeria, namely; Ekiti, Lagos, Ondo, Ogun, Osun and Oyo, where the rich traditional African cultures, religions, beliefs and taboos still exist in the fight against corruption. The traditional anti-graft approach is highly organised and prevents the innocent from being unjustly sanctioned while offenders are severely punished without any fear or favour. Relevant books and journals were consulted as secondary data sources. Findings show that the use of traditional African approach is sustainable in the curbing corruption by fostering the entrenchment of the necessary legislation and public policies in African states, that will invariably bring about good governance in terms of sustainable economic growth, educational empowerment, enhanced living standards, employment, financial stability and by becoming a major player on the global scene.

Keywords: African Tradition, Corruption, Culture, Development, Yorubaland.

IMPACT OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ON WATER SERVICE DELIVERY IN KENYA

Joseph Obosi (University of Nairobi)

Public Private partnership (PPP) has become preferred public service delivery approach in the provision of water services in Kenya. As a strategy, PPP in water service provision was started in Kenya following water sector reforms in the water Act 2002. In order to establish the impact on water service delivery in Kenya, a household survey of 288 respondents from seven (7) Water service providers (WSPs) comprising four water utility companies and three (3) community water projects, under Lake Victoria South Water Board (LVS WB) was conducted. Using quantitative techniques to analyze data under governance theory, the study established that compared to the period up to 2004, the households experienced better services in the year 2012 in terms of water quality, affordability, access and customer service levels to the extent that the public institutions that had adopted private sector participation, performed better than those which had not. On average, distance to water point reduced by 78.3 metres, frequency of coloured water reduced by 0.2 days, while time taken to restore water supply reduced to three days within the ten years period

The paper fits within the Sustainable Development Policy Panel as it attempts to analyze the challenges of water service provision which is key towards the attainment of Millenium Development Goals especially in the developing countries. A proper governance of Water service provision through public private partnerships shall ensure access to reliable quality, timely and affordable water which will reduce water borne diseases. A large population in developing countries suffer from preventable diseases mainly caused by consumption of poor quality water. The infections further drain the household economic resources through increased expenditure on health and opportunities.

Uniting to Develop: Assessing Regional Integration Efforts to foster Sustainable Development in North-East Africa

Natalia Piskunova (Moscow State University)

Fresh water scarcity, underdeveloped infrastructure and economy, alongside with severe climate conditions of equatorial and near-equatorial areas have long cast a negative effect on both living and development conditions of the African continent in general. Countries of North-East Africa are no exception, as severe droughts have numerously caused humanitarian crises in this region, with Ethiopian and Sudan drought and hunger crises being the most acute in the latest decade. Access to fresh water was highlighted both as a crucial value and an

international goal in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. With a view to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, this issue remains vital in the most drought-prone areas of the world, particularly in North-East Africa.

This paper assesses joint regional initiatives of the North-East African countries that deal with promoting the MDG/SDG goals. It focuses on the efforts and projects of regional integration groups, such as The IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) Partner Forum and The Nile Forum (Nile Basin Group) to evaluate the policies that were applied jointly by the countries of North-East Africa region to achieve MDGs and their prospects of continuing any effective joint policy-making in this respect. As IGAD turns 31 this year, the paper overlooks the origins and the dynamics of this developing regional integration group in particular and evaluates both the failures and successes that were achieved to this date starting in 1996 (before this date, the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) was in action since 1986). Focal attention in this paper is attached to fighting droughts and overcoming its consequences with joint effort of all countries in the region. To provide a wider picture of prospects of regional cooperation in fighting poverty, hunger, severe droughts, inequalities of economic development of countries of this region, a number of bilateral agreements are also analyzed. Possible scenarios for fostering joint regional integration efforts with the help of the UN (especially UNECA) and international community are suggested.

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Session 2

Friday, June 30th 10:30 to 12:30 (Block B 5 - 3)

Multi-Equilibria Model of Human Capital Accumulation for Sustainable Development in Africa.

CHRISTEL ARNAUD NGADIMA MEBOUN (UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, DILIMAN, NATIONAL COLLEGE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE.)

Why should we be concerned with human capital accumulation in reflecting on the sustainable development in Africa? First, there is already an enormous amount of critical debates on the ability of the sustainable development approach to provide a comprehensive framework or strategy of either basic needs or human development, which are but the real challenges of Africa. The significance of the issue is expressed in the missing of a macroeconomic strategy; concern with employment, inequality, and strategies of redistribution that have serious implications for practical development outcomes. Second, the human capital theory claims that the wealth of a nation is vested in its people. African countries continue to suffer from adverse human conditions such as poverty, food crisis, unemployment, hunger, inequality, external debt and dependence. In such a context, investigating the concept of human capital accumulation as the prime engine of development with qualitative impact in inequality, in the process of development becomes crucial. However, the question remains to know what are the mechanisms by which the human capital would be accumulated for the sustainable development of African villages and cities?

The proposed study resorts to a narrative approach under the qualitative research, and seeks first, a deep understanding of the complex swirl of the disequilibrium situations at the local level. What structures, procedures and tools are available available to policy advocates from the business community, labor, education system, NGOs, and the various branches of government to accumulate the human capital? After grasping the depth of the issues, we will hear from international development experts on how policy advocates might address these critical challenges.

The results of the proposed study derived from multiple levels of governance, would enrich the understanding of both policymakers and development experts on existing and possible approaches and methodologies for the accumulation of human capital in sustainable development planning in Africa. To that end, the multi-equilibria model of human capital accumulation contributes to produce knowledge derived from real world experience together with the human capital capable of transforming that knowledge into policy changes.

Keywords: Human Capital Accumulation, and Sustainable Development.

Land access to women: the role of policy in promoting gender equality and sustainable development in South Africa

Eyerusalem Amare Wolde (University of KwaZulu-Natal)

This article argues that given the fact that poverty and underdevelopment has a gender dimension, particularly in rural South Africa; increasing women participation in economic development and mainstreaming gender concerning land will not only increase local buy-in but also sustainable economic development. Despite the existence of policies and initiatives aimed at the mainstreaming of gender equality regarding land, earlier researchers provided little indication of a sustainable transformation of the status of women in this sector. Access to land for women is, therefore, one of the critical measures that will ensure women participation in sustainable development projects in rural South Africa. While women make the bulk of rural population their access to land has been constrained by several traditional and institutional bottlenecks. This paper argues that while an extensive policy framework is a productive ground for projects to boost local economies, practical action should view gender mainstreaming as an ongoing process that needs constant learning and adjustments to succeed. South Africa currently ranks among unequal countries in the world, as measured by income and access to land. Hardest hit by lack of income, landlessness, and lack of access to housing and services are black women residing in rural areas. Yet despite government rhetoric proclaiming concern for gender equality, poor black women have

not benefited from land reform. The South African Constitution and development policies explicitly emphasize the significance of addressing women's land needs and rights in the context of redressing gender inequalities. However, several challenges arise in terms of addressing traditional patriarchal practices that generally view women as dependents. It is for this reason that while several impressive policies and legislations are in place and intentions to address gender inequalities are articulated, the main challenges experienced are to translate these policies and legislations into practice.

In view of this, the proposed study shall provide answers to the following key questions which represent the research problem.

1. What are the role of policy in promoting gender equality and women empowerment in South Africa?
2. How does gender equality contribute to sustainable economic development in South Africa?
3. To what extent has the gender equality policy framework in relation to access to land been implemented?

Methodology

The research method which will be employed in this study is broadly qualitative and based on document analysis. This research is a non-empirical study and predominantly a literature review based on the document analysis method. This involves accessing and analyzing a variety of pieces of literature sources such as books, journal articles, newspaper reports, and internet information published by specialized institutions and organizations regarding the issue of women empowerment and gender equality policies and their potential implications to the society. This study fits the chosen panel as it focuses on the role of policy in promoting gender equality and women empowerment which is also one of the main objectives of the panel.

Participatory decision making, poverty reduction, gender equality and sustainable development in Ghana and Nigeria

Ngozi Nwogwugwu (Babcock University)

Adebusola Odedina (Babcock University)

Implementation of myriad of poverty reduction programmes amongst the countries of Africa over the years, had failed to remove the continent from the ranks of the poorest and most highly indebted continents of the world. Amongst the reasons given for the high level of poverty across Africa had been the fact that the political elites lack the capacity to formulate and implement poverty reduction policies, provide critical infrastructure such as adequate funding of public educational institutions as well as encourage women participation as they are focused on primitive accumulation of wealth. Poverty reduction programmes had been elitist not meeting the needs of those for whom they were formulated, while women who constitute almost half of the population had been excluded from gladiatorial levels of politics and decision making. Can participatory decision making lead to effective reduction of poverty in Africa? Would gender equality in policy making processes result in sustainable environmental management? The study examined the effect of participatory decision making on attainment of poverty reduction, gender equality and sustainable development in two African countries; Ghana and Nigeria. The study adopted descriptive survey design utilizing both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data was collected from 400 respondents (200 from each of the two countries) using stratified random sampling. This was supplemented by elite interview of 18 key informants purposively selected. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics while hypotheses were tested using rank order correlation and regression. Qualitative data were content analyzed. The study found that there was significant relationship between participatory decision making and poverty reduction with r -calculated 0.843 and P -value of $P=0.004 < 0.005$. There was significant relationship between gender equality and sustainable environmental management with r -calculated 0.752 and P -value of $P=0.000 < 0.005$. There was significant relationship between class inclusion and sustainable development with r -calculated 0.748 and P -value of $P=0.000 < 0.005$. It was also found that inclusion of women, youth and civil society organizations in policy making processes would lead to citizens' ownership of such policies and programmes, help in achieving poverty reduction, and attainment of women empowerment and gender equality. Inclusion of women in the policy process for environmental management, would result in sustainable development, as they tend to show greater affinity to environmental issues.