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JOURNAL PURPOSE

The purpose of the *Ngenani - Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University Journal of Community Engagement and Societal Transformation Review and Advancement* is to provide a forum for community engagement and outreach.

CONTRIBUTION AND READERSHIP

Sociologists, demographers, psychologists, development experts, planners, social workers, social engineers, and economists, among others whose focus is on community development.

JOURNAL SPECIFICATIONS

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SCOPE AND FOCUS

The journal is a forum for the discussion of ideas, scholarly opinions and case studies of community outreach and engagement. Communities are both defined in terms of people found in a given locale and defined cohorts, like the children, the youth, the elderly and those living with a disability. The strongest view is that getting to know each community or sub-community is a function of their deliberate participation in matters affecting them by the community itself. The journal is produced bi-annually.

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INDUSTRIALISATION IN ZIMBABWE: SHAPING THE DEBATE AND PRACTICE THROUGH SOCIAL SCIENCES

HALLELUAH CHIRISA¹, PATIENCE MAZANHI, ROSELIN KATSANDE-NCUBE² AND
TAWANDA ZINYAMA

Abstract

Sustainable development anchors on meeting societal needs through service provision and economic development. Social sciences unleash the important aspects of meeting society's needs through broad literature and scholarship. However, there is a scarcity in the literature that conjoins industrial development and the social sciences. A myriad of ephemeral scholarship exists on how Zimbabwe fares in service provision and industrialisation. To avoid a demise in socially sustainable development, the article seeks to coalesce the aspects of social sciences, industrialisation and service provision in the context of the Zimbabwean experience. The article explores efforts and challenges to service provision for the country from the colonial era to the present day to capture various perspectives that build up on the country's present situation. It compares the efficiency of the private sector to the public sector in service provision and posits recommendable insights that provide a way forward for the betterment of service provision in the country. It describes the efforts, challenges and opportunities for local organisations towards fulfilling their mandate to efficiently provide services to the public.

Keywords: *industrialisation, service provision, social services, Zimbabwe*

INTRODUCTION

The provision of quality social services is one of the defining parameters of a successful state and economy. The Centre for Conflict Management and Transformation (CCMT) (2014:7) alludes that, “social

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service delivery is one of the core mandates of local authorities in Zimbabwe". However, Zimbabwe's local authorities have been struggling to meet such obligations. Whereas the potential for quality services and industrialisation could be harnessed for public benefit, the impetus for change seems to have taken a down twist since Zimbabwe's attainment of independence (Ndlovu, 1994). Sociology, Psychology, and Urban Planning are among the social sciences fields that provide social services and improve urban management (Chigara *et al.*, 2013). In light of that, the study explores the extent to which Zimbabwe is providing quality social services and its level of industrialisation. It is imperative to trace the industrialisation in the country to understand its dynamics from the colonial era to the present state. The article makes use of desktop research through intensive and extensive utilisation of secondary data sources to proffer a tangible argument. It provides a descriptive analysis of the contribution of social sciences towards encouraging service provision and economic development through industrialisation. If the country is to provide social services efficiently, what efforts are being taken in the context of industrialisation to achieve social justice? What role does academia play towards industrial development?

BACKGROUND

During the Africa Industrialisation Week celebrations from the 16th to 20th of November 2020, the Government of Zimbabwe launched the Industrial Policy 2019-2023. These frameworks are important in setting the scene.

With the rapid influx of population into cities, there is need to match growth in the economic sector through industrialisation. The quest for economic prosperity is to meet social challenges due to rapid urbanisation. Zimbabwe has been experiencing economic turbulence affecting economic revitalisation partly due to poor economic policies (Ndlovu, 1994). Munzara (2015) highlights that poor economic policies harm the economy yet with or without economic prosperity, social services remain a need in every nation and thus industrialisation must take precedence. Zimbabwe has made various efforts to foster economic growth. Some of these are the land reform programme and the indigenisation policy which, however, led to capital flight (Chirisa,

Bandauko and Kawadza, 2015). The private and informal sectors make efforts in contributing to economic development through investment. With decentralisation through privatisation, private players can provide adequate services, though at a cost unaffordable to the poor majority. Privatisation is a form of decentralising government functions through transferring authority and activities to the private sector (Heywood, 2002). However, with a less effective public sector in the provision of services and low to non-existent industrialisation, the provision of services remains a dream and the evidence manifests through slum settlements, housing shortages, high social crime rates and social unrest (Khalifa, 2010).

Industrialisation and economic development are pivotal to the provision of services by local organisations in Zimbabwe. With industrialisation and economic growth, there is a smooth flow of finance and local authorities are able to meet the costs associated with providing social services (Adams, 2002). Many local boards in developing countries lack finance, hindering service provision (CCMT, 2014). With industrialisation, development and finance, service provision is easy and efficient. Adams (*ibid.*) argues that where there is economic growth and development, there is social transformation. Therefore, it is important that as nations work out policies on sustaining and improving the social welfare of people, industrial development should be included. There exists a salient relationship between service provision and industrialisation as industrialisation enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of service provision in most countries.

Marumahoko *et al.* (2020) allude that poor economic development in Zimbabwe has been due to hyperinflation, international isolation and high unemployment rates, stripping the government of its revenue and failing to support service provision in the country. Lack of industrialisation in an economy is due to low economic development and this affects the income levels of citizens, hindering their ability to pay rates for services (*ibid.*). With economic growth and expansion, there is increased public expenditure through enhanced public service provision by the government (Adams, 2002). Moreover,

industrialisation has positive effects on both the government and the local citizens. It capacitates local citizens through enhanced income levels to pay taxes and rates for services provided by the councils (Glewwe and Jacoby, 2004).

Gukurume (2011) highlights that the unstable political and economic environment in Zimbabwe has significantly affected social service delivery. The more the economy deteriorates, the greater the extent service provision falls as opposed to successful economic development that boosts human and societal development (Glewwe and Jacoby, 2004). Marumahoko *et al.* (2020) highlight that with economic development comes improved income levels, thus increasing the tax base of the country that helps to finance public services. Sustainable development is facilitated through regular payments of services “monthly” which is only effective when citizens have reliable incomes (Marumahoko *et al.* 2020:44). Therefore, economic development is crucial for the provision of quality services and, as such, cannot be detached from each other. The bulk of the literature consulted is archaic except for Murumahoko *et al.* (2020) yet industrialisation is very topical. Referring to higher ministry documents, national budgets, etc is important.

SOCIAL SCIENCE, SERVICE PROVISION AND INDUSTRIALISATION: A REVIEW

The argument on the level of economic development requires a comprehensive review of scholarly approaches to the practising field. The provision of social services is an obligation of local authorities whose mandate is to provide social services such as waste management, water supply and maintenance of infrastructure among many other duties (*ibid.*). However, the existence of challenges like water contamination, poor refuse collection and burst sewer pipes is proof that local authorities are struggling to meet their obligations of service delivery (Musekiwa & Chatiza, 2015). The government takes the role of overseeing the performance of local authorities by making “service provision the standard against the relevance of local authorities” (Marumahoko, 2020:42). The performance of local authorities hangs on various factors, including the performance of the economy, government policies and the wealth of knowledge embodied

in the social science fields. When these are not favourable, local authorities' performance is affected and the social well-being of the people is compromised.

Any development in the world has a direct and indirect effect on the social lives of humanity. The social sciences reflect on the past, present and future status of the surrounding environment (Sheppard, 2004). Thus, the emergence of social science disciplines has come with a mandate to display the social world from the influence of both the natural and the artificial world on humanity (Imhonopi, 2019). Industrial development has an undeniable relationship with social science disciplines, and this has had a noticeable impact on the general economic development regarding industrialisation. Geography, as one of the social science disciplines, has influenced service industry globally. It is explained by Simandan (2009) as a set of practices scientifically held together by the common factors of space, distance and society. Such distance has influenced service industry by influencing the networking of people. Most of the first-world countries industrialise before the Second World War, whereas third-world countries are still struggling to find a stable ground to stand on economically (Ndlovu, 1994).

Despite the geographical distance between the two distinct classes, the service industry has had a positive influence through globalisation, rendering physical geographical distances unimportant (Yasin, 2007). The service industry brings educative information to humanity that influences their social well-being and way of life through communication and networking that has improved development globally. Various scholarly articles have argued that with the emergence of social learning disciplines, most third-world rural dwellers (Simandan, 2009). Simandan (*ibid.*) states that industrialisation has been regarded by policy-makers and scholars as one of the most effective ways to reduce the population through education and increased levels of awareness.

As the industry grows and economic development expands, most of social problems are reduced. With economic development, lack of finance is to some extent, curtailed. Challenges that come with "rapid

urbanisation, financial crisis and increasing urban populations” (Chirisa *et al.*, 2020: 3) exert pressure on governments in most African countries. Overpopulation and urbanisation are a reality that demands urgent action before it overhauls the states with their impacts. The Government of Zimbabwe (2015) affirms that the population growth in the country’s cities is expanding at an approximate rate of 4.3% annually. Because of the rapid population increases in urban centres, more social challenges such as overcrowding, congestion, the fast spread of diseases and the mushrooming of slum settlements, have affected social development (Tacoli *et al.*, 2015). Thus, with the improvement in economic development, such problems are lowered. Moreli (2006) highlights that the business world has had a great impact on the socio-cultural development of countries in the southern African region. There is an exchange of cultural norms brought about by the expansion of the service industry. A good example is tourism and hospitality which has resulted in cultural exchanges among countries as most of the English tourists are attracted to the African culture, bringing in more development in the service industry (Hampton, 2005). Social sciences cannot be disentangled from the business sector as they have an impact on the general development of economies (Moreli, 2006).

Academia has played a huge role in influencing and informing the industrial and practice field. There is a continuous existence of a theory-practice gap in various practising and learning fields, both globally and locally (Pissourios, 2013). Various academic fields work in an interdisciplinary linkage to inform the industry. There exists an interchange of knowledge and expertise between academia and the industry as research informs practice (Watson, 2008). Academia has played a huge role in trying to fix the practice gaps in the industry and this, to some extent, has been downplayed by the practitioners who may not fully comprehend and implement recommendations from various academic disciplines (Murmman, 2012). If all the scholarly research were implemented, there would have been a massive global improvement in the economy and development sector. There is plenty of information from research that helps inform the practice fields and this calls for a strong partnership between the researchers and the practitioners.

Academic disciplines have influenced the formation of civil society groups that debate issues on policy formulation and implementation. The social sciences influence human behaviour and empower them to appreciate policy frameworks. This helps civil groups know their rights and fight for them to well-implement policies (Imhonopi, 2019). Most African countries suffer from corruption and mismanagement of resources (Chigwata *et al.*, 2019). With social awakening, there is enhanced commitment and quality policy formulation that satisfy the majority. Social scientists play a major role in regional economic development through their think tank teams that delve into the exact needs of people and work on solutions (Imhonopi, 2019).

Research has shown that Africa is lagging technologically as compared to some European nations (*ibid.*). Thus, with social science research in Africa, more emphasis can be given to enhancing the adoption of technology in the practising arena. This will help rescue the region from underdevelopment despite the abundant resources the continent has. Africa has abundant resources, both natural and human, that can enhance successful development (Mullainathan, 2004). Social scientists need to take positions of influence to have well-thought-out socially sustainable policies (Imhonopi, 2019). Gunder and Hillier (2004) emphasize that development is difficult to separate from politics and governance as the development decisions lie in the hands of policymakers and when these are not socially aware, poor development solutions are given.

THE ZIMBABWEAN EXPERIENCE

Various scholars have researched the aspects of social sciences, service provision and industrialisation and need to explore the dynamics dating from the pre-independence era. Marumahoko *et al.* (2020) allude that the provision of services is linked closely to the lifestyle and well-being of the citizens whose knowledge is found from appreciating social sciences. As the social sciences inform development practitioners, industrialisation and economic development improve service delivery through financial resources. Ndlovu (1994) highlights the efforts to service provision and economic development in Zimbabwe, tracing from before the attainment of independence. The thrust is towards revitalising service provision in Zimbabwe by exploring one of the driving forces of industrialisation.

PRE-INDEPENDENCE ERA: SERVICE PROVISION AND INDUSTRIALISATION (1965-1980)

The period between 1965 and 1980 is described by Ndlovu (1994) as the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) period. During this period, the country Rhodesia's, present-day Zimbabwe, active industrial sectors were agriculture and manufacturing. Because of the diversified economy, the country exported cotton, tobacco and sugar for foreign currency for economic development. However, the liberation war, especially around 1975 to 1978, crippled infrastructure such as roads and clinics (*ibid.*). The existence of racial segregation meant that proper service delivery leaned towards the white society and this was evidenced in high unequal and inequitable distribution of social services between blacks and whites (Walks and Bourne, 2006).

The development of services was done in urban areas, and these were restricted to whites and the black populace could access these privileges only after independence when there was a relaxation of restrictive movement laws (Chirisa *et al.*, 2020). Before that, there was a geographical separation of these two classes of people with white people enjoying access to social facilities such as schools and hospitals in urban centres (Gukurume, 2011). The provision of social services during this era cannot be entirely attributed to the economic development of that period. Access to the services depended on race, hence unequal distribution of social services.

POST-INDEPENDENCE (1980 TO PRESENT), URBANISATION, SERVICE PROVISION AND INDUSTRIALISATION

The attainment of independence saw the need for necessary social and economic transformation to deal with the many social and economic challenges that had arisen in the country (Ndlovu, 1994). Independence and democracy encouraged the need for social reforms that included decolonising the once-segregated urban centres to accommodate the black majority (Wamukaya and Mbathi, 2019). Some of the reforms brought together local authorities that had been previously divided on racial grounds into more united and organised single municipalities (Gukurume, 2011).

The need for sustainable development calls for inclusive governance that removes discrimination (Obeng-Odoom, 2016). Therefore, the principle behind the merging of local authorities was to make municipalities more democratic and accountable to their citizens to ensure efficiency and equity in service provision, thus ensuring sustainable urban development (Gukurume, 2011). After the attainment of independence, the economy required complete restructuring and reconstruction, and this needed tangible investment. The Zimbabwean government had to inherit the economic structure from the colonialists due to its “inability to radically break away from the past organisation and management practices” (Ndlovu, 1994:16). Around the 1990s, the country became the breadbasket of Africa, producing enough for local consumption and exportation. The notable achievements of the independent government were leaning towards the social sector as they worked to ensure the provision of social services. However, this led the economy into huge debt in a bid to fund social programmes (Ndlovu, 1994).

Way after independence, Zimbabwe still has not fully disentangled itself from the colonial standards of service provision as social classes that have emerged have unequal distribution of social services among the residents (Agere, 1990). Apart from the challenge of unequal distribution and access to social services, most of the populace fail to afford social services such as health facilities. Glewwe and Jacoby (2004) highlight the struggles faced by the poor and disadvantaged groups of society and how they fail to pay the minimum for essential services. The country has made attempts since independence to foster equity and equality in the distribution of social services. However, as explained by Agere (1990), the quality of services tends to be differentiated geographically. Rural areas access poor quality services as development is biased towards urban centres. This differentiation by geographical location is experienced in various service sectors including health, housing, education, communication and transport systems. In most rural areas, some places are still impassable as there are inefficient road facilities while some are still in a rudimentary state. One of the contributing factors to the misdistribution and inaccessibility of social services is the cost of accessing the services (*ibid.*). A good example is in the health sector. Health services and

facilities are taken as commodities and thus given at a market price unaffordable to the majority poor and unemployed (*ibid.*). Thus, the distribution of social services inevitably becomes uneven.

Poor industrialisation and economic underdevelopment are not solely responsible for the inefficient and unequal distribution of social services. Rapid urbanisation and the influx of population into many urban cities are also a cause for concern as they pose a negative effect on the quality-of-service delivery by municipalities (DESA, 2013). With the rapid increase of people in urban areas, there is much pressure imposed on the available resources that are failing to expand at the same rate as the increasing population because of financial challenges (UNECA, 2017). A good example is the rapid increase of population in Harare that is not being matched by an improvement in service delivery by the municipality. The evidence is thus witnessed by shortages and inefficient distribution of sanitation and water facilities and housing, and infrastructure inadequacies. The looming slum settlements, overcrowding and congestion are real issues that expose the inefficiency of the municipality in meeting the needs of the increasing population (Tacoli *et al.*, 2015). Stren (2014) posits that poor governance, coupled with inadequate technical, administrative and financial resources, has crippled local municipalities and fails to offer quality social service provision.

Rapid urbanisation contradicting the low to non-existent industrialisation and economic development has been challenging for local authorities in distributing social services (Adams, 2002). Cities experiencing rapid urbanisation and industrial challenges need to ensure that they harness the potential that comes with an increase in population as their base becomes a plausible breeding environment for innovation and economic development due to a widened market for various economic activities (Luebker, 2008). Poor service delivery is also a result of poor management of resources, poor urban governance and polarisation of resources in the urban areas, leading to the deterioration of service delivery in the country (Mapuva, 2013). Critical efforts to revitalise industrialisation in the economy need to be employed to improve service delivery in the cities. Industrialisation and urbanisation need to grow at an even rate or with industrialisation

growing faster than urbanisation. This enables municipalities to close or reduce the huge gap between service demand and supply (Ahmed and Dinye, 2011).

There were high inflationary periods between 2007 and 2009 where Zimbabwe later adopted a multi-currency system. During this period, the economy was hit hard affecting municipalities that found it difficult to provide services to the residents and, at the same time, residents could not afford to pay rates for a continuous supply of services, such as water and electricity (Gukurume, 2011). It is becoming a norm that when the economy is at its lowest, service provision suffers greatly as the financial crisis cripples both municipalities and the residents. In 2009, the country embarked on dollarisation in a bid to revitalise the economy. This multi-currency system in the country had an impact on the economy's operations as it came with stability of the economy. Urban councils and municipalities utilised foreign currency in their budgetary endeavours for service provision. Despite the promising success of dollarisation, municipalities still found it difficult to independently provide social services to the residents (*ibid.*). Service provision continued to decline and this was attributed to the absence of decentralisation, devolution and the interference of the government in the operations of municipalities.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORTS IN SERVICE PROVISION

It is a basic mandate of all municipalities and public authorities to provide social services to their citizenry. When public organisations fail to provide services efficiently, the involvement of the private sector through partnerships is another alternative of ensuring quality service provision (*ibid.*). The private sector works efficiently as it is driven by profit-making. As long as profits are made from service delivery, the private sector would be very willing to participate. This hints at the limitation of leaving the work of service provision only for the private sector. Municipalities must retain the sole responsibility of providing and delivering service (*ibid.*). Torrance (2008) points out the inclination towards privatising the financing of public services such as infrastructure after many decades of reliance upon the public sector for public service provision. The notion of ceding the responsibilities of

service provision to independent or private providers is debatable and highly criticised as it compromises the entitlements of economic and social rights of the less privileged. This is because the private sector is commercial with everything it operates, thus making only the rich minority access social services (*ibid.*).

SOCIAL SCIENCE DISCIPLINES AS THE ANCHOR OF THE SERVICE INDUSTRY IN ZIMBABWE

Imhonopi (2019) defines social science disciplines as the academic or learning fields that major in understanding human beings, their relationships and their interaction in society. They focus on the behaviour of people in their social and cultural setup. Development is for and by the people, and the disciplines of social sciences enhance the understanding of how development ought to be done in a manner that satisfies the recipients. These disciplines include anthropology, political sciences and sociology, among many (Klein, 2007). Therefore, an in-depth understanding of the social sciences enables efficiency in development.

Understanding demographic patterns is pivotal to the economic development of any country. As the business sector booms, its growth is targeted towards satisfying the market (Storm, 2006). Demography brings in the understanding and classifications of the population. This helps in industrial targeting in the business world and enhances profitability (Barkely and Henry, 2001). Demography plays a complementary role in the service industry, providing relevant information such as the dominant age groups and whether the population is youthful or aged (Bloom and Sachs, 1998). Immigration and rapid urbanisation have increased the population of the cities and this has influenced consumption patterns of the people (Moreli, 2006).

The emergence of the services industry has made work easier for people as they are relieved of various tasks performed in everyday life. Expansion in demography or population sizes has a positive impact on the industry as it leads to optimum utilisation of idle resources (Bloom and Sachs, 1998). Most African countries, Zimbabwe included, are dominated by an unemployed youthful population, and of these youths, many have moved to other countries and continents for

greener pastures with many within the country migrating into big cities (Dube and Chirisa, 2012). Harare is a good example of a city experiencing “growth without development” (Dube & Chirisa, 2012:17). Having obtained such demographic information about a population, it becomes easier for industries to segment their markets and offer services that are relevant to a particular group. This aids continuous economic development.

Kanbur (2001) explains sociology and anthropology as ways people get to understand the world in which they live. Mooney, Knox and Schacht (2007) highlight that sociology has a relevant impact on human development as it provides various perspectives for humans to view their world or social environment. This means that in any policy concerning development, the target population has the right to question and constructively build on it through public participation (Brown *et al.* 2012). Sociology and anthropology are very important disciplines in industrial development. They are complementary to the development of the economy as they bring an understanding to the human being (Kanbur, 2001). When humans get to understand their environment, they can make well-informed choices and this influences their spending patterns (*ibid.*). This knowledge influences the economy of a country as industries also make informed decisions about the service they ought to provide, depending on consumption patterns.

It is argued that “the economy cannot be divorced from psychology” (Surkov, 2014:40). Economic development and success depend on the behaviour of humans for their success. Thus, it is imperative to have an understanding of human behaviour of humans regarding their spending habits, buying power and choices (Gwartney *et al.*, 2009). Humans respond almost the same when it comes to their spending behaviour as they strive to obtain optimal utility and satisfaction from any consumption they make (Lipsey, Ragan and Storer, 2008). Therefore, psychology becomes an important discipline that works on understanding the behaviour of humans and, with such relevance, industrial development cannot work without it (Surkov, 2014).

Mullainathan (2004) brings to light that economics and businesses expect their success from assuming availability of human or

psychological resources. Psychology's absence can lead to poor economic development as businesses may fail to predict consumer patterns and choices (Storm, 2017). Therefore, social scientists must make their ground known and visible as they have a huge role to play in aiding economic development. Humans respond positively to incentives and promotions. Their motivation and spending behaviour change. The state and public bodies must improve incentives for their workers to motivate them to provide quality services and to work for the good of the public (Mullainathan, 2004). However, in the Zimbabwean context, most of these fields have a demotivated workforce, leading to poor quality and intermittent service provision.

Spatial planning plays an important role aimed at planning for and providing solutions to social challenges faced globally. Planning influences industrial development to bring about economic development that helps reduce the social challenges experienced by the economy. Mohamed *et al.* (2015) allude that planning and smart city development enhance the effectiveness of service delivery through improved performance of water services and transportation design. This is achieved through enhancing urban design to be aesthetically pleasing and relevant to a particular place and needful to the people (Radford, 2010). Planning also influences the administration of land for development and acts as a neutral tool for inefficient land allocation for development that is sustainable (EASRD, 2004). Therefore, it ensures that meaningful industrial and economic development meets the needs of the populace by providing socially responsible solutions (Moreli, 2006). Planning influences policy-making in the country and, as such, needs to ensure the formulation of market-driven and sustainable policies. This means that the service industry should not only bring services that meet the needs of individuals but also equip and empower the consumer with long-lasting skills. Moreli (2006) argues that lasting solutions to social development cannot be addressed through physical production alone but must be met by mobilising human development skills.

An educated and well-equipped person is important for the development of any industry. The human resources social science discipline is important to the service industry in the Zimbabwean

economy. When citizens are well-trained, they become a resource base for employment and they become productive (*ibid.*). Glewwe and Jacoby (2004) argue that an educated nation is resilient in harsh economic conditions. This is because they can utilise the knowledge and skills to must earn a living. Human resources ensure that there is a trained human resource base that fits perfectly with the required expertise in a specific industry. It ensures the mobilisation of individual skills, knowledge and expertise. When a large part of the population is trained and equipped, it reduces the social challenges emanating from unemployment as relevant trades can enable the population to make a living (Moreli, 2006). This helps to shift consumers from passive receivers of services to active players in the process, thus becoming co-producers. This ensures that people gain skills to solve their problems and even satisfy their own specific needs, thus achieving social sustainability through capacity-building (*ibid.*).

Social sciences are the anchor to economic development in the country, with every aspect of the disciplines having a huge contribution. This is evidenced by the active role of political-administrative power in the management of economies (Grant, Coen and Wilson, 2010). Politics can be positive or negative the development of an economy, depending on the level of participation of the political hand. Storm (2017) explains that the role of politics in an economy needs to be clarified to understand the extent of participation of the government in economic development. The Zimbabwean government has had a huge impact on the economic development of the country, with many of its policies scaring away investors from the country. A good example of these policies is the indigenisation policy that saw the exodus of many investors from the country and the closure of many businesses (Chirisa *et al.*, 2015).

Understanding the political economy of industrial development is pivotal to the growth of any sector of development. If the state is welcoming, conducive economic policies are created that lure investors. There is need for politics to work hand in hand with the business sector so that conducive policies are introduced, for example Zimbabwe in 2009 (Storm, 2017). When a state negatively dominates the business environment, it leads to e poor policies, thus regulations should not be overly hostile (Grant, Coen and Wilson, 2010).

Administrative studies entail the management and administering of any work related to development. Good administration and governance in any field of work lead to quality results that satisfy the citizenry as such management involves all stakeholders participating for a common good (Brown *et al.* 2012). Thus, despite the existence of a well-growing economy where there is poor administration by the state, the economy crumbles. In the case of Zimbabwe, the economy has been suffering due to poor administration by the state (Sims, 2011). Despite the country being endowed with many natural and other resources and receiving foreign aid to assist in economic development, poor administration has about challenges. Mismanagement of funds and corruption have become the norm in Zimbabwe (Bonga *et al.*, 2015). Thus, without proper and good administration, the economy faces a brick wall. Daniels and Hutton (1991) suggest that Africa is one of the continents that has been trailing behind in terms of development and a reshaping of policies is required. However, with a new understanding of administrative studies as a social science discipline, it is important to improve administration in the management of the country. The administrative activities need to be changed and the vices of resource mismanagement are plugged (Bonga *et al.*, 2015). For successful development, there is a high need for administrators with integrity who work for the social and common good.

Social work helps disadvantaged minority groups (Sheppard, 2004). Economic development fosters inclusivity, equality and equity. It is also a discipline that works towards uplifting and fighting for the social rights of disadvantaged groups. Therefore, a development approach that is well-informed from the discipline by social work helps in the formulation of policies that satisfy all classes of people. Thus, informed economic development will not only be limited to the manufacturing of goods and services but also the provision of health facilities, rehab centres and other services that improve the well-being of people. However, this requires intensive and extensive participation of all groups of society to appreciate all the development needs of the society (Brown *et al.*, 2012). Dube and Chirisa (2012:24) advocated for the “participation of the marginalised groups” to have inclusive development solutions that cater for all the needs of every member of

society. In light of that, urban and rural governance need to appreciate that social science discipline has a huge contribution to development. Economic development requires an interdisciplinary approach to formulate sustainable and long-lasting development policies.

DISCUSSION

Service provision in Zimbabwe is deteriorating at a fast pace with the increase in population and the expansion of cities. The country has been relying on infrastructure built in the colonial era. However, these have collapsed and have been outweighed by the increase in population growth. There is a continuous cry for basic water and sanitation facilities in many cities in the country. Most issues can be attributed to failure of public service provision and these include the mismanagement of funds. The health sector is one of the sectors that have suffered over the years as many public hospitals are understaffed and thus the private sector has taken control and yet its services, such as housing, are not affordable to the poor and marginalised groups.

The level and quality of service provision in the country is the yardstick of the success or failure of municipalities and local authorities as they are mandated to provide social services. Public services are an essential part of life, hence there is need for better and more efficient strategies. Incrementalism can be applied to improve the provision of public services in the country. This is done by way of widening public services already existing through increasing the expert workforce such that when the market floods, more human resources are transferred to marginalised areas.

Knowledge has always empowered people. Academic disciplines have educated the practice field with intensive and extensive research that has contributed to the improvement of human capital development (Watson, 2008). In Zimbabwe, academic disciplines have played an honest part in informing the industrial sector. The research and scientific information is formulated based on technology gaps and needs of the industry and the socio-eco-cultural concerns of the people (Murmman, 2012).

Despite the research efforts in the academic field, there is always an existing research-practice gap in the country and even the world at large. To try and lessen the gap that exists between research and practice, Imhonopi (2019) highlights the importance of forming “industrial-academy” partnerships. These help in the exchange and dissemination of information between academia and practitioners. However, this can be successful only in an eco-politically conducive environment. Academia has always been ahead in terms of research. But there is need to strike a balance between academic research and practice in the country.

CONCLUSION

Bridging the research-practice gap is an important way to influence development in the economy. Social scientists are playing a big role in researching the best and most modern ways for successful economic development... Every aspect and discipline in the field of social sciences has proven to be relevant in economic development for human-centred and socially sustainable economic development and industrialisation.

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