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The contribution of Julius Kambarage Nyerere's Ujamaa philosophy of self-reliance toward Africa's sustainable development

Author(s): Christopher Mukidi Acaali

Abstract:

Although Julius Kambarage Nyerere's Ujamaa philosophy did not succeed as a socio-economic and political system, its values of self-reliance endure to this day. They are widely embraced due to their enduring magnetism and applicability. These values, contained within his doctrine of self-reliance, were anchored in several key principles. The first principle was that for Tanzania to develop, the country needed to base its development trajectory on internal rather than external forces. Nyerere emphasized that no country developed based on foreign grants and loans. Consequently, Nyerere believed that Tanzania needed to shift from a state of foreign dependency to utilizing its local resources. Human capital played a central role in this paradigm shift, as people migrated from their traditional communities to villages established by the government. Nyerere believed that hard work and the effective utilization of local resources would put the country on the road to socio-economic and political transformation. To fast-track the country's transformation, Nyerere advocated for a shift from the inherited colonial education system, which prepared students for white-collar jobs, to a competency-based education where practical skills were taught. The arguments presented demonstrate that Nyerere's concept of self-reliance remains relevant to Africa's sustainable development.

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