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**Role of Natives in Diaspora and Africa Development. A
Critical Literature Review**



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Role of Natives in Diaspora and Africa Development. A Critical Literature Review

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Abstract

Purpose: Diaspora matters have consistently attracted attention of many global actors. Today, many international organizations, as well as continental, regional and national entities, engage with their diaspora across the globe. The overall objective of this study was to examine role of natives in diaspora and Africa development. A critical literature review

Methodology: The paper used a desk study review methodology where relevant empirical literature was reviewed to identify main themes and to extract knowledge gaps.

Findings: This study concluded that relevant Governments are crucial and instrumental in promoting meaningful contributions by the diaspora towards economic development of homeland. Therefore, the government was required to increase her involvement through various ways to encourage the participation of stakeholders as well as building an enabling environment for diaspora abroad to increase their contributions towards the economic development. It was incumbent upon the government to create a strict investor environment and level playing ground regulations as well as the rule of law for the diaspora abroad aimed at promoting their participation in the economic development of the country.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Policy and Practice: This study recommended that there was a need to establish diaspora database to include diaspora geographic distribution, mapping out of diaspora economic activities, investment flows, diaspora skills, and competencies. The database should also include annual economic trends especially regarding African diaspora contributions towards Africa economic development. The information from the database would inform definite plans for adequate engagement with diaspora as well as harness their contributions. There was need to deploy and embrace new technologies, particularly, digital technologies that facilitate increased social networks, connectivity, and timely information sharing. The new technologies would create a platform where all stakeholders in diaspora matters would interact more freely as they share their experiences and thoughts.

Keywords: *Role, Natives, Diaspora, Africa Development.*

INTRODUCTION

The impact of the diaspora on the economic development of a country is strongly felt in areas of trade, investments, and remittances as well as the transfer of skills, knowledge, and network sharing. On trade matters, strong correlations exist between trade ties to the country of the diasporas origin and the presence of a diaspora residing in a country (Plaza, 2013). Migrants facilitate bilateral trade and investments flows by matching producers on consumer goods in one country within appropriate distributors in other and assemblers with the right component suppliers (Gould, 2020). The facilitation by diaspora shows how diasporas provide market intelligence where information about consumer goods from reliable producers in their countries of origin is often shared with distributors and suppliers in host countries and vice versa.

One of the studies carried out in the 1980-92 period on Canada's trade with 136 partner countries revealed that there was a 10 percent increase in trade occasioned by immigration from a particular country (Head and Ries, 2018). Also, there was a 1 percent increase in exports to that country and a 3 percent increase in imports from it (Head and Ries, 2018). Similar studies were carried out in the United Kingdom and trading partners, and of American States' exports to 28 countries of origin (Head and Ries, 2018). In both cases, strong links between the presence of diaspora and increased trade were found (Girma and Zhihao, 2022). Many diaspora populations consume products of goods and services from their countries of origin. In so doing, they introduce products to the host countries and as such, create a marketing strategy for goods and services from their home countries. In El Salvador, for example, the diaspora's use traditional products from El Salvador, and these products account for almost 10 percent of the country's total exports (Orozco, 2013). From this discussion, therefore, it is evident that diasporas act as marketing agents and often relied upon to introduce goods and services to new markets which are familiar. On investment matters, diasporas play a dual role in investment, both investing directly in their countries of origin and persuading non-diaspora investors to do the same (Newland and Plaza, 2017).

A study by the World Bank mapped the stock of African migrants in Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries against investment from their countries of origin and found an unyielding indication that the existence of migrant networks increases both direct investment and portfolio investment (Leblang, 2020). Diaspora networks provide information about investment opportunities as well as information regarding potential investors. Since they have the advantage of information regarding home countries, there is a high possibility of trust by potential investors and high likelihood to use their advantageous position and networks to influence Foreign Direct Investments. Studies by the World Bank have found strong indications of increased direct investment and portfolio investment in the presence of diaspora networks (Sørensen, 2014). However, there have been no studies to show the relationship between the presence of Kenyan Diaspora in Sweden and economic development of Kenya. Diaspora investments are particularly essential to economies that have not yet earned the trust of foreign investors (Sørensen, 2014). Also, diaspora members who reach higher levels and thereby obtain more responsibility in corporations can be in a position where they can steer foreign investments

to their country where they know the culture, language and business networks well (Newland and Plaza, 2013).

A consortium of business, academic and immigrants led organizations in the United States, and Peru is also collaborating on an initiative they hope will assist small-business entrepreneurs in both countries (The Associated Press, 2019). Business incubators become platforms of information and skills transfer as well as experience sharing. Such platforms nurture ideas necessary to open up opportunities based on available environmental factors. India is an excellent example of the role played by diasporas in promoting global industries and the observation that diasporas sometimes do not wait for the government policy to be perfect before taking initiatives. Most people may be aware of the role of the Indian diaspora in the development of the Indian information technology sector led by the success of Indian engineers and entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley (Saxenian, 2016). Savings from diasporas create a critical monetary base which when invested prudently, offer significant transformation of the country's economy.

Migrants and diaspora members often have sustained savings, and these funds could have an impact on development in the country of origin (Newland and Plaza, 2021). Diaspora members can act as facilitators for the development of capital markets in their countries of origin by diversifying the investor base, introducing financial products and providing reliable sources of funding (Plaza and Ratha, 2021). Economic institutions are essential as they influence the structure of economic incentives in society as well as help to allocate resources to their most efficient uses (Sørensen, 2014). Economic institutions are inclusive when they allow and encourage the participation of many people in economic activities that make the best use of their knowledge and skills as well as enable individuals to make the choices they wish (Sørensen, 2014). However, little information exists regarding the existence of business incubators and platforms of information and skills transfer as well as experience sharing to promote contributions made by the Kenyan diaspora in Sweden towards Kenya's economic development. The World Bank calculates that Diasporas originating in developing countries have savings that amounted to almost USD 400 billion in 2009- an amount roughly equal to remittance flows (Newland and Plaza, 2019).

States such as Israel, India, Ethiopia, and Kenya issued bonds designed mainly for the diaspora market, that has been relatively quite successful in raising money from the diaspora. In Israel's case, the USD 25 million raised was designated for the infrastructure projects. India's first diaspora bond issue helped stave off a balance of payments crisis after the imposition of sanctions following her first nuclear test; India's two bond issues raised 11 billion USD (Newland and Plaza, 2019). Migrant remittances are the most tangible and least controversial link between migration and development (Ratha and Shaw, 2017). Migrants from developing countries sent at least 401 billion USD in remittances to their countries in 2010 (Plaza and Ratha, 2019). Remittances could be relatively stable, but may also be countercyclically on the economic cycle of the recipient country (Plaza and Ratha, 2011). Remittances remain an essential resource flow for exceeding official development assistance as well as private debt and portfolio equity (Plaza and Ratha, 2019).

The Philippines, Mexico, India, and China remain the largest recipients of migrant remittances. However, smaller developing countries like Tajikistan, Liberia, Kyrgyz Republic, Lesotho, and

Moldova receive a more significant portion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Plaza and Ratha, 2018). Remittances directly reduce poverty of Kenyan families with diaspora ties, offering a vital lifeline for millions of people and a dominant driver of shared prosperity. Evidence from Latin America, Africa, South Asia and other regions suggest that remittances indirectly stimulate economic activity as well as reduce the depth and severity of poverty (Plaza and Ratha, 2019). For example, remittances appear to have reduced the share of poor people in the population by 11 percent in Uganda and 5 percent in Ghana (Plaza and Ratha, 2011).

The global remittance market is undergoing a significant structural change with the increasing popularity of mobile phone and internet-based remittances (Plaza and Ratha, 2011). There have been cases of collective remittances where several diaspora groups have begun to contribute financial and non-financial resources to homeland countries, although large-scale investments have not yet emerged (Plaza and Ratha, 2011). Organizations have been created in Europe, the United States of America, Canada and some other countries where such organisations pool resources to support their villages or friends. In some cases, they send funds for development purposes such as constructing a school, providing supplies to schools or hospitals, helping orphans and training new migrants arriving in the destination country (Plaza and Ratha, 2019).

A widespread view among critics of the development potential of remittances is that generally, remittances are not intended to serve as investments, but more of social insurance to cover their necessities (Barajas et al., 2019). Critics stress that for economic remittances to be utilised for investments, it will require a better understanding of the impact that it has on the recipients' lives as well as strong institutions to help make the most of the money they receive (Barajas et al., 2019). In the context of Kenya, little studies exist to show flow and impact of remittances by Kenyan Diaspora in Sweden in Kenya's economic development. There are different types of diaspora knowledge networks (Saxenian, 2016).

Scientists and Research and Development networks provide knowledge, mentoring expertise and finance (Venture Capital). Professional and business networks are regional or local networks of skilled diaspora members located in larger cities (Saxenian, 2016). For instance, associations of Chinese and Indian immigrant scientists and engineers exchange information and collaborative in Research and Development projects with scientists in their countries of origin (Saxenian, 2022). Professional Organizations are most often non-profit organizations consisting of legal, medical, academic, and IT professionals which primary goal is networking and advancement for the members (Johnson, 2017). However, a large part of these organizations have created philanthropic programs that provide contributions such as knowledge and skills, which may be an essential aspect for diaspora contribution in some countries (Johnson, 2017).

The knowledge networks of the diaspora especially involving professionals often become catalysts for economic development as well as platforms for transformation. From the discussions, most of the developed states have strong diaspora associations abroad directly involved in making invaluable contributions towards the economic development of their countries of origin. The contributions range from trade, investments, and businesses as well as funds, skills, knowledge and network transfers. Most of the diaspora from African states are gradually becoming involved

in the economic development of their home countries. Accordingly, the Kenyan Diaspora Investment Forum, with support from government and the private sector, encourage investment in the country, including philanthropy, from the diaspora (Carson, 2017).

For a long time, there has been an overemphasis on diaspora remittances to homeland countries prompting many researchers as well as institutions to devote their efforts towards this phenomenon. Ngetich opines that the diaspora has made immense 20 contributions to Kenya's development (Ngetich, 2014). The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) estimates the remittances were KSh 54.5 billion in 2010 while the World Bank projects these to be Ksh 150 billion annually and the Kenyan diaspora organization abroad estimated the figure to be KSh 220 billion (Ngetich, 2011). These statistics demonstrate the untapped Diaspora resource which if pursued has potential to steer growth towards development (GoK, 2014). The fastest growing economies globally tend to aggressively pursue government policies that fully integrate their Diaspora communities in economic development programs. From the discussions by Newland and Plaza (2019), countries like Israel, China, Indonesia, and India have successfully mobilized, reconnected and gathered their highly skilled expatriate communities with their mother countries.

Diaspora from these States presents an impressive and advanced model of contributions to their homeland economic development. However, most African governments, as well as Kenyan government, are perceived by some scholars as late comers in the quest to introduce similar synergistic programs which aggressively involve the diaspora. It is inevitable that contributions for the economic development of a country by diasporas go beyond the traditional perception of remittances. Diaspora institutions may, in addition to providing opportunities for diaspora to channel financial donations to their communities of origin, also give them a chance to direct knowledge and experience without the need to be physically present (Sørensen, 2014). An excellent example of this is the Chilean internet-based talent network for innovation called ChileGlobal, which seeks to facilitate and promote the development of critical economic clusters in Chile (Newland and Plaza, 2018).

Statement of the Problem

The diaspora abroad has over the years made some effort in contributing to the economic development agenda of the country. They did this through voluntary visits, personal initiatives for investments, sending of remittances and also contributing towards social projects as well as engaging in the transfer of knowledge and experiences. However, the government had not been able to realize their objective of fully tapping into the valuable resources of the diaspora. The existing data on the number and type of human capital of natives living and working abroad was inconsistent and lacked adequate information regarding their annual remittances as well as trade and investment inflows. This inconsistency made it difficult for proper national planning, budgeting, and involvement of the diaspora in the economic development of the country. The Diaspora received little recognition as a possible resource for accelerated national development. Also, there was low engagement, promotion, integration and mainstreaming of diaspora abroad towards Africa economic growth through ministries of foreign affairs despite presence of the diaspora policy documented in 2014. The coordination of strategies in the Diaspora policy

appeared ineffective and had many institutional deficiencies. This situation made it hard for the government to tap into the human and economic capital, skills, knowledge, and networks of diaspora abroad. This study will therefore examine role of natives in diaspora and Africa development. A critical literature review

Objective of the Study

The overall objective of this study was to examine role of natives in diaspora and Africa development. A critical literature review.

Significance of the Study

This study was of the essence to both the academic and policy fronts. Hardly did any of the existing literature on diaspora contributions to national development attempt to analyze the role of natives in diaspora and Africa development. The study, therefore, enriched the existing literature on relations between diaspora and economic development by adding knowledge to the subject matter. Further to this, subsequent researchers in this area of study or related fields could benefit from the findings of the study to enrich the knowledge on the topic. This study reinforced case-specific details into the existing literature. Secondly, the study findings may assist the Government through the ministries of foreign affairs in the formulation of strategies and policies aimed at better integrating, mainstreaming, and increasing the contributions of diaspora abroad.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

This study will benefit from the constructivist theory.

The term 'constructivism' is associated with Alexander Wendt, Nicholas Onuf, Richard K. Ashley, Friedrich Kratochwil, John Ruggie, and Christian Reus-Smit as significant proponents of the theory. This term alludes to the fact that people and 38 societies construct, or constitute, each other (Onuf, 1989). According to Wendt (1999), constructivism is a structural theory of the international system. The theory claims that states are the principal units of analysis for international political theory. The theory further claims that key structures in the state's system are intersubjective rather than material; and state identities and interests are an essential part constructed by these social structures, rather than given exogenously to the system by human nature (as neorealist maintain) or domestic politics. For constructivists, the concept of "identity" matters a great deal as it plays a crucial part in interpersonal and international interactions (Wendt, 1999). Wendt (1999) treats it as a subjective property of intentional actors that generates motivational and behavioural dispositions, and which is rooted in their self-understanding.

The study applies the discussions of Alexander Wendt to understand the Diaspora as actors of similar identity regarding persons who share some characteristics in behavioural traits, attitudes, values, skills, language, knowledge, opinions, experience, and historical commonalities like culture and place of birth. Wendt (1999) posits that collective identity formation makes use of the role and type identities, but also transcends from merging self and other actors into a single identity. Wendt (1999) further states that actors define the welfare of the other as part of that of the Self and thus behave altruistically. It is further adapted to assess the contributions made by the Kenyan diaspora in Sweden towards Kenya's economic development. The Diaspora is the most

significant actor capable of linking international and internal policy areas to each other and of broadening the internal policy concept (Shain and Barth 2003). The national identities based on shared history, culture, and language are one of the essential determinants holding diaspora together. It is claimed that extended family relations, in particular, have a critical role in the transfer of the national identity to new generations (Miller and Miller, 1996).

The most emphasized point regarding identities is their changing, fluid, and sometimes imposing nature. According to Foucault (2011), discourses establish identities. Diaspora and bilateral relations overlapping of the state boundaries and nation are expected for the formation of national identities (Doty, 1996). Since diaspora is in an international arena; it would not lose its role of being a non-state actor. Constructivism makes it easier to understand and explain the identitybased activities of the diaspora. Secondly, diaspora should be capable of influencing foreign policy. At the same time, if the home state is open to external interference or relies on another country politically or economically, the diaspora may become more willing and able to affect the foreign policy of the home state.

According to constructivists, the state is a social actor (Wendt, 1999). In the international system, states are not assumed to be solely goal-driven, rational actors, seeking utility maximization but are rule-driven role-players seeking identity expression and governed by the logic of appropriateness (Wendt, 1999). Further to this, constructivists opine that national interest is a variable majorly influenced by national identity. This identity is a variable shaped by international and domestic forces (Wendt, 1999). George and Keohane (1980) illustrate three categories of national interests described as life, liberty and property and a fourth category, called collective self-esteem. These interests may differ from state to state by their type, role, and collective identities, but their underlying needs are common to all and whose fulfillment is necessary if countries are to reproduce themselves as corporate entities. George and Keohane (1980) posit that the third national interest is economic wellbeing which is achieved by the appropriate and efficient maintenance of the mode of production in a state, a society and by extension, the state's resource base.

Wendt (1999) explains that unlike many international relations scholars who assume economic growth as essential for states, this depends on modes of production within states and, more broadly, state forms, like the capitalist, and therefore it is a function of states' "historically contingent". Wendt (1999) refers to it as type identities rather than their corporate identities. The constructivist theory demonstrates the importance of modes of production towards the economic growth of states and how a state consolidates resource base.

Further to this, on matters of foreign policy, the national identity dynamic of diaspora communities can be triggered by international images which manipulate either the government or other actors (Shain and Bristman, 2002). Therefore, the diaspora, given its international location is suited to be the "other actors" and thus constructivism helps in comprehension of identity based diasporic international activities which geared towards influencing the foreign policies of a state (Shain and Bristman, 2002). According to Wendt (1999), the knowledge that constitutes competitive identities

and interests is not given exogenously but is constructed every day by processes of social will formation.

Wendt (1999) states that for moderate constructivists, shared ideas, beliefs, and practices prompt actors to conduct and have an objective reality in the form of external social factors which are, nonetheless, external to actors collectively. Wendt (1999) further posits that social structures are no less real than material ones. Additional nature of socially constructed structures in the international environment does not mean that their transformation is easy in a given context (Wendt, 1999). For the social change to be realised, problems of institutionalization, power asymmetries, and collective action must be sorted out, and this might prove more difficult in social structures than material ones (Wendt, 1999). The constructivist theory acknowledges that dynamic challenges exist when structures are created and when the transformation takes place in the international environment.

Empirical Review

Chepkirui (2021), conducted a study to explore the implication of foreign remittances to the socioeconomic development of Kericho County. The research was anchored on altruism theory and the prospect theory, adopting a descriptive research design. The study was conducted within Kericho County. The study targeted respondents comprising members of the Kericho Diaspora Welfare Association and the County officials. The study utilized convenience random sampling. The sample size for the study was 108 respondents. The study utilized data from both primary and secondary sources. The collected quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and presented using measures of central tendency. Tables and charts were used where appropriate. The research obtained a 91% response rate. Findings showed that vast amounts of remittances, (82%) were received from individual workers' remittances and that there is a positive causal link between foreign remittances and socio-economic development in Kericho County. The study concluded that foreign remittances are key in enhancing socio-economic development through better education opportunities, income-generating activities, and better agricultural farming practices.

The study was conducted in Kericho presenting a geographical gap while our study will focus on African countries.

Muiruri (2019), conducted a study to assess the role of access to finance; evaluate the role of offsite infrastructure; analyze the influence of land regulation and; examine the effect of technical innovation on real estate development by private developers in Kiambu County. Using descriptive research design, the study targeted 280 respondents that consisted of 120 finance managers and 120 engineers drawn from 18 registered real estate development firms as well as 20 land officials and 20 planning officials from Kiambu County. The study established that access to finance, offsite infrastructure, land regulation and technical innovations have a positive and significant effect on real estate development by private developer in Kiambu County, Kenya. Offsite infrastructures significantly affect real estate development by private developers and increases in the activities involving offsite infrastructures would most likely reduce real estate development by private developers. The study however presented a contextual gap as it focused on our study will focus on assessing the role of access to finance; evaluate the role of off-site infrastructure; analyze the

influence of land regulation and; examine the effect of technical innovation on real estate development by private developers in Kiambu County while our study will focus on role of natives in diaspora and Africa development

Legat (2018), conducted a study to establish the link between management development and organizational performance. Studies conducted on management development and organizational performance have linked outcomes such as attraction and retention of key employees, improved employee relations to improved efficiency in terms of quality of products and more contented employees and customers. Location of the firms in terms of country has also been seen to have an influence on the strategic fit and the position of management development in the overall organization's strategy. Three theories Social exchange theory, Resource Based Theory (RBV) and Path goal theory were reviewed in demonstrating the contribution of developmental programs to the overall organizational performance. Most of the studies reviewed used descriptive research design and descriptive and inferential statistics in the analysis of data with the collection of data mainly being through the use of questionnaires and interviews. The studies were cross sectional in nature. The studies reviewed pointed out the existence of a link between Management development and organizational performance through other human resource outcomes although it's not clear whether the enhanced performance can be attributed to management development programs alone. The study presented a methodological gap as it was descriptive in nature while our study will be a desktop review.

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METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a desktop literature review method (desk study). This involved an in-depth review of studies related to role of natives in diaspora and Africa development. Three sorting stages were implemented on the subject under study in order to determine the viability of the subject for research. This is the first stage that comprised the initial identification of all articles that were based on role of natives in diaspora and Africa development. The search was done generally by searching the articles in the article title, abstract, keywords. A second search involved fully available

publications on the subject role of natives in diaspora and Africa development. The third step involved the selection of fully accessible publications. Reduction of the literature to only fully accessible publications yielded specificity and allowed the researcher to focus on the articles that related to role of natives in diaspora and Africa development which was split into top key words. After an in- depth search into the top key words (role, natives, diaspora, Africa development), the researcher arrived at 4 articles that were suitable for analysis. This were findings from:

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SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

This study concluded that relevant Government are crucial and instrumental in promoting meaningful contributions by the diaspora towards economic development of homeland. Therefore, the government was required to increase her involvement through various ways to encourage the participation of stakeholders as well as building an enabling environment for diaspora abroad to increase their contributions towards the economic development. It was incumbent upon the government to create a strict investor environment and level playing ground regulations as well as the rule of law for the diaspora abroad aimed at promoting their participation in the economic development of the country.

Recommendations

This study recommended that there was a need to establish diaspora database to include diaspora geographic distribution, mapping out of diaspora economic activities, investment flows, diaspora skills, and competencies. The database should also include annual economic trends especially regarding African diaspora contributions towards Africa economic development. The information from the database would inform definite plans for adequate engagement with diaspora as well as

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