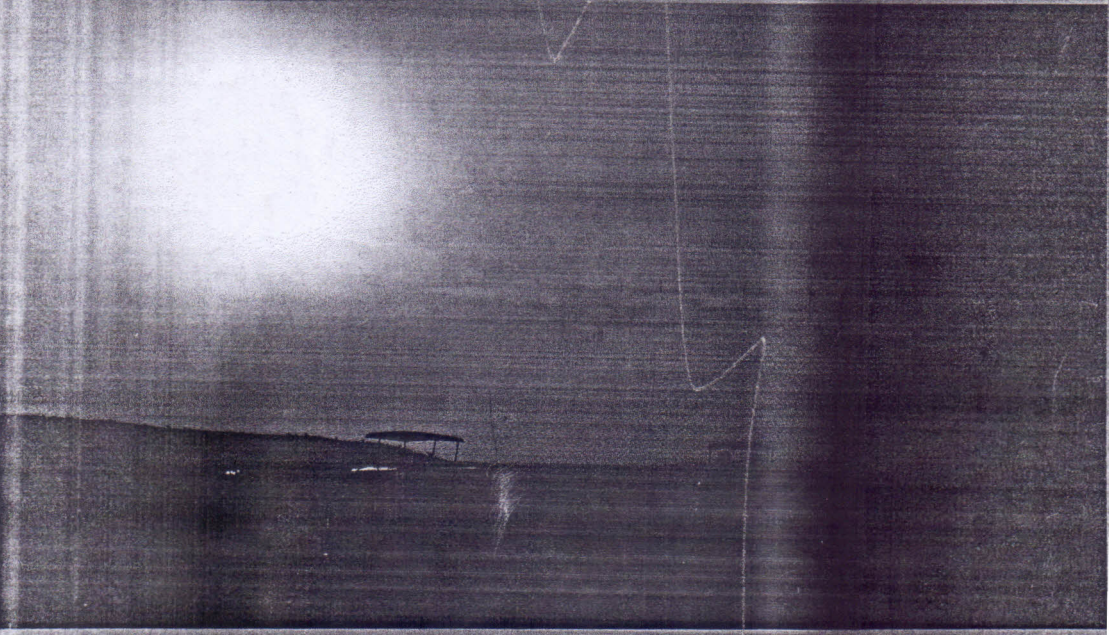


Underdevelopment, Development and the Future of Africa



**EDITED BY
Munyaradzi Mawere**

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Africa and the Remedies to the Problem of underdevelopment

Muhammed A. Yinusa; Joseph A. Oluyemi & Raji Abdullateef

Introduction

Africa is considered to be the oldest continent in the world and records some of the earliest form of civilization ever in human history even before some other continents of the world. For instance, the oldest known alphabet was developed in Africa while the first form of irrigation system was also recorded in Africa (Abu, 2015). Today, Africa is about the least developed continent on earth, some other continents like Asia and Latin America that were formerly ranked as underdeveloped in the world are fast removing their names from the league of underdeveloped nations. The problem of underdevelopment in Africa seems to linger for so long with no end in sight despite efforts and policies put in place by African governments. Many Africans still live below poverty datum line with high level of unemployment and increased mortality as a result of persistent increase in inflation and inability of government to provide jobs and adequate health facilities for the people.

African governments are characterized by corruption, nepotism, insensitivity and political instability. The common man on the street cannot boast of basic necessities of life, like good health care, staple food, portable water, housing, good roads, electricity, education and security. The cultural values are also fast being eroded across all ages while, gender inequality is still widely practised among many African countries, placing the girl-child and women on a disadvantaged position against the men thereby impeding their contribution to the development of the society (Joseph & Muhammed, 2016).

This chapter examines the primary and secondary causes of underdevelopment in Africa and the remedies to the highlighted problem in the continent. The chapter explores the continent of

Africa from pre-historic period to date and the attendant developmental stages that have evolved within the continent to date. The chapter also explored the concept of development and underdevelopment and the causes of under-development in the continent of Africa. The problems of underdevelopment found in the chapter are broadly categorized under social-cultural factors, political factors and economic factors. The dependency theory, theories of poverty and the theory of gender inequality are employed in the chapter to explain the predicaments facing the African continent.

The African continent and its historical background

Africa is the world's second-largest and second-most-populous continent in the world spanning about 30.3 million km² (11.7 million square miles) which represents 6 percent of earth's total surface area and 20.4 percent of its total land area (Sayre, 1999). The population of Africa as of 2012 was approximately 1.07 billion comprising of people living in 54 different countries and accounting for 15% of the world's population (Gudmastad, 2013; World Population, 2013). The continent is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, both the Suez Canal and the Red Sea along the Sinai Peninsula to the northeast, the Indian Ocean to the southeast, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

The history of Africa can be traced to the early period of evolution of *Homo sapiens* in East Africa evolving over the years to the present day Africa. The first history of early civilization in Africa was the *kurma civilisation* in Sudan, East Africa (Williams, 1987). Several years later, more civilization was recorded in ancient Egypt, the Sahel, the Maghreb and the Horn of Africa. During the middle Ages, Islam spread west from Arabia to Egypt, crossing the Maghreb and the Sahel. From the mid-7th century, the Arab slave trade saw Muslim Arabs enslave Africans following an armistice between the Rashidun Caliphate and the Kingdom of Makuria at the Second Battle of Dongola in 652AD. This saw African transported across the Red Sea, Indian Ocean, and Sahara desert.

In the late 15th century, Europeans joined Arabs with the Portuguese initially acquiring slaves through trade and later by force as part of the Atlantic slave trade. The Europeans transported enslaved West, Central, and South Africans overseas both east and west in the African slave trade (Slave trade, 2007). Later, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, European colonization of Africa developed rapidly in the scramble for Africa. As at this time, Africa had up to 10,000 different states and autonomous groups with distinct languages and customs before it was colonized (Meredith, 2006). These comprised of small family groups of hunter-gatherers San people of South Africa, the large Sahellian Kingdoms, and the autonomous city-states and kingdoms such as those of the Yoruba and Igbo People in West Africa, as well as the Swahili coastal people of East Africa (Mokhtar, 1990).

However, with continuous struggle for independence in many parts of the continent, coupled with the decentralization of European power in Africa after the Second World War, decolonization took place, culminating in the independence of many African countries from the mid-20th century.

The concepts of “development” and “underdevelopment”

Development has been defined by Todaro & Smith (2011) as achieving sustainable rates of growth of income per capita to enable the nation to expand its output faster than the population. Myers (1999) on the other hand defined development from the transformational perspective and considered development as a positive change in the whole of human life materially, socially and spiritually. This chapter will however consider development from social, economic and political perspectives. This is because; these three areas cover the entire human existence in the process of interaction and living in the society. Underdevelopment on the other hand can be seen as the opposite of development. Underdeveloped countries are usually characterized by a wide disparity between the rich and poor, an unhealthy balance of trade, unemployment, lack of adequate healthcare, drinkable water, food, education and housing (Frank, 2005).

African countries were tied to the apron strings of western imperial powers thereby rendering the pre-conditions necessary for the socio-economic and political transformation unachievable (Ojo, 2015). Africa during colonial time was distributed in a manner that reflected the pattern of domination and exploitation (Rodney, 1972). Through massive exploitation of African labour and resources, colonial powers created a legacy of victimization and dependency that continues today. Colonialism destroyed many people, traditions, and cultures in Africa, and rebuilt countries solely for the benefit of the colonialists themselves, and for the benefits of their counterparts in Europe and America (Bate, 2003 & Kirby, 2007).

Political Instability

The African continent has witnessed series of political instability after the departure of colonial masters ranging from military takeover to civil wars. These political disorders have widely affected the development process of Africa, thereby enhancing the underdevelopment of Africa continent (Donasco, 2015). The military takeover for instance brought about leaders who had no idea of how leadership ought to be administered for effective development. Instead, these leaders looted the revenues which would have been used for the development of the continent (Ake, 1996). Political instability has become endemic to Sub-Saharan Africa since the early 1960s, when most of the African countries began to achieve independence as more than fifty coups have taken place in the continent and has significantly affected development (Mbaku, 1988).

Cultural Practices

Culture has often been implicated in discussions on development, especially as it concerns the African continent. In some African cultures, women and men sometimes experience different opportunities, conditions and privileges; they earn different wages, do not have the same access to education and are not always equal before the law because of the long age tradition of male dominance. Culture, according to Matsumoto (1996), includes attitudes, values, beliefs, and behaviours shared by a group of people that is passed from one generation to another. Africa is said to be rich and diverse

in culture with about 3,000 ethnic groups Ebah (2014) from the Berbers of the Sahara Desert, through the prominent Maasai Mora in Kenya to the flamboyant Yoruba culture in Nigeria and down to the mysterious San in Southern Africa. However, the patriarchy family system which is being practiced in the continent for ages places value on the man over the woman. This has a significant effect on underdevelopment of the continent.

The female child for example is relegated and reduced and made a second fiddle and therefore cannot contribute productively to the development of the society. In some cultures in Africa, the girl child is given out in marriage early in life thus becoming vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections, maternal morbidity and maternal mortality. The girl child is also subjected to child labour and as such is denied of basic education at the expense of the male child thus limiting her power of productivity and contribution to the development of the African society. Statistics have it that the ratio of men to women in the world is almost at par (CIA Fact Book) therefore the cultural practice that denies the female child of education and empowerment in the society will indirectly impede the development of the society when the number of people involved is considered.

High level of illiteracy

Illiteracy can be described as the inability to read or write. Illiteracy is a problem to development and a primary cause to the problem of underdevelopment in Africa because development generally requires some level of knowledge. Learning to read and write is a fundamental human right yet, 38 percent of African adults (about 153 millions) are illiterate in which two-thirds of these are women (UNESCO, 2016). Without literacy, people are excluded from access to, and the use of, knowledge, and even from the most basic information they may need for daily life. Illiteracy limits the earning power of an individual and affects a range of other social and economic potentials of a person. Literate people are better able to access other education and employment opportunities; and, collectively, literate societies are better geared to meet development challenges (Carr-Hill, Frostell & Pessoa, 2008).

Low technological know-how

Technology is an important tool to development and is imperative to the development of any society. The technological level of a society is significant to the level of development of such society. However, despite Africa's historical abilities in science; Africa has remained behind technologically when compared to other developed continents (Moghalu, 2014). It is sad to know that 40 percent of African-born scientists currently live in OCED countries, predominantly NATO and EU countries (Gabara, 2009). More worrisome is the fact that, many African countries are import-driven with many of their products imported from other continents like Europe, America and the Asia. African countries have also become dumping grounds for used product like machines, cars, clothes because some African countries do not have what it takes to produce these goods and meet the demands of their teeming population. This absence of technological know-how is a strong challenge bedevilling the spate of development in Africa.

Corruption

According to the Transparency International (2006), corruption is defined as the abuse of entrusted power for private benefit. Corruption is a serious cancer in Africa and seems to be eating into every aspect of life and into every socio-economic group in the continent. The attempt by African countries to break the cycle of underdevelopment has been hindered by the high level of corruption in the continent. Africa is rich in natural resources but the proceeds from the sales of these natural resources to other countries are mismanaged by African leaders through corrupt process (Owolabi, 2014).

Tiamiyu (2005) has argued that political leadership in Africa is synonymous to dictatorship characterized by insensitivity and corruption. Prince (2016) has also contended that, the corruption level of many African leaders is beyond imagination. Prince (2016) further stated that, the continent's resources are personalized by African leaders at the expense of the people. According to Ebegbulem (2012), corruption has tragically devastated African societies and made millions of people destitute. Policy experts and

other international agencies have however ranked public sector corruption or the use of public office for personal gain, as a major constraint that has hindered Africa's economic, political, and social development (Klitgaard, 1998; Gray & Kaufmann, 1998, Mauro, 1995 &, 1998; & Vogl 1998, 2004).

Civil unrest

Peace and security are prerequisites for development and all human beings aspire and deserve them yet, for the last three decades some African countries have hardly enjoyed internal peace and security. African countries have fallen victim to political unrest and civil wars for various reasons throughout their development as a result of fight for resources, colonization, and foreign influence (King and Laurence, 2005). Unfortunately, whenever conflict occurs, the development of the society is seriously affected. According to Wanyande (1997), the costs of conflicts in Africa in terms of loss of human life and property, and the destruction of social infrastructure are enormous. For example, between 1998 and 2002, some four million people died in the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Report of the Commission for Africa, 2005). Besides, during conflict, scarce resources were inevitably diverted to the purchase of military equipment at the expense of socio-economic development.

Many countries in Africa like Nigeria, Sudan and Liberia have suffered from civil war that have led to the death of many and displacement of many from their homes while others have witnessed religious and tribal unrest that have left many dead. In the recent time the civil unrest that occurred in Northern Africa and the civil unrest caused by Boko Haram in North Eastern part of Nigeria and some part of Cameroun, Niger and Chard have left many communities in the region deserted and underdeveloped (Awortu, 2015).

Foreign aid and loans

One of the problems bedevilling Africa is sourcing of foreign loan and aids. The International Monetary Fund loans to countries especially African countries have shown negative impact on growth, but this has probably more to do with the receivers of the loans than the loans themselves (Easterly, 2008). According to Moyo (2009),

someone will always lend money to the poor meaning that the flood of money towards African countries is not likely to stop. The problem is that, borrowing from such international organizations perpetuates further slavery on Africa countries because of the past forgiving of unpaid aid/debt (Easterly 2008). The conditions that are attached to such loans continually make African countries to be dependent on the world powers which further impeded the development of Africa.

Infrastructural decay

There is massive infrastructural decay in many African countries that has affected negatively the development of the continent. Infrastructure is the basic physical and organizational structures needed for the operation of a society like industries, buildings, roads, bridges, health services, governance and so on. It is also the enterprise or the products, services and facilities necessary for an economy to function (Sullivan and Sheffrin, 2003). It is the means of achieving an objective or set of objectives and also includes the objectives. It is an important term for judging a country, region or state's and individual's developments/status. The term typically refers to the technical structures that support a society, such as roads, water supply, sewers, electrical national grids, telecommunications, and so forth, and can be defined as the physical components of interrelated systems providing commodities and services essential to enable, sustain, or enhance societal living conditions (Fulmer, 2009). These basic infrastructures are lacking and are in shambles in many African countries therefore, development becomes a mirage.

Brain drain syndrome

The migration of highly trained professionals out of Africa, often called brain drain or brain loss, has left many countries in the continent short of the skills needed to meet the demands of development. Africa daily loses her best academics, scientists, doctors, nurses, accountants, and other sought-after professionals, through brain drain, into other richer countries. This trend seems to be a continuous issue without any end in sight. According to Olumide & Ukpere (2012), brain drain of professionals from Africa is caused

by economic factors, socio-political factors and even personal reasons. It costs the countries of the continent massive amount of resources and time to train these professionals who eventually migrate through the brain drain drift. In Nigeria for example as at the year 2010, the number of Nigerian trained doctors practicing in the United States and the United Kingdom stood at 2,392 and 1,529 respectively leaving the ratio of doctor to patient in Nigeria at 39 per 100,000 people (Ogbom-Egbulem, 2010). This in no doubt will lead to underdevelopment in the health sector and ultimately the country.

Malaria and emerging diseases

Under-development in Africa can also be traceable to the incidence of Malaria and emerging diseases like Ebola and Lassa fever and HIV/AIDS that have their origin in Africa. This has reduced foreign investments in the region because of the fear of contacting these diseases. It is believed that malaria and other infectious diseases have fatal as well as debilitating effects on the human population in Africa. It negatively influences productivity, savings, and investment and directly affects economic performance of the continent (Bloom & Sachs 1998; Gallup & Sachs 2001) According to Bloom and Sachs (1998), the high incidence of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa reduces the annual growth rate of the continent by 1.3% a year and eradication of malaria in the 1950s would have resulted into a doubling of per capita income from what exists today. There are indications also that, HIV originated from Africa Gallagher (2014) and that higher incidence of HIV is found in Africa when compared to other continents (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS, 2012). It is also believed that other emerging diseases like Lassa fever and Ebola that originated from Africa which would also discourage foreign investors as a result of fear.

Socio-cultural problems of underdevelopment

Poverty

Poverty is a multifaceted concept, which includes social, economic, and political elements (Ricardo, 2008). Poverty may be defined as either absolute or relative. Absolute poverty refers to the

lack of means necessary to meet basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter while relative poverty takes into consideration individual social and economic status compared to the rest of society (UNESCO, 2016). Poverty is endemic in Africa; 75% percent of the world's poorest countries are located in Africa, including Zimbabwe, Liberia and Ethiopia (The Borgen Project, 2014). For the past two years, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa's second largest country, has also been ranked the poorest in the world with a Gross Domestic Product (based on purchasing-power-parity) of \$394.25 in 2013 (Pactor, 2014). South Saharan Africa is afflicted by many forms of poverty. Africa is said to be the poorest region in the world with 28 of the 31 low human-development countries found in Africa (UNDP, 2006).

Insecurity

Another problem of underdevelopment in Africa is insecurity. The rate of insecurity in Africa is becoming increasingly high because the youth that constitute a high percentage of the population of Africa are either under employed or unemployed. Africa has the fastest growing and most youthful population in the world (MDGs in Africa, 2012). There are 200million people in Africa between 15 and 24 years of age which represents about 20% of the world population (Awosusi, 2012). Unemployed youth are therefore readily available for anti-social criminal activities that undermine the stability of society as a result of under development of the continent. People engage in violence, robbery, kidnapping and other social vices in order to be able to meet their needs (Shaw & Mckay 1972; Messner & Rosenfeld 1994; Odumosu 1999; Igbo 2007).

Child labour

One of the problems of underdevelopment in Africa is the issue of child labour. Child labour refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives them of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful (International Labour Organisation, 2012). In 2010, Africa recorded the highest incidence rates of child labour, with several African nations witnessing over 50

percent of children aged 5–14 working as child labourers (UNICEF, 2012). Many poor families in Africa trade their children especially the girl-child for child labour as a source of earning income. Many of these young girls are given out early in life and are denied of education. Sometimes they are subjected to maltreatment and exposed to rape, sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy.

Human trafficking

Human trafficking is the trade of humans for money especially for the purpose of sexual slavery, forced labour, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others (Amnesty International, 2009 and UNODC, 2011) Human trafficking is predominant in Africa as a result of hardship experienced by Africans in their home land. Many Africans especially women are exported to Europe and other developed continents to make money. Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery in which several African countries, such as Mauritania, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Sudan are some of the world's leading countries where modern slavery is rife. According to Jurist (2015), African countries account for 15 of the top twenty countries in the world that engage in this modern day slavery.

Economic problems of underdevelopment in Africa

Import dependent for manufactured goods

Underdeveloped countries do not exist in isolation; they can only be understood in the context of the world economies. They depend on importation for equipment, capital goods, and the bulk of their consumer goods, know-how and technology. By the 1980s only five countries (Benin, Sierra Leone, Morocco, Senegal and Zimbabwe) had diversified export bases (Okigbo, 1993). Primary production still dominates sub-Saharan Africa's exports (Saul & Leys, 1999). The economies of many African countries are heavily dependent on the export of one or two commodities. As a result they are more susceptible to the vagaries of world price changes and other external

shocks than more diversified economies (Mkandawire & Soludo, 1999).

Deficit balance of payment

Underdeveloped countries are producing and exporting the primary commodities while they also import the finished and capital goods. In the international market the prices of raw material are very low while the prices of capital goods are high. So balance of payment remains unfavourable, due to this reason. Nigeria for instance export crude oil to the oil market and import finished products like petrol, diesel and kerosene which could not be produced in the country because the refineries are not working to full capacity to meet the demands of the people. This would in turn lead to deficit balance of payment.

Mass unemployment

In Africa, the rate of unemployment is very high especially among the youth who are very productive because of their age. According to data from the International Labour Organization (ILO) in sub-Saharan Africa, the youth unemployment rate hovers around 12 percent. The African region has the world's highest rate of working poverty, that is, people who are employed but earning less than US\$2 a day (African Centre for Economic Transformation, 2016). This brings untold hardship to the young population as a result of not being able to meet their daily needs and afford basic necessities of life which may result to crime and other social vices like kidnapping, robbery in order for them to make ends meet.

Unequal distribution of wealth

It is an important feature of under developed economy. The gap between the rich and the poor is often very wide in many African countries. The rich enjoy the basic necessities of life and the luxury of life because they can afford them while the poor wallow in abject poverty. According to Kenneded (2015) the wealth of many African nations are in the coffers of political leaders while many in some countries suffer gut-wrenching poverty. Kenneded (2015) contended further that in, Democratic Republic of Congo for instance, over 50 percent of the population live below the datum line, surviving on less

than a dollar a day while in Nigeria, despite being one of the top oil producing countries in the world with an estimated oil revenues in excess of US\$74 billion per year, the country is known as the power generator capital of the world, where half of the country's homes do not have electricity supply and an estimated 60 million residents use generators.

Political problems of underdevelopment in Africa

Unusual desire for political power

There is an unusual desire for political position in Africa. Politicians will do everything to get to power and when they get there they sometimes do not want to leave. Most African leaders take their position as an opportunity to amass as much wealth as they can to increase their influence among ignorant citizens which is gathered through dubious means and often atrocities are committed in their pursuit for massive wealth (Messo, 2015). General Sanni Abacha of Nigeria for instance ruled Nigeria for almost five years Paden (2005) and was reluctant to leave power until he was caught up with death (BBC News, 1998). Also, Colonel Muamar Ghadaffii ruled Libya for almost forty two years and did not want to leave power until he was forcefully ejected by the people Kafala (2011) while Robert Mugabe is still ruling Zimbabwe for about three decades now.

Poor government policies

African leaders are sometimes to blame for the predicament the continent finds itself. This is as a result of bad choices sometimes made by African rulers. Research has shown that, countries can grow their economies and develop faster if leaders take sound decisions in the national interest (Mills, 2010). He attributed the problem of development to the political elite, which benefits from the status quo.

Insensitive government decisions

Government do not operate in isolation, they are responsible to the people they govern; therefore they need to consider the people and their feelings before making major decisions in Africa. Often times the decisions that affect the common man on the street are not

negotiated with the people before they are made. The common man on the street is sometimes not consulted before major decision like foreign loans that affect them are taken. In Nigeria for example, the pump price of petrol is often increased without due consultation with the people and also putting the people's plight into consideration (Sahara Reporters, 2016). This should not however be the case, the feelings and opinion of the people should be considered when such decisions are to be made.

Human rights abuse

Human right abuses have been noted in many African countries where political leaders do not want people to question their authority. Even in some democratic societies in the region, human rights are sometimes not respected.

Remedies to the problems of underdevelopment in Africa

Respect for humanity

One of the greatest impediments to development in Africa is the lack of respect for humanity. Human rights and human dignity are sometimes grossly abused and undermined among Africans. Political leaders embezzle funds meant for developmental projects that would better the lot of the masses and would convert such funds to private use (Tiarniyu (2005) because they care less about others. While millions of people are suffering because they could not afford the basic necessities of life The Borgen Project (2014), very few are wallowing in wealth and stashing such fund in foreign bank without caring about the common man. Therefore, for meaningful development to take place in Africa there would be need for Africans to have respect for humanity and the feelings of the common man should also be a priority of the government.

Technological advancement

In order to develop Africa, there is need for massive technological advancement (Sidee, 2015). There would be a need for industrial revolution where almost everyone is a producer of something. Government should encourage technical education and

the establishment of more technological schools. Government should also give grants for massive research in technological innovations and encourage people to go into inventions. Furthermore, Government should create an enabling environment for technological innovations to thrive by granting financial aids to support Africans who are interested in moving the continent forward through technological innovation. The African society should also prioritize technology beyond all other disciplines so that people can be encouraged to go into it.

Mass literacy

Africa is backward today because many Africans are not literate and therefore cannot read or write (UNESCO, 2016). In order for Africa to be in the fore-front and a continent to be reckoned with in the world, mass literacy should be massively encouraged. Government should encourage mass literacy programmes for the teeming population especially those in the rural areas where majority of the African people live. It is important for all Africans to be literate. This will serve as the basis for education either formal or informal. Therefore, government and relevant agents should see it as a matter of urgency to embark on mass literacy programmes that will liberate many Africans from the problem of illiteracy.

Education for all

Education is key to development, it must not just be seen as a right for all but must be implemented as such. Education is imperative to the development of any society. It is education that determines the character and pace of economic and social development (Torado, 1975 & Riak, 1987). It is one of the most important creations of man on earth which has the power to change lives and bring development globally. Education bestows on an individual a disposition for lifelong acquisition of knowledge, values, attitudes, competence and skills relevant to the rapid socio-economic development of any society (Nussbaum, 2003). Education is, therefore, key to the development of Africa and equal opportunity should be given to the male and female gender for optimal benefit.

Gender equality

The earlier Africans close the gap between male and female gender, the better for the development of the continent. One of the greatest challenge facing the development of Africa as a continent is the age long disparity between men and women (The African Development Forum, 2008). Patriarchy is widely practiced in many societies in Africa where the male child is held above the female child because the male child continues with the family name when the parents die. Women are seen as baby machines and keepers of the home while the male child is allowed to go to school and work. Since the ratio of men to women in the world is almost equal CIA Fact Book, (2013), denying women from being productive would massively reduce the productive population and the productivity of such society. It will therefore be imperative for Africans to begin to see the potentials in women and recognise that women could be of immense benefits to the society.

Open and accountable government

Many African leaders are not open and accountable to the people they govern (Wangari, 1995). Political holders and the government in Africa should be open and accountable to the people they govern if Africa must join the league of developed continents. Africans holding political positions and offices should be open and must bear in mind that they would give an account of their position to their people. This will serve as a check on African leaders and serve as a guide against corruption and other activities that may be against the wish of the people which may impede development in the continent.

Cultural re-orientation

The African culture though diverse and rich needs re-orientation. Any cultural practice that is harmful to development should be eradicated if Africa must develop. The cultural practice where women are placed a second fiddle and are limited to homes to raise children and take care of the family alone without adding meaningful value to the development of the society should be discouraged. Although men

can still be regarded by culture as the head to maintain order in the family, relegating the women and not making them productive to the society will continue to impede the development of the Africa society (Enaibe, 2012). More women should also be involved in politics and decision making in African countries than ever before. Women's voice should be heard and should not be denied quality education so as to tap into their potentials for the development of Africa.

Value change

There is need for a paradigm shift in what Africans count as desirable and crave for if Africa must experience a quantum leap in development. Accumulation of wealth through corrupt practices should be seriously discouraged. Adopting values like contentment, integrity, good name and having only what you need and not what you want will go a long way in making Africa a better place. According to Adusei (2009), many tax payers' money is starched abroad in foreign banks by some African leaders which could have been channelled towards developmental projects that would benefit the common man and the society at large. Therefore, value change is imperative if Africa must develop and enlist herself among the league of developed continents.

Improved export drive

Many African countries are import driven as a result of infrastructural decay (Kingombe, 2011). This may result in deficit balance of payment due to the weakening of local currencies and as such leading to chronic inflation in the economy. In addition, Africans should also embrace home made goods and discontinue craving after foreign goods. Apart from concentrating on production of goods and exporting them abroad, Africa can also concentrate on other industries like tourism, for example medical tourism, where African countries would deliberately promote their health care system to attract foreign patients. Some Asian countries like Taiwan and India have since dived into this and have contributed immensely to the developing of their health system and their countries (Hamid, 2012; The Economic Times, 2015). Therefore, it would be important

for the African countries to increase their export drive, if meaningful development will be recorded in Africa.

Religious and tribal tolerance

Africans should endeavour to tolerate their different religious faiths as well as tribal roots. Everyone should see their fellow men as their one Africa not minding their religious affiliation or even their ethnic background. This will help to avert religious problems and tribal wars that are found in several places in the continent. This is because conflict and civil unrest will always impede the development of any society (Wanyande, 1997).

Conclusion

Africa is a land blessed with many natural resources yet Africans wallow in poverty and the continent has remained underdeveloped when compared to other continents despite the fact that civilization began from the continent. This chapter has been able to explore underdevelopment in Africa tracing its origin from earliest civilization to the current post-independent Africa. The chapter was able to examine the primary and secondary causes of underdevelopment in Africa as well as the problems and remedies to the problems of underdevelopment in the continent. Some of the remedies to the problems of underdevelopment pointed out in the chapter include: Respect for humanity, technological advancement, gender equality, open and accountable government, cultural re-orientation, value change, and export promotion. It is believed that Africa can be a better place and rank well with other developed continents like America and Europe if these remedies given are fully adopted.

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