

C O M M E N T

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I read Dr. Alila's paper and listened to his report carefully. I was much interested in the topic of your paper, that is, the role of the institution-building at local level for development.

I am not an expert of Kenya but was a visiting research fellow at the Institute for Development Studies in University of Nairobi a quarter century ago and at that time I studied on the one-million acre settlement scheme in former white highland and the land consolidation and registration in African communal area. I have a small but old experience in rural Kenya.

Dr. Alila says in his paper as follows; "rural sector was ignored. ... [N]ational development needs to be viewed in total terms and not partially i.e. one sector or one region."(p.47) "... [T]here was a shift of concern from economic growth to the problem of economic development. The latter had agricultural development in particular and rural development generally as its key components." (p.48-49) "Development can ... be defined as a deliberately planned action, designed to fundamentally alter the economic and social structures ..." (p.50). I quite agree to these remarks.

After that, Dr. Alila points out the important role of institutions in the social, political and economic dimensions of development (p.51), and says, "... key issues in institutional development such as participation and sustainability" have long been neglected until recently (p.53), showing three case studies in Kenya: (1) African Smallholder Credit, (2) Harambee self-help

activities and (3) Irrigation Agriculture. It seems to me that these case studies are based on his own fieldwork.

Then, I would like to raise two comments on his paper.

First, Dr. Alila, as a political scientist, emphasized the local level institution-building in rural Kenya for development.

Please allow me to speak of my experience of the field work on Ujamaa villages in rural Tanzania early '70s briefly. Under the regime of President Nyerere, Ujamaa villages were propelled in rural Tanzania. The branches of Tanzania African National Union (TANU), the ruling party, penetrated into rural area and TANU set up ten cells and mukutano (villagers' assembly) as the institutions in Ujamaa village. Unfortunately, many Ujamaa villages were built by top-down, not bottom-up. Consequently, Ujamaa village policy has failed several years later.

I think there were several reasons for it. Among them I would like to point out three main reasons for it; (1) the shortage of personnel who can manage the institution; (2) the lack of money which is able to buy the agricultural inputs, and; (3) the lack of the will of villagers who want to participate in their cooperative work voluntarily and positively. This experience leads me to conclude that only institution-building is not enough to promote development. In other word, the institution-building is a necessary condition but not a sufficient condition.

Secondly, Dr. Alila points out the advantages only of institution-building for development in African rural area, but I think he should also refer to its disadvantages. As for the problem of institution-building, I have a few questions as follows:

- 1) Is the coordination among different institutions going well?
- 2) Is there no nepotism between management personnel and peasants?
- 3) Is there no shortage of management personnel for the institution in Kenya?
- 4) As for the large irrigation scheme in Kenya, how did the government distribute the lands to peasants? Is there no inadequacy in distribution?