



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SOCIAL CAPITAL NEXUS: TACKLING THE SECOND GENERATION CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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## **Abstract**

*The United Nations launched the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015. The agenda was considered a multidimensional and multilayered development program with 17 Goals and 169 Targets which were profoundly interconnected as an indivisible whole. The Sustainable Development Goals epitomized a rights-based approach to a transformative, integrated, and inclusive development paradigm which consisted of; building on economic, social, and environmental pillars. The agenda is expected to be delivered through a multi-stakeholder partnership, supported by an effective global compact approach. In the process of implementing the agenda, it was established that developing countries are facing wide-ranging national challenges whose manifestations are often circumstantial, predicated on economic development, social cohesion, administrative capacity, and political governance. These have led to the ramifications of the implementation process to be unclear and the way forward uncertain. In order to establish how to handle the second generation challenges, a study was undertaken to establish how community development initiatives may be leveraged on to address the same. This paper therefore sought to establish the role that can be played by the available natural resources such as human capital, social capital and personal initiatives in attaining sustainable communities thus achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. A study was undertaken to establish the available human and social capital coupled with personal initiatives in the Tende Community in Narok County, Kenya and how they can be used in order to achieve the second generation sustainable development goals. Regression analysis was undertaken and it was*

*established that Social Capital plays a bigger role in the achievement of community development when compared with Human Capital and Personal Initiatives. The study therefore recommends that the enhancement of social capital be given priority in order to tackle the second generation challenges facing the achievement of sustainable development goals.*

*Keywords: Community Development, Social Capital, Sustainable Societies, Second Generation Sustainable Development Goals*

## **INTRODUCTION**

During the initial years of the SDGs implementation, varied trends have been noted especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America in regard to: Aligning the SDGs with national planning processes; Coordination, management, and leadership of the implementation process; Adequacy of financing and other means of implementation; Data-related issues and capacities of national statistical agencies; and Partnership and stakeholder participation in SDG implementation (Bhattacharya, Khan, Rezvana and Mostaque; 2016). In order to address these emerging challenges, three cross-cutting issues that underpin the achievement of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development have emerged. These are; leaving no one behind, synergies and trade-offs between and among goals, and the impact of global systemic dimensions that should be addressed within specific contextual realities. These three sets of issues can be considered as the Second Generation Challenges to be faced in an effort to deliver the SDGs. The purpose for this study is to come up with some of the possible ways that the identified second general challenges may be addressed.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Second Generation Challenges of SDG Implementation:**

The three second generation challenges of the sustainable development goals are: i) Leave no one behind; ii) synergies and trade-offs; and iii) global systematic concerns (Southern Voice, 2017).

*Leave no-one behind:* Multidimensional vulnerabilities will be observed in different regions although they may be overlapping. However, since each of the vulnerability is a variable to be considered when assessing the achievement of this target, there is the likelihood of certain groups being left very far behind. It has two main characteristics; a) people can be excluded in many areas of life (such as education, housing, employment, and citizenship) or b) social relations, processes, and institutions that cause deprivation (De Haan, 1999).

The commitment requires that all UN member states to ensure that no one is left behind. This implies that they should take explicit measures to (i) end extreme poverty in all its forms and allow the left behind to catch up with those who have made progress; (ii) reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that undermine a person's ability to escape poverty; and (iii) end group-based discrimination that leads to unequal outcomes for the marginalised (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD], 2018; Stuart & Samman, 2017).

The dimensions of exclusion include: i) social discrimination, ii) spatial disadvantage, iii) social economic status, iv) governance, and v) shocks and fragility (Adeniran *et al.* 2020; Nair *et al.* 2020; Crentsil *et al.* 2020; Anderson *et al.* 2020 and Fernando *et al.* 2020)

*Synergies and trade-offs:* This becomes a challenge when: i) Policies that are related one theme may not necessarily support the accomplishment of other inter-related goals due to the expectations of different communities in any one given region, and ii) policies in one area may negatively affect the possibilities of achieving other goals and targets. This challenge requires that human beings should think about collective capabilities and integrated actions.

The collective capabilities for the 2030 agenda requires that humanity must think of: i) what is needed to produce sustainable goods and service; ii) how countries can make the best of technological and digital opportunities; and iii) how urban centers can become places to promote sustainable development (Amsden 2012; Evans 2014; Sen 2000; UNDP 2019; Andreoni & Chang 2016; and Palenc, Bazile & Ceruti 2015)

*Global systematic concerns:* This manifests as a challenge when there are aspects of development that may be beyond the national government. Globalization and global governance systems implicitly recognise that global systemic concerns impact the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the national context, including in their relation to accomplishing the objective to leave no one behind (LNOB). The issues recognised in global systemic concerns include climate change, migration, and technological change which could pose challenges and opportunities.

There are four levels of analysis to be used in order to fully explore the possible impacts of global systematic concerns: i) global governance; ii) global policy problems that require agreement through global governance arrangements; iii) exploring the transmission mechanisms which could impact the national pursuit of SDGs; and iv) any other study around the national-level implementation framework of the 2030 Agenda (Renn *et al.* 2017; Schweb 2016; World Economic Forum 2016; Dobbs *et al.* 2012; Zeshon & Ahmed 2015; Ahmed 2017; Internal Renewable Energy Agency 2018; and Thakur & Van Langenhove 2006) .

## Sustainable Communities

According to the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development (NCRCRD, 1999), there are five community outcomes that will define what a sustainable community in a healthy ecosystem looks like. The five outcomes can be divided into two major groups; i) when development happens, and ii) what happens when development succeeds. In this regards, development is said to be happening when there is increase in skills (Human Capital), strengthened relationships (Social Capital) and improvement in initiatives (Personal Initiatives). In order to determine whether there is an increase in skills one must look at how skills are used and whether there is an enhancement in human capital. On the other hand, strengthening relationships and improving initiatives will show that social capital is being enhanced in the given community (NCRCRD, 1999). In view of these, three factors must be looked at in order to determine the level of development in a given community (ThriveYard, 2020).

i) *Social Capital*: Social capital refers to the networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular society, enabling that society to function effectively in order to achieve a common purpose or goal. Social capital therefore allows a society or organization to function together as a whole through trust and shared identity, norms, values, and mutual relationships. It is in this regard that the term has received unprecedented acceptance and application to diverse areas (Claridge, 2004). In order to built social capital seven methods may be used thus: Networking proactively; Being proactively strategic; Creating a diverse network; Leveraging relationships; Setting aside dedicated time each week to network; Keeping in touch with former colleagues and alumina; and Focus on the social media networking efforts (Marcus, 2014).

ii) *Human Capital*: Human Capital development in a community is important in that it: i) makes individuals have appropriate skills for modern employers; ii) creates high-skilled and creative workers; iii) leads to long-term economic growth; iv) encourages sustainability due to the knowledge that can be gained about better use of available resources (Oribu, W, S, 2021).

iii) *Personal Initiatives*: Personal initiative brings about visibility of purpose to enable an individual stand out and get recognition in addition to enhancing personal value and brand. Its benefits therefore include; i) Improvement of a person's potential for personal growth. li) Brings about efficient utilization of resources in addition to improving processes; iii) Brings about the urge to try different things; iv) Helps in strengthening relationships; v) Creates independence; vi) Strengthens people skills; and vii) Adds to the individual's personal happiness and satisfaction of achieving the tasks previously allocated (Oribu, W. S., 2021).

For the purposes of this study, the respondents were asked to rate Social Capital, Human Capital and Personal initiatives in a scale of 10 in regard to their contributions to

development. Thirty eight (38) participants were selected from the Administration, Male and Female participants according to the ratio in the Kenya population census of 2019.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### Research Design

The study used a descriptive research design in order to establish the cause effect relationship between community development and the use of available natural resources. A survey and observation methods was used since the questionnaire was self-administered.

### Target Population and Sample Design

The targeted population was divided into four groups then random respondents were selected with a simple random sampling technique for data collection and data analysis. A two stage random sampling technique was used by listing the population according to the blocks and then using the systematic sampling based on the percentage of the population that is male versus that of female as shown in Table 1 below.

According to the Kenya Population and Housing census 2019, the 47.6 million was composed of 50.31% female and 49.9% male (KBS, 2019). The total number of members already identified was two thousand thus this was taken as the target population. In order to determine the portion for male versus female the leaders in each block were deducted to arrive at the figures of one thousand nine hundreds and ninety six (1996) from which the proportion of male as opposed to that of female was the applied.

Table 1: Target Population

Category	Basis of Categorization	Number
Leadership	One from each block (i.e. 4 x 1)	4
Male	Percentage as per the Kenya Population and housing Census 2019 of the already identified members (i.e. 2,000 x 49.9%)	996
Female	Percentage as per the Kenya Population and housing Census 2019 of the already identified members (i.e. 2,000 x 50.31%)	1,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,000</b>

## Sample Size and Sampling Technique

A sample size is a part of the population that was chosen for the study. In this case, the sample was to be taken from the already identified members of the Tende community. Sampling was found necessary in this case in order to reduce costs and save time that may be wasted trying to trace all the members of the target population. In deciding the sampling technique, care was taken to ensure that the population of the study is well represented. In order to determine the sample size, a stratified random sampling was taken as shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: Sample Size

Category	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Total
Leadership	2	2	2	2	8
Male	3	4	4	4	15
Female	3	4	4	4	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>38</b>

The study used stratified random sampling in order to capture all cadres of the membership. Clustered sampling technique was preferred. Cluster sampling was used because it has the following advantages: i) it consumes less time and cost: Sampling of geographically divided groups requires less work, time, and cost. It was therefore a highly economical method to observe clusters instead of randomly doing it throughout the Tende community since the community has already been divided into four blocks; ii) clusters are convenient to access; iii) leads to data accuracy since there was large samples in each cluster thus loss of accuracy in information per individual was compensated; iv) It was easy to implement since it facilitated information from various areas and groups.

## Data Analysis and Interpretation:

A multiple linear regression analysis was conducted to determine if Community Development (dependent variable) could be predicted from the level of Human Capital, Social Capital and Personal Initiatives (Independent variables) in a random survey of the inhabitants of Tende Community in Narok County, Kenya. The Null Hypotheses tests were that the correlation coefficient between the independent variables and the dependent variable is equal to zero. Table 3 below shows the summary of the regression output while Figure 1 shows the G\*Power Plot.

Table 4: Regression Output Summary

Regression Statistics	
Multiple R	0.754
R Square	0.569
Adjusted R Square	0.531
Standard Error	2.064
Observations	38.000

ANOVA						
	<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Significance F</i>	
Regression	3	190.984	63.661	14.941	0.000	
Residual	34	144.870	4.261			
Total	37	335.855				

	<i>Coefficients</i>	<i>Error</i>	<i>t Stat</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>Lower 95%</i>	<i>Upper 95%</i>
Intercept	-8.340	4.926	-1.693	0.100	-18.350	1.670
HC	0.287	0.383	0.749	0.459	-0.491	1.065
SC	1.277	0.291	4.383	0.000	0.685	1.870
PI	0.129	0.227	0.567	0.575	-0.333	0.591

T-critical 1.667

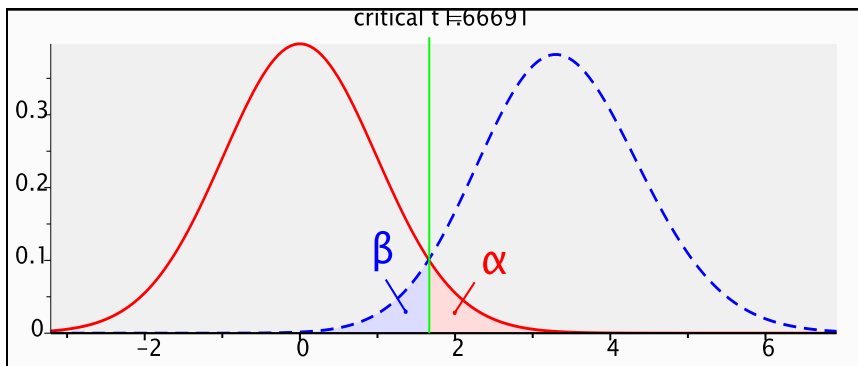


Figure 1: G\*Power Plot

In view of the above findings the regression equation was identified as shown below:

$$Y = 0.287_{HC} + 1.277_{SC} + 0.129_{PI} + \varepsilon$$

Where: HC = Human Capital. SC = Social Capital and PI = Personal Initiatives.

This implies that for every unit of development that will be realized in the Tende community, Human capital will contribute 0.287; Social capital 1.277 and Personal initiatives 0.129. Bearing in mind that the three variables are mutually reinforcing, it is clear that social capital enhancement is likely to bring a much more impact and thus the community's sustainable development and achievement of the targets set out the sustainable development goals.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

From the findings, it has come out clearly that the second challenges of sustainable development goals can easily be tackled through the enhancement of social capital.

## **Policy Recommendations**

There is need to involve the respective communities in all the challenges that may be encountered by: i) Identifying the available natural resources; and ii) Enhancing the identified natural resources for community sustainability. This is more so because the population will own the initiated projects by forming a very strong pillar in addressing the arising challenges in the implementation process. This will form a two-pronged approach to development by arresting the runaway youth unemployment at the same time making people responsible in their development agenda. This is bearing in mind the fact that these second generation challenges are mainly due to the scarcity of resources. Further, when looking for development partners for financial assistance priority should be given to the utilization of the locally available resources.

Governments in developing countries should also rethink the development models that are in place currently by involving the communities in which projects are being undertaken. By doing this, policy makers will be able to understand what the communities priorities are rather than introducing initiatives that may not resonate to the specific community at the time. For example, in infrastructure development, one community may prefer rain water articulation to the construction of access roads.

Lastly, there is need for governments to come up with projects that are in line with the latest technology in order to avoid competition and encourage collaboration within communities. It is important that the latest Information Technology be used when communicating new initiatives and that communities be encouraged to leverage on their neighbors skills in order to avoid duplication which may lead to redundancy of effort.

It is anticipated that by utilizing the available natural resources such as social capital, human capital and personal initiatives the sustainable development implementations agencies will solve the issue of multidimensional vulnerabilities in different communities, achieve synergy



in the respective communities and reduce the avoid situations where the individual communities may feel excluded from the government development initiatives.

### Limitations and further research

This study was limited to a small community which is in the process of being resettled by the Government. Such a community may be having ideas that may not be compatible with the government policy guidelines. There is therefore a need for further research on larger communities who may have already been in existence to determine if the findings can be generalized to other areas of concerned.

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