

**A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF NEPAD TO AFRICA'S
DEVELOPMENT**

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RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Chapter One: Introduction

The critical challenge of development for Africa in the 21st century is an issue around which there is considerable consensus. There is, however, little consensus on the nature of the crisis, the required development framework and trajectory or the 'desired state'. In the context of the debate, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has been promoted by its authors and sponsors as Africa's development blueprint for meeting its development challenges. However, much of the criticism of NEPAD has focused, procedurally, on the lack of consultation in its drafting, and, paradigmatically, on its neoliberal content. Many scholars are of the opinion that adoption of NEPAD's policy has not translated into development of Africa. Unfortunately, there is no consensus on the framework to measure the contributions of NEPAD to African development. Hence, this study seeks to analyse relevant areas of NEPAD such as poverty reduction, trade promotion, good governance and institutional reforms that have shaped development in Africa.

The general aim of this study is to critically analyse the contributions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to the development of Africa. Specifically, the study seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- i. Measure the impact of implementation of NEPAD on poverty reduction in Africa;
- ii. Examine the influence of the adoption and implementation of NEPAD on trade promotion in Africa;
- iii. Analyse the impact of implementation of NEPAD's framework on good governance in Africa;
- iv. Examine the influence of implementation of NEPAD on institutional reforms in Africa

Both scholars and civil society thought of NEPAD in the light of past socioeconomic development plans, such as the Lagos Plan of Action. Their opinions did not give a concrete analysis of the concept of

NEPAD, and they mainly believed that African leaders were beating the same drums of the development plans that their predecessors, such as Kwame Nkrumah, had played in the 1960s. This study moved away from that perspective as it identified the challenges faced by NEPAD and also examined some stakeholders' perceptions of NEPAD since its inception. It was on this basis that the researcher evaluated the perceptions and challenges of NEPAD.

Many scholars and writers had viewed NEPAD using different ideological perspectives. Two groups were identified: those who thought NEPAD was doomed to fail because it tied Africa to the apron strings of the West and those who thought that NEPAD was the right step forward and held the key to Africa's economic development. This research had no preconceptions of whether NEPAD would fail or succeed. The researcher set out to understand the indigenous African perceptions of NEPAD since its adoption and to study the challenges faced by NEPAD in achieving its set goals and objectives.

Although individual stakeholders had their various perceptions about Africa's socio-economic development plans, they needed to be aware of the processes of NEPAD and its challenges before making a well-informed judgment whether it would succeed or fail. The final analysis of this study provides an evaluation of whether NEPAD was on course to achieving its set goals and objectives. So, this research is important for future studies in that it demonstrates the importance of publicizing economic plans and policies for development and of examining past economic plans, their successes, and their failures before developing new economic plans.

Chapter Two: Literature Review

This chapter reviews literature on the contributions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to the development of Africa. The literature is presented under sub-headings derived from the study's research questions. Gaps to be filled by the present study are highlighted.

Chapter Three: Research Methodology

This chapter deals with the methodology and the research instrument to be used in getting data for the study. This study uses descriptive survey type. The target population consist of two major groups of respondents. The first group comprised of 180 staff of NEPAD while the second group consist of beneficiaries of NEPAD programme. Relevant statistical tool in the SPSS will be used for data analysis.

Chapter Four: Data Analysis

In this chapter, the researcher will analyse the data collected for the research work and interpret it according to the research hypotheses formulated in chapter one.

Chapter Five: Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

Summary and conclusions are to be drawn from the research literature, research findings and data analysis. Recommendations will be made in the final chapter.



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