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Dependency and Under-development problems of Africa

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Abstract: Political and technological control had enabled the west to extend an empire in Africa during the Nineteenth Century. The underdevelopment of Africa can be explained in the terms of the socio-economic-political and cultural processes and their footprints are clear. European builder had adopted different strategies and policies in Africa to make money through exploration, colonisation, commercialisation, robbery and theft. The poor countries of Africa with the less developed technology are left with the limited possibilities of exploiting the raw material at cheap rates that keep them underdeveloped. Besides this, other contributing factors are colonial legacy, slave trade, wars, poverty, illiteracy, Structural Adjustment Program, large families, corruption and lack of accountability. The Dependency Theory analyses the internal changing scenario of underdevelopment and other various aspects of being dependent. In this, the contribution of Andre Gunder Frank, Wallerstein, Dos Santos, Celso Furtado, and Frantz Fanon is commendable and they all agree to the point that underdevelopment of the Third World countries are directly related to their neo-colonial existence, i.e., external dependence upon the developed countries. Hence, this paper will examine the nature of dependency that leads to underdevelopment of Africa.

Key word: Colonization, Commercialization, Exploration, Colonial Legacy, SAP, Third World

1. Introduction

Africa is the world's second-largest continent and second-most populous continent after Asia. It comprises 54 sovereign countries. It covers six percent of Earth Africa abandon natural resources. The continent holds 90% of world cobalt, 90% of its platinum, 50% of gold, 98% of chromium, 70% of tantalite's, 64% of manganese and one third of uranium. Democratic republic Congo (DRC) has 70% of world's Colten, a mineral used in the production of tantalum capacitor for electronic device such as cell phones. Democratic republic Congo has more than 30% of world's diamond reserves. Guiana is the world's largest exporter of bauxite. Yet Africa among other continents is seen as poorest continent in the world. In the international system the G-8 (Group of eight) countries and other international organization regard African states as "poor" seeing. Africa as an incapable (or) handicapped continent.

Many international organizations are take initiate towards the development of Africa state. Development of most African states here implies meeting up with European standard "Talking a look at Africa" to transform their raw material to finished product as well as their inability to properly manage and harness their products management and good leadership. The African continent is presently facing unprecedented crisis (or) problem in its history as a human society. Africa faced balance of payment deficit, poor health statistics, material poverty indebtedness, poor education, disorganizing ethnic welfare, inadequate water supply, poor health facilities and rapid capital flight. A large proportion of the people who reside in the Africa continent in august 2008, world Bank announced global poverty line of $1.25 per day. 80.5 % of the sub-Saharan Africa population was living on less than $2.50 per day in 2005 compared with 85.7% in India.

2. Dependency problem of Africa

The term "dependency" coin by Sameer Amin. Dependency theory came in 1950s. A tremendous Role to developed dependency theory mainly Three-Person**, Andre Gunder Frank, Sameer Amin** and **Rawl Prebisch**. Dependency theory based on Dual development thesis that the superior and Inferior. Andre Gunder frank argue, that history of post-Colonial Countries has been crucial Important in shaping their present underdevelopment.

Gunder Frank says that European colonialism created the underdevelopment of these countries. Underdevelopment is not basically a consequence of traditionalism. It is systematically created by colonist exploitation. Developing country export raw material and cheap labour to developed West Country and developed country back to sell finished product with higher cost.

Prebisch initial explain that, poor countries exported primary commodities to the rich country and rich country manufactured products out of sold them back to poorer countries. Therefore, poorer country would never be earning enough from their export to pay for their imports.

Prebisch solution to poor countries, poor countries like (Asia, Africa and Latin America) should embark on programme of import substitutions so that they need purchase the manufactured products from the richer countries. The poorer countries would still sell their primary products on the world market. But their foreign exchange reserves wouldn't be used to purchase their manufactures from abroad/richer countries. Prebisch further say there are three issue make this policy by developing countries.

1. The internal market pf poorer countries were not capable to support the economics of scale used by the richer countries to keep their prices low.

2. Concerned the political will of the poorer countries as to whether a transformation from being primary products producers was possible or desirable.

3. Revolved around the extent to which the poorer countries actually had control of their primary products, particularly in the area of selling those products abroad.

The Antonio Dos Santos emphasizes the historical dimension of dependency relationship in his definition. Dependency is a historical condition which shapes a certain structure of the world economy such that it favours some countries to the dominant of others and limits the development possibilities of the subordinate economies like (Asia, Africa and Latin America).

2.1 Economic Dependence

After independence Africa had facing the lot of problem, disease, hunger, malnutrition, poverty and ethnic conflict. For the development Africa move to West Country to get loan/aid. West developed countries provides loan but with some condition in favour of own interest and with higher interest rate.

Ziyad Mohammad (2010), observed on southern Africa. In his analysis of this countries evil of the industrial based capitalist system. Countries has also face the harmful effect of borrowing on interest. SAPs were forced to borrow from the rich country for the development. But their interest rate very high. And result is that country had to give much more than originally borrowed. When they realized this it was too late and big amount and they unable to pay. Rich nation began to demanding over the mineral and ownership right and natural resources in these country exchange for repayment. For example, Nigeria 1996, US$5 billion from international credit and repay US$16 billion over 15 years (president of Obasanjo leman tied in 2000).

2.2 Technological Dependent

African country dependent on the developed industrialized countries. They purchase of vital inputs for agricultural and industrial production. Lack of a strong indigenous scientific and modern technological development capacity. Because of this they have to pay big amount for to get new technology. The name of development western exploit African countries resources.

2.3 Cash Crops

Western colonial power introduce cash-crops production. They encourage the African countries farmers to produce cash crops (palm, coco, cocoa, tea, coffee, rubber and cotton). Egypt-raw cotton, Ethiopia- coffee, Gambia-groundnuts, Ghana-cocoa and Sudan-raw cotton. These countries were export dependent on a single commodity. Various country also move production for cash crops because it’s profitable commodity. African country export these commodity and purchase food grain outside country. Due to this food production is low and cash crops production is high. Due to poor demands of European industry European neglect cash crop commodity so African country economy were collapse and try to sustain their economy they went to donor for loan/aid again. In this way there is process of dependence.

3. Underdevelopment Problem of Africa

3.1 Process of African development

During 1950s several African country independences from colonial power. they became sovereign country. But Africa suffer economic, political disorder, civil war, starvation, environmental disaster, epidemic diseases and misery. And they adopt various strategy for development of nation. Several independence countries more than 40 country entire Africa adopt multi- party democracy. Some of country success this particular idea but maximum country of Africa failed. Because several reason –

- African country multi- party democracy based on pattern of western development country democracy, but African society is not able to functioning well because Africa society environment is different and people also.
- Emergence of several political party in the basis of the interest of cast, ethnic group, tribe group. due to this functioning part of governance were collapse. and some of charismatic personality leader come exist and capture the power and destroy the party. And came exist single party system, military regimes and personal rule and authoritarian rule.

UN development decade of the 1960s was characterised by optimism and international cooperation. The optimism was based on the assumption that the developments problems of underdeveloped. Word would be solved quickly through the transfer of finance, technology and experience from the developed countries.

However, with the rising word poverty and inequality in 1970, (the second un development decade) such optimism faded many developing countries had achieved economic growth as measured by gross national product (GDP) but this development was not shared equal amongst the Populations of these nations.

During cold war foreign aid given by major power convene favour country according to interest of donor country. Zaire get aid from USA to deficit the sub –Sahara rebellion, And Ethiopia received the aid from USSR to destroy the Somali.

Civil war between country and inner country. First Sudanese civil war, 1995-72 , Congo crisis ,1960-1966, Nigerian civil war 1967-1970, Ethiopian civil war ,1974- 1991 , Mozambican civil war 1975-1992 , Angolan civil war ,1975-2002 , second Sudanese civil war ,1983 -2005, First Liberia civil war ,1989-1996 ,Rwanda ,1990 -1993, Burundi civil war ,1993 -2005 ,Kosovo civil war ,1998-1999, Somali civil war , 1998 and second Libyan war in 2014.

These civil wars to work as barricade of African development. And these all things are also cause of underdevelopment. Because due to this African development process stay which discuss above.

4. Cause of Underdevelopment

European builder adopt different strategy and tactics in Africa to make money/capital through exploration ,evangelization ,colonization ,commercialization , terrorism , banditry , robbery and theft .The process of merchandizing some young African dominating and controlling trade , destroying African leadership and sovereignty through establishing colonial government and other economic recourse .When various African peoples intensified their domination , racial slavery , exploitation and later engaged in national liberation struggles . Some of empire builder increased level of terrorism to prevent the re- emergence of African sovereignty and to continue theft and robbery of African resources.

4.1 Colonial Legacy

- **Introduction of nation-state system:** European introduce the nation state system in Africa. African political system existed during the pre-slave trade and pre-colonial independence era. Origin of nation state system lie in the 1648 treaty of Westphalia which ended the thirty years war (1618-48) in Europe. When this system was grafted onto Africa. Sovereignty remained in the hands of the occupying colonial powers. Application of this system to Africa entailed the sub-division of entire continent into separate colonies with clearly defined boundaries and centralised political authorities.

- **Liquidation of the regional economies:** Aftermath of the imposition of direct colonial rule, colonial power/administrator oversaw the destruction of regional economic ties through the transformation of individual colonies into closed economic systems. Colonial administrators sought to ensure that all economic interaction within a given empire took place exclusively between the European colonial power and its individual colonies. Colonies direct supply row material to colonial powers (Britain, France, Belgium, Germany and Italy). They create dependency they have to supply only colonial powers and no any option to sell others markets.

- **Mono-crop/mono-mineral economies/fostering export- oriented:** Africa was the Trans formation of individual colonies into export-oriented economies. Africa produced one primary products desire by the European power/industries. The mono-crop economies were designed to serve as convenient and cheap source of raw materials for Europeans industry.

- **Asymmetrical infrastructure development:** The colonial railroad, telecommunication and post office were designed to haul primary products to the coast for eventual export to Europe and other geographical regions of the Europeans empire. European only developed particular area whereas they preserve own interest. The export-oriented railroad system we can see for the example, the railway running from Lobito into Angola (built in 1928) a single line running into Belgium Congo aimed at only one purposes, to access to the copper producing region of Katanga.

- **Monopolistic economic control:** Force Labour-Colonial power force to work for plantation crops, mining and constructing road and railroad. There were no care about labour health and choice. Labour have no choice they had to work any circumstance. Market board-colonial powers maintain monopolistic control over buying and selling products in each colony. Each year board set the price to be paid to farmers for a specific amount of a product. Lack of alternatives the farmers had no choice to sell other markets. Market board purchase products below prices of international market. And sell finished product higher cost in colonial authority.

4.2 Slave Trade

African economy is agricultural based economy. More than 80% population occupation based on agriculture sector. Agriculture is prominent sector of African GDP. Lack of technology mostly agricultural work were done hand. But long-term slave trade maximum young African people sent to another country for other purposes. Skill labour migrated from Africa to Europe and USA. Millions of African from their villages to be transported to the Americas and Caribbean. Colonial power exploit human resources. Due to this African agriculture process are affected because of lack of labour force.

4.3 Lack of Technology

Technology has played a major role to develop any nation. Technology raise the world's productive capacity, accelerate the growth of output and improving standard of life. Incapability of technology of African continent Africa underdevelopment African resource need modern technological resource for development.

Before colonialism, Africa designed and operated their own small-craft technology such as cloth-making, iron-smelting, black-smiting training, pottery and mining of minerals etc. all production were based on local resources. Africa brew beer and wine (palm wine, Gogoro, and burukutu) such as local resources as palm trees, coolants. But colonialism fundamental process of elimination, systematically destroyed African indigenous system.

Local technology/indigenous was displaced through competitive forces and pre-motive tactics. Africa was a pattern of development fashioned on metropolitan needs. Colonial system worked to fetter technological development in Africa. Not promote scientific and technical education. It is very little to orient Africans. Thus the European didn't create conductive atmosphere for technical and technological knowledge in Africa. Ex: - science & technology education were not encourage in African school. After independence many African countries couldn't boast any technological institution. Africa suffer from acute shortages of critical skills such as engineers, scientist, researchers, entrepreneurs and other human resources.

5.1 Structural Adjustment Programme

In the 1980s Africa was victim of the framework of IMF engaged the formulation and implementation of wide range trade policy- related economic reforms imposed by international monetary fund (IMF) and World Bank. In 1990s most African countries were require to liberalize their trade regimes. Many country reducing trade barriers by reducing tariffs and non-tariffs barriers. This was meant to open African market exportation of western. Manufactured commodities could be facilitated and reciprocal export of raw material agricultural and mineral items to cheap prices to western countries.

The ESAP project failed because it was developed with total disregard of the Cultural, Social, Political and traditional values of recipient countries. And lack of implement of development policy, Cut down social welfare expenditure (School, College, Universities, Health and other development programmes) and unstable banking system & State leader monopoly over the banking system, due to this bank had no power to take independent decision. And didn't create big industrial house for African development.

Donor framework by provides the aid/loan created the dependency problem in Africa. Structural adjustment programme was not successful and still African country under- developed.

6.1 Other Region of Underdevelopment

- Lack of institution (Education, Administration)
- Lack of economic capital
- Lack of big industry to produce lot of product to fulfil African people need and provide the cheap price product
- Crime and violence (including domestic violence)
- Corruption
- Lack of agricultural development (good quality of seeds, lack of water, techniques, and lack of best government agricultural plan).
- Lack of Accountable Government (military rule and personnel rule)

- Climate condition (Desert, rainfall)

7.1 Different approaches for African Underdevelopment

- **Modernisation approach:** Internal factor of African countries are responsible for underdeveloped. Like (Illiteracy, Traditional agrarian structure, Traditional political system, Traditional attitude of the people, low division of labour, civil wars, lack of technology & communication and infrastructure).

- **Dependency approach:** The Course of underdevelopment is the dependence on industrialize countries. Internal factor of developing nation are irrelevant. Because the development of industrialized countries and the underdevelopment of developing countries are parts of one historical process & those are interlinked. Developing countries are dependent. countries. The economic and political interest of industrialized countries determine their development or underdevelopment. Economic factor always dominating internal trade relation between countries.

- **World System approach:** This approach introduce by Emanuel Wallerstein for to analyse the world system. This approach argue that, poverty and underdevelopment of developing country like (Asia Africa & Latin America) was a direct consequence of evolution of the international political economy into a fairly rigid division of labour which favoured the rich and penalized the poor country. Because international system and international organization are formed by developed and determined the developed interest.

8. Challenges of African Development

1. African countries current economic growth rate is too low. Sub-Saharan Africa GDP per capita (at constant 2005 prices) was $ 1,03,610 in 2014. At the 1.4% Growth rate estimate for 2015. It would take Africa 50 years to double GDP per capita.

2. Most of African people are marred by poverty, hunger, poor education, ill health and violence. Poverty rate in Africa has dropped in recent years. Number of people suffering poverty keeps growing. From, 280 million in 1990 to an estimated 330 million in 2012.

3. Every year more Africans lives in urban slum, about 400 million Africans lived in cities in 2010 and 60% of those people lived in slums with no access to basic services. By 2050 that number is expected to grow to 1.26 billion.

4. Corruption, Bi reasonably democratic government in Africa has seen a rupture from corrupt and Clientelistic modes of resource distribution.

5. Lack of public-private partnership approaches for infrastructure development and import substitution measures of African countries.

6. Nearly 40% of sub-Saharan African countries are at risk of slipping into major debt crisis, according to bookings institution.

Conclusion

Africa is facing its worst food crisis. More than two out of five African adults can't read (or) write. Health outcomes are worse in Africa than anywhere else in the world. Even though life expectancy at birth has risen and chronic child malnutrition has declined since the mid.1990s. In 2016, Mali and guardian Africa collecting data from UN, the famine early warning system network (FEWS Net) and various news agencies reveals that more than 40 million people in Africa are facing food insecurity and some starvation. The continent needs at least $4.5 billion for emergency relief. Thus, we see underdevelopment and dependency are inter linked. Due to dependence African countries are underdeveloped and due to underdevelopment countries are dependence. African countries have need technological advancement for own development. Different economic power should help Africa for their development because Africa has potential for development.

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