



Developing Countries And Process Of Critical Change Without Transformation In All Facets Of Life

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ABSTRACT

Under development refers to the economic situation in which there are persistent low levels of living standard is extended by Absolute poverty, a situation were by a number of people living below the minimum level of subsistence necessary to secure food, shelter, with clothing the minimum balance of a hundred dollars, low per capital income low rate of economic growth, low level of consumption poor health service high death rate, high birth rate vulnerability to dependence on foreign economics and limited freedom to choose between alternative that satisfy human wants. Thus, this paper examines concepts of development and underdevelopment. The paper adopted documentary as method of data collection. Therefore, relies on secondary source of data. The paper anchored on prismatic theory of developing societies by Fred. W. Riggs. In explaining administration in developing countries. The paper categorically identified the reasons for perpetual underdevelopment in Africa. The paper concludes that underdevelopment in Africa is as a result of bad leadership.

Keywords: Development, Underdevelopment, Countries, Process, Critical Change

INTRODUCTION

A developing country (or a low and middle income country (LMIC), less developed country or less economically developed country (LEDC) or underdeveloped country) is a term generally used to describe countries with less developed industrial base and low human development index (HDI) relative to other countries referred to as developed nations or advanced economy. These categories referred to as developing or underdeveloped nations are in the continuous process of critical changes in all facets of life. The paper examines the concept of developing countries and their features.

Conceptual Clarifications

Development

The definition of development is fundamental to the comparison of developed and developing countries. However, development is one of the most difficult concepts to be assigned to a single meaning because of the diverse ways in which it is used in everyday discourse by scholars. According to Rodney (1972), development in human society is a many sided process. At the level of the individual, it implies increased skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline responsibility and material well-being; at the level of social group, development implies an increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relationships.

Ake (2001) also tended his voice to say that development is something that people must do for themselves although it can be facilitated by others.

In the articulation of Todaro and Smith (2004), it must represent the whole garment of changes by which an entire social system, tunes to the diverse basic needs and desires of individual and social groups within that system. According to Seers (1969): The questions to ask about a country's development are therefore, what has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to unemployment? What has been happening to inequality? If all the three of these have declined from higher levels, then beyond doubt this has been a period of development for the country concerned but if one or the two of these are growing worse, especially of all the three it would be strange to call the result development even if the per capital income doubled.

Streeten (1994), a former Director of the World Development Institute, opines that development must be redefined as an attack on the chief evil of the world today: malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, slums, unemployment and inequality, measured in term of aggregate growth rate.

Biron (1997) projected a three dimensional view of the concept of development as follows:

- i. Improvement of economic and social conditions of the people;
- ii. A continued growth in the applied science and productive technologies emanating from advancement of societies and their organization efforts,
- iii. A transition of some of the earth's population from less human to a more human phase.

From the various conception of development offered by scholars above, development transcends economic growth as it encompasses modernization, distributive, justice and socio-economic growth.

Underdevelopment

The concept of underdevelopment is relative or more accurately relational. It is a state of societal well being which, in relation to condition elsewhere, is far from satisfactory. The state reflects certain absolute and concrete conditions, notable among which is the loss of self reliance and inability to be the master of one's own fortunes.

Okereke and Ekpe (2010), contend that the application of such term as developing instead of undeveloped' gives an erroneous impression that these countries are changing positively and therefore are developing.

Characteristics of Underdevelopment in Developing countries

Several factors combine to give rise to the state of underdevelopment in Third World countries. Some of these factors are here under examined:

- (i) Existence of low per capital income: Available statistics particularly report based on World Bank's survey of 208 countries, economies each with a sample of not less than 30,000 and ranked according to their Gross National Income, revealed that underdeveloped countries are those with low, lower, middle and upper middle incomes. Thus, when compared with such countries like Britain, United State of America, Japan, Germany and France etc. the per capita income of Third World Countries in general are considerably low.
- (ii) Prevalence of Traditional Institutional: Third world countries are identified by existence of traditional institutions with great emotional attachment to the traditional rules, norms and

- values. This type of system perpetuates ethnic ascriptive and diffused orientation. Traditional antagonistic to new ways of doing things. Underdeveloped countries are characterized by social divisions, which intends to fractionalize the society making organic integration almost impossible in Nigeria, for instance we have become very conversant with such terms as tribalism, ethnocentrism, minority, marginalization and other forms of clandestine nomenclatures that have become the language of daily interaction and relationships. This is unlike what is obtainable in developed countries with highly differentiated and organically integrated structure, made possible by universalistic and specific norms.
- (iii) Agrarian Structure / High Rural Population: Over 70 percent of the world's poorest people are located in the rural areas and are primarily subsistence farmers. There is also a situation of agricultural stagnation brought about by primitive technology, poor organization and physical human input. The above conditions does not encourage commercially based peasant agrarian societies. They lack basic agricultural implements such as tractors and ploughs as well as inputs like fertilizes, improved seedlings and improved breeds of animals etc. to further worsen the situation is the system of land tenure that does not encourage large scale farming as well as absence of irrigation rise to stagnation and rising rural – urban migration.
 - (iv) Unemployment and Underemployment: There is rising unemployment profile in third world countries. This is significant in the rating of underdevelopment. One significant feature of unemployment problem is that there is also underemployment, a situation which has brought about underutilization of the productive labour force. The situation, as in Nigeria is the same in all Third World Countries.
 - (v) Low level of Technology; technologically third World countries can be described as backward. Almost all their industrial equipment and manufactured consumer goods of any noticeable quantity seem to be imported from abroad. When the imported from abroad. When the imported machines breakdown it is also repaired y foreign technologist.
 - (vi) High Population Growth: Underdeveloped Countries record the highest population growth rate in the world. All the sermons about birth control in these countries seem to fail on deaf ears. People still feel very free to have as many number of children as they like to have. This trend creates problem of food hunger.
 - (vii) Poor Infrastructural Facilities: Socio-economic infrastructures such as-good roads, water, electricity, hospitals, schools, etc. are seriously inadequate. This makes life very uncomfortable for the people.
 - (viii) Poor Industrialization: There are very few number of industries in Third World Countries, so the people depend on primary agricultural produce as their major export earnings. These products are similar and complete among themselves in world market.
 - (ix) Unfavourable Terms of Trade and Perennial Balance of Payments Problem: Because of over dependence on exportation of primary agricultural products, West African Countries suffer from perennial unfavourable balance of payments, which drastically hamper economic growth and development of third world countries.
 - (x) Poor planning and implementation; Underdeveloped countries of third world countries are always facing poor planning and shortage of fund, sometimes money ear-marked for developed projects are misappropriated by unscrupulous government officials.
 - (xi) Low Level of Literacy and High Level of Illiteracy: High rate of illiteracy in West African countries militate against productivity. The illiterate may not know hoe to apply modern innovations in agriculture, the use of ICT devices is still at the lowest ebb etc.

Theoretical review

Prismatic society

According to Riggs, the prismatic society is one which has achieved a certain level of dealing with modern technology, but has failed to integrate these roles. It has moved away from the fused stage but has

not yet reached the diffracted one. It is thus a traditional society which is at a middle period with modern standards and values.

According to Riggs, a prismatic society has three important characteristics which are now analyzed.

Heterogeneity: The prefix 'hetero' which means 'different'. A prismatic society has heterogeneous structures existing side by side. Due to the parallel co-existence of diametrically opposite viewpoints and practices, the social change in a prismatic society would be inconsistent, incomplete, and unresponsive. These heterogeneous structures have often extreme qualities which reflect the wide disparities in society in social, economic, religious and cultural matters. Thus one may find extremely modern structures existing simultaneously with traditional ones. Consequently there is an uneven development in society. Urban areas are based increasingly on western patterns and fashions, but in rural areas, people lead to highly traditional life with no facilities of modern living, such as use of computer, telephones and refrigerators.

In prismatic society, bureaucrats enjoy enormous influence, power and prestige, and make money. The people who are in power would make all efforts in furtherance of their interests and stick to power. The problem becomes much more complicated in a poly communal society where different communities strive to pull the society in different directions in promoting their own sectional interests. Such disparities and differentiations lead to creation of administration problems. The ruling elite would generally try to protect the interests of 'haves' and ignore the interests of 'have not' which, according to Riggs, would create a 'revolutionary atmosphere' in the society.

Formalism. According to Riggs, 'formalism' refers to the extent "to which a discrepancy exists between norms and practices, between the prescriptive and descriptive, between formal and effective power... and actual practices and facts of government and society". Formalism is a situation where a law says one thing but the practice is something different. The level of formalism depends on types of pressures – exogenous or endogenous – applied for the development or change of the society. According to Riggs, if the pressure is exogenous in nature, the level of formalism introduced in the society if the source is endogenous.

There is a wide gap between the prescription of laws, rules and regulations and obedience. Riggs says that the laws, principles and regulations laid down in the constitution prismatic society are not adhere to in practices. For instance, the constitution vests law-making responsibilities in legislators but in reality they spend only a little time in law making activities. They concentrate more on power politics than on discharging their political functions. This facilitates the bureaucracy to play a decisive role in policy making process. Thus formalism, theoretically, prevail in all aspects of social life, but in practice norms continue to dominate the affairs.

Overlapping. According to Riggs, overlapping refers to 'the extent to which formally differentiated structures of a diffracted society co-exists with undifferentiated structure of a fused type'. In a prismatic society functions are performed by modern once leading to creation of confusion and irregularity. Thus, in a prismatic society, the legislature, executive and bureaucracy perform various administrative, governed and controlled by certain traditional organizations like family, religion, and caste.

Overlapping in a prismatic society manifests in several dimensions such as 'nepotism', 'poly-communalism', the existence of 'clebs;', 'poly-noormativism', and lack of consensus and separated of 'authority from control'.

Salah (Administrative Sub-System) Model

Riggs says that a society comprises various economic, political, administrative and cultural sub-system. His prismatic society has also its own administrative sub-system which, he calls Sala. He uses the term 'chamber' for the administrative sub-system of a fused society, and 'bureau' or office for a diffracted society. Each of them has its own distinctive characteristics.

Sala is a Spanish word which has been defined differently-a government office, a religion conference, a room, etc. it combines certain feature of 'bureau' of a diffracted society and 'chamber' of a fused society. The heterogeneous structures, traditional and modern values of the prismatic society are found in the administrative system of sala.

Some of the features governing administrative sub-system in a sala model are now described. Nepotism. In a prismatic society, nepotism and favoritism play a dominant role in the making of appointments to

various administrative posts. Members of a family and their kins are given preference in employment and other matters. The close relatives of a government officials derive variety of advantages from his official position in various ways. On the contrary, the consideration of kinship are kept out of the administrative behavior in diffracted society. In a fused society, the politico-administrative system has a patrimonial feature in which family or kinship plays a significant role. In prismatic society, the laws, rules, regulations laid down in status are not adhered to in practice. The sala officer attaches importance personal increase in power and materials gains rather than paying attention to the social welfare of the people. His behavior and performance are influenced by parochialism and consequently, the laws and the rules are not made universally applicable.

Poly-communalism. This is the name given by Riggs to plural society where we find the simultaneous existence of several ethnic, religious and racial group. Most of them are in hostile integration with each other. They lack proper motivation for social change. This affects the society as well as the administration. If a member of a minority community is able to occupy a high position in a public or private organization, he begins to show preference to the members of his own community in administrative matters, such as recruitment, promotion, transfer, etc. Because different communities try to pull the society in different directions to fulfill their own communal interests, administrative problems the interests of other minorities, the quota or reservation system may be adopted to provide some cost of proportional representation to all communities in the administration. However, such an arrangement may lead to mutual hostility among various communities, thereby creating administrative.

Existence of clects: 'Clect' is another word used by Riggs. To mean a typical prismatic group, "Which makes use of modern, associational methods of organization, but retains diffuse and particularistic goals of a transitional type". Riggs says in a prismatic society there is simultaneous growth of clects society. Clects represent exclusively the people of a particular community or group, and government officials belonging to that category serve only the members of their respective 'clects' more effectively by ignoring others. Sometimes, the sala officer or his subordinate develops close relations with particular clect or start functioning like a clect in itself. As a result, the clects foster close links with a particular group and function primary in their own interest, ignoring universalistic norms.

Poly-normativism and lack of consensus. In a prismatic society, people subscribe to different values and norms of their own. These lead to differences in society. Moreover, the traditional and modern ideas co-exist and are in hostility with each other. As a result of overlapping, decision-making becomes more complicated.

The sala bureaucrat may enter into service by virtue of his possession of educational qualification qualifications or through success in competitive examinations, but in respect of is promotion and career development, he depends largely on ascriptive ties and seeks favours from his superior bureaucrats. The sala official publicly may adhere to a modern set of norms but secretly reject them as meaningless. A sala official may insist on a strict enforcement of regulation by the public, but when his personal issues is involved, he may openly violate them.

Separation of authority from control. Riggs says that the prismatic society consists of a "highly centralized and concentrated authority structure overlapping a control system that is highly vocalized and dispensed". Thus, authority and control overlap each other. The authority of the sala overlaps with the control mechanisms which are based on poly-communalism, clects and poly-normativism. This form of overlapping influences the relationships between politicians and administrators.

According to Riggs, a prismatic society is an 'unbalanced polity' in which bureaucrats dominate the politico-administrative system. Bureaucrats in an unbalanced polity exercise much more power than their formal authority suggests. They have statutory authority which is used for influencing decision over the allocation of human and physical resources. Due to such a concentration of power in the hands of bureaucrats, there would be lack of response to the demand of the people. Riggs also states that when such a weak political system and leadership fail to control the bureaucracy, the legislature, political parties, voluntary associations and public opinion also become ineffective.

The influence of a political executive varies considerably with its ability to reward or punish the administrators, but even then role a bureaucrat plays in a prismatic society influences largely the level of output. Since the performance of the government largely depends on the level of output of the *sala* official, Riggs says that there is an inverse ratio between administrative output and bureaucratic power. The more powerful the officials become, the less efficient as administrators. Thus *sala* in a prismatic society is characterized by nepotism in recruitment, institutionalized corruption, and inefficiency in the implementation of laws.

Theoretical Exposition

The work is anchored on prismatic theory developing societies by Frd. W. Riggs. In explaining administration in developing countries, Riggs came up with an analytical construct (known as the prismatic model) to explain these transitional nations. Riggs articulated their prismatic model on the metaphor of prism – as the fused white of several colours passes through a prism, it becomes diffracted into several separated colours. Here the fused light signifies the fused structures of traditional society (single structure performing all necessary functions) the diffracted colour represents the specialized or differentiated structures of modern society (separate structure or institution for major functions). And the situation within the prism (which is a transitional phase between the fused and diffracted stage) reflects the conditions in developing nations which Riggs called prismatic societies (Riggs, 1964).

Past governments in Nigeria have engaged in the past time glorying a rural transformation on the pages of newspapers, news and conferences but have failed to deliver. The earliest rural transformation programmes were in 1972 by General Yakubu Gowon: **National Accelerated Food Production Programme** and the Nigerian Agricultural and Cooperation Bank, entirely devoted to funding agriculture. The NAFPP turned out to be a colossal waste and nothing was achieved (Victor & Bilyaminu, 2002).

Operation Feed the Nation in 1976 by the Military strong man General Olusegun Obasanjo, which expended much money and effort in getting prepared university under-graduates to go to rural areas to teach the peasants farmers how to farm. A kind of teaching of an old dog a new trick. A theoretical farming graduate teaching a former, who makes his/her living out of farming, how to farm. The scheme only success was increasing awareness of food shortage and then the need to tackle the problem (Victor & Bilyaminu, 2002).

In 1979 Shehu Shagari **Green Revolution Programme** had twin objectives of curtailing food importation while boosting crop and fibre production. The overall objective was big (mechanized) farming, many senior civil and military officers both in and out of office use their access to the state to join Green revolution programme. These bureaucrats cum farmers were only interested in getting certificate of occupancy for large track of security loans. When the programmes ended in 1983, 2 billion naira tax payer's money was wasted. That is more than two hundred billion naira in today's exchange rate (Victor & Bilyaminu, 2002).

Gen. Buhari's government introduced the **go back to land** programme through governor, Fidelis Oyakhilome's school and his Lagos counterpart, Gbolahan Mudasiru graduates farming schemes. Initially, the Oyakhilome's scheme worked in River State, made headlines news in some National dailies but like most programmes in Nigeria, it fizzled out and died. There is a belief that one of the major reasons for the failure of all these agricultural and rural transformation programmes was that they were based on faulty philosophy. The belief is that food programme such as the Gen. Gowon National "accelerated food and production programmes". The Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo's "Operation Feed the Nation" Sheu Shagari's "green revolution" and the Gen. Buhari "go back to land" programmes failed because of the far-fetched objective of making farmers out all Nigeria and that no country attains self sufficiency in food by seeking to turn all its citizen into farmers that farming should be left for those whose business are to farm.

In 1986, General Babangida established the **Directorate of Food Roads, Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) For Rural Development**. This was meant to provide roads, electricity and portable water and toilet

facilities for the rural dwellers. The project gulped N1.9billion (about N80billion today's value) without Nigeria's benefiting from them. Various projects were set up for poverty alleviation purpose. Among them are the People's Bank of Nigeria and the Community Bank in Nigeria. Neither did these financial institutions lived up to their expectations, nor did they actualize their aim and purpose. Babangida's wife Maryam, also went in to the business of caring for the Nigerian poor thus, setting up **Better Life for Rural Women Programmes** and ended up making millionaires out of the BLP officials and friends instead of bettering the life of rural dwellers. The Nigerian poor did not know that big food was taken away from them they are left grapping and hungry as usual. Victor & Bilyaminu, 2002.

In 1993 Abacha and his wife found a gold mine in the business of pretending to care for the poor. **The family support programme was set up.** The Nigerian poor again were taking for a ride. According to the Tell Magazine of 3rd August, 1998 "FSP" gulped over ₦10billion of tax payers' money at a time her husband Abacha was retrenching helpless Civil Servant nationwide, The better life for rural woman, the family support programmes and the People Bank, Obasanjo, Yar'adua 7 point agenda, and Jonathan's Transformation agenda were run parallel to the Nigerian poor and take them for a ride (John, 2012).

CONCLUSION

The paper attempts a conception of development and underdevelopment and it discusses the features that are peculiar to developing countries. The theoretical exposition explains the continuous process of critical changes in these nations as a result of structures within the system, the fused structure(traditional) and differentiated structure (modern society).Most of these nations are already lost in transition as they have left their original traditional system and are yet to reach modernization. Hence a revival of critical process of change.

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