

Readers who reside in countries where structural adjustment is implemented and retrenchment is in process will find Chapter Four absorbing because it deals extensively with the problems of the public sector and lack of evidence of significant public enterprise reform.

The World Bank does not only study why and how sub-Sahara Africa did not succeed but also how reforms are paying off. The part on 'pay off' is of interest. It deals with positive issues in the structural adjustment exercise. The section will be of interest to those interested in understanding how macro-economic stability and improved prices for exports, especially agricultural exports benefited some of the countries concerned.

Most sub-Sahara African countries embarked on development programmes with an intention of eradicating poverty. This has been very slow in Africa because of slow economic growth, rapid population growth, and fragile resource bases.

Chapter Six clearly puts across reasons as to why a large number of people in Africa are poor. It also discusses methods of enhancing the capabilities of the poor and tackling poverty through increasing GDP per capita, by securing the right kind of growth and investing in social services. Since poverty and environment are often linked, this section will help the reader understand the interrelatedness of the two phenomena and what could be done to reduce poverty. The World Bank regards investment in people as the right kind of growth and they defend their view against the sub-Saharan African accusation that structural adjustment is hurting a lot of people. The defence given that structural adjustment contributes to faster GDP per capita growth is accounted here in a very defensive way to convince implementors to proceed with it. To a person who does not have an experience of the effects of SAP the argument is very convincing.

This World Bank Policy Research Report is an educative thesis for scholars, economists and other parties interested in understanding why Africa has undergone SAP, what went wrong in the process of implementation, where the poor are, what has been achieved and what next can be done if the exercise is to continue.

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**Uganda – Social Sectors A World Bank Country Study**, The World Bank, Washington D C, 1993, 196 pp, ISBN: 0-8213-2713-5. Price: \$11,95.

Uganda, a country once a showcase of Africa, has depreciated during the last three decades as a result of its declining social indicators. After reading the whole report one would feel total reconstruction and restructuring is required in all sectors if restoration of functioning is to occur.

This report from the World Bank on a demographic, health and education survey shows high fertility among Ugandans and there is no indication of decline as recorded in the results of 1980s. The situation seems the same as one Ugandan pointed out in his report for the year 1993 that Ugandans have high regard for their fertility as cultural aspects are attached to having many children. The report revealed that Uganda is the second lowest among one hundred and twenty countries in the contraceptive prevalence rate. A glance at the data will inform readers that Uganda has a problem in achieving economic growth, because this is incompatible with high population rates.

Poor health conditions are reflected by the crude death and mortality rates. Because of the AIDS pandemic life expectancy at birth is estimated to decrease to 43 years by the year 1995. The ratio of population growth and dependency depicted in the report is scaring. Uganda plunged into a bad health status as a result of perpetual internal conflict and the severely declined socioeconomic status of most of the people. It is not surprising to read that stuntedness is common because where socioeconomic standards are low, household food intake is also low. Though Uganda is rich in fruit and food production there is acute under-nutrition because most protein providing foods are expensive to purchase, most energy-giving foods are sold in the market to raise money for other purposes than food, leaving less nutritious bananas for consumption as staple food.

According to the survey, education indicators for adults are very low and the section on this describes educational attainment and enrolment in detail. Recommendations in the report centre around investment in human resources, improvement on health education and nutritional conditions if Uganda it so achieve success. The report reveals that there is some improvement in female students enrolment. It reveals a very interesting issue of cost sharing between government and parents which most African countries have avoided, for fear of exerting more financial pressures indirectly on parents.

Unlike other sub-Saharan countries Uganda is constrained in effecting efficient social services as a result of low revenue effort, inadequate system of prioritising government expenditure, and lack of a good living wage for government employees. The report touches on issues that are of concern to the development of the country as a whole as well as those issues that would have promoted economic growth if macro-economic policies were improved. These are issues that involve domestic income, budgeting and planning central government, logistical programmes for health and education and health family planning services and the wage bill.

African scholars, demographers and social scientists would be fascinated to read the Ugandan report as it reflects and confirms some of the problems that have been cited before as impediments to Africa's economic growth. The section on public service is a true reflection of misappropriation of funds which most

countries have experienced. The section on "ghost workers" who were said to be on the payroll is fascinating and frustrating at the same time as it brings out the true picture of experiences faced not only by Uganda but other countries in sub-Saharan Africa. These are some of the issues that makes the report interesting.

The findings on the research on social sectors give insight to the situation of Uganda as a Third World country and at the same time poses a lot of questions as to how many and which other countries fall within a similar situation to that of Uganda. This book is suitable for social development planners and scholars and could be included in their socioeconomic literature.

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**Empowering People Building Community, Civil Associations and Legality in Africa**, Richard Sandbrook and Mohamed Halfani (eds), Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, 1993, 209 pp, ISBN: 0-7727-1364-2 Price: \$14,95 + GST.

This volume contains the contributions of participants to the International Conference of Civil Associations held in Arusha in August 1991. Taken as whole, it provides an overview of the aims, strategies and tactics of a range of NGOs in Anglophone Sub-Saharan Africa and the obstacles faced by them as they confront, or attempt to negotiate with, the state. With over 30 papers, the editors clearly faced problems of organisation and presentation. To a certain extent, this has been resolved by gathering papers into sections, providing an introduction (Sandbrook) and a conclusion (Halfani) and the insertion of brief editorial linking passages between the sections.

Sandbrook's introduction notes that the themes of popular participation and empowerment of people have featured centrally in a wide range of prescriptions for political reform and economic recovery in Africa and raises the problem that these terms have a wide range of meanings. However, as he makes it clear, the book reflects the focus of the Conference, namely the problems involved in engendering a wider consciousness of political, legal, social and economic rights and building sustainable, coherent and popular organisations that can defend and extend these rights against undemocratic states and the elites closely associated with them.

The first section of the book contains Julius Nyerere's opening address (Reflections on Empowering), a record of some of the discussion which followed and presentations on general themes by Halfani and Ampaw. Nyerere, whilst acknowledging the failures of the post-colonial state, interventionist policies and the practice of socialism, warns against taking a too confrontational stance against the state and of the dangers of promoting sectional factionalism which could under-