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MEETING OF CONSULTATIONS ON EXPERT DEFINITION OF:
A SYSTEM OF ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR AFRICAN PLANNERS

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EXPERIENCE OF USE OF INDICATORS IN PLANNING IN TANZANIA

BY:

P.C.T. MAYEYE, B.A. (Stat.)
Assistant Government Statistician,
Bureau of Statistics,
P.O.Box 796, DAR-ES-SALAAM,
TANZANIA

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS USED IN PLANNING IN TANZANIA

Introduction

1. The essence of planning in any country arises because of limited resources; hence the resources have to be programmed well in order to attain maximum utilization and satisfaction of human requirements. Since resources are not abundant, they are not evenly distributed throughout the world. Some countries are well favoured with abundant resources, some are less favoured. This therefore calls for planning at different levels depending on the availability of resources in each country. Tanzania is one of the twenty five least developed countries in the world, as a result, planning in Tanzania has to take into account the available resources, level of development of infrastructure and the social climate prevailing.

Planning in Tanzania

2. Tanganyika attained full independence on 9th December 1961. At independence, the new nation found herself faced with many economic and social problems. These problems were identified as IGNORANCE, DISEASE AND POVERTY and were accordingly dubbed three great "ENEMIES". Having recognised this, it was found necessary to deal with these problems in order to uplift the general welfare of the people of Tanganyika by then. On May 12th, 1964, His Excellency the President of the United Republic of Tanzania presented the first Five Year Development Plan to the National Assembly for deliberation and approval. This was the beginning of economic planning in Tanzania.
3. The first Five Year Development Plan was a blueprint for economic and social development. It set targets and objectives to be achieved in all the sectors of the national economy by the year 1980. It aimed at eradication of the above "enemies" by setting the following objectives:-
4.
 1. To raise the per capita income of the people from £19.5 in 1964 to £45 in 1980.
 2. To be fully self-reliant in trained manpower requirements.
 3. To raise the expectation of life from 35 to 40 years then to an expectation of 50 years.

To achieve the above objectives it was necessary to expand the production of goods and services in all the relevant sectors of the economy. Although the plan did not specifically mention the use of indicators, it is imperative to state that the use of socio-economic indicators was called for in order to monitor and show performance level, structure and development of the economy.

5.2 In order to improve the peoples' health these indicators are very much used. It is from these indicators that the government can increase the number of hospitals, health centres, Mother Child Health clinics, increase the number of doctors. At the moment average inhabitants per physician is about 20,000 and the average no. of patients per hospital bed is about 50. Although there are no accurate values for each indicator, planning in the health sector depends upon these indicators. All University medical intakes and other paramedical intakes are based on these indicators with the aim of providing health for all by the year 2000. Recently, the government of the United Republic of Tanzania in co-operation with UNICEF has launched a campaign called oral Rehydration in Iringa Region with the prime aim of reducing child mortality caused by excessive loss of body water and salts through diarrhoea. Finally, health indicators help the government in her decision to import curative drugs depending on severity of certain infectious diseases e.g. cholera etc.

5.3 Nutrition

- (a) Calories consumption per day
- (b) Protein consumption per capita per day
- (c) Consumption of protein of animal origin
- (d) Consumption of calories derived from cereal and starchy foods

Noting the importance of food for the betterment of health of the people, Tanzania started the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre, a corporation whose function is to educate the masses on proper feeding habits in order to avoid malnutrition of children and adults as well. The Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre buys radio time and puts programmes on the radio to educate the people of Tanzania on good feeding. The TFNC also uses posters to educate the people on good feeding. Due to non-availability of data, it is not possible to show the quantities in calories or protein content of food consumed by Tanzanians. However, non-availability of data does not mean that these indicators are not used. Indeed, there is a big campaign to improve peoples' health through good feeding.

5.4 Education

- (a) Literate as percent of total population 15 and over
- (b) Combined Primary and Secondary Education enrolment as percent of population 5 - 19

- (c) per cent of population 7 - 15 enrolled in Primary schools
- (d) vocational education enrolment as per cent of population 15 - 19
- (e) higher education enrolment per 1000 population 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ 29
- (f) female as per cent of total primary enrolment
- (g) pupil/teacher ratio in primary education

During the first Five year Development Plan and subsequent plans, education was given special emphasis as a means of eradicating "IGNORANCE", also to help the realisation of one of the three objectives of the plan "to be fully self-sufficient in trained manpower requirements." Without a well planned educational system, it is impossible to be fully self-sufficient in trained manpower requirements. Subsequent plans plus annual plans have also been putting more emphasis on education. As a step towards eradication of ignorance, as early as 1962 an Institute for Adult Education came into being. Its aim was to teach adults how to read and write. Periodically, the Institute of Adult Education conducts literacy examinations to see how far illiteracy has gone down. The latest tests were held in September 1983, analysis of the results is still going on. By 1982, illiteracy level was 21 per cent. In the sphere of education, in 1976 Tanzania declared Universal Primary Education aimed at enrolling every child of school going age. For example, in 1982 there were 3,626,000 pupils in primary schools compared to 3,531,000 pupils for the year 1981. Data for the year 1983 is not available yet.

5.5 Besides the above, in order to attain our objectives, our plans take into consideration other aspects of the economy

5.51 Housing and environment. One of the basic needs of man is shelter. Tanzania is a country trying to build her society on socialist lines. It is therefore imperative that all plans must take into consideration the housing welfare and surroundings of the people. To fulfil her aspirations of providing shelter to all the people at reasonable prices, the government of Tanzania established a housing corporation - National Housing Corporation in 1962 whose function is to provide low cost dwelling houses to people. There is also a Tanzania Housing Bank to lend money to people who want to build residential houses. In June 1983 an Act of Parliament was passed establishing a National Environmental Commission to regulate the use and upkeep of natural resources and natural environment.

Communications, Transport and Services, Industry and Foreign Trade are other aspects in our national economy whose indicators are taken into account when planning. Planning in Tanzania as a whole, has to cover all the sectors of the economy. Indicators relating to each sector of the economy cannot be overlooked or ignored.

6. Another very important aspect in the list of economic indicators is that resulting from population censuses. From results of a population census a number of useful analytical tools can be derived, and these are essential for planning purposes or for formulation of policies. The parameters resulting from demographic analysis are as follows:

- (1) Crude birth rate per 1000 population
- (2) Female gross reproduction rate
- (3) Dependency ratio (children under 15 plus persons 65 and over as per cent of population 15 - 64.
- (4) Child dependency ratio (children under 15 as per cent of population 15 - 64)
- (5) Population 15 and over as per cent of total population
- (6) Population in urban areas as per cent of total population

Results from our 1978 population census depicting some parameters relating to the above, are listed below, showing data for Tanganyika (Tanzania mainland), those for Zanzibar and those for Tanzania where applicable

	<u>Tanzania mainland</u>	<u>Zanzibar</u>	<u>Tanzania</u>
<u>Fertility</u>			
(a) Birth rate	49	48	49
(b) Total fertility rate	6.9	7	6.9
(c) Child woman ratio:	urban 701, rural 821	urban 805, rural 1002	
(d) Sex ratio	96	99	
<u>Mortality</u>			
(a) Death rate	19 per 1000	17	19
(b) Infant mortality rate)	137 per 1000	125	
(c) Life expectancy at)			
birth)	44	47	

	<u>Tanzania mainland</u>	<u>Zanzibar</u>	<u>Tanzania</u>
<u>Urbanization</u>			
(a) per cent urban	13.3	32.6	13.8
(b) Population density	19.3	180.1	19.8
(c) Urban growth rate	9.34	3.85	8.87
<u>Population change</u>			
(a) Growth rate	3.22	2.67	3.20
(b) Doubling rate	22 years	26.0	22.0
<u>Population distribution</u>			
(a) Sex ratio: urban	108.4	96.4	
rural	94.4	100.9	
(b) Dependency ratio: urban	77.9	109.2	
rural	114.6	135.8	
% below 15 years: urban	40.4	45.9	
rural	46.9	50.1	
(c) %60 years and above: urban	3.4	6.3	
rural	6.5	7.5	
(d) Total % literate) urban	73.0	61.9	
10 years and over) rural	48.1	38.3	
(e) % literate 10 years) urban	84.4	72.6	
and over (males)) rural	61.5	50.5	
(f) % literate 10 years) urban	59.8	51.6	
and over (females)) rural	35.6	25.8	

7. Last in the list of economic indicators, but not least by any means, is the indicator on the overall performance of the economy - GDP; which can be measured in:

- (1) National income per capita (at market prices)
- (2) National disposable income per capita
- (3) GNP per capita (in purchasers' values) at current prices
- (4) GNP per capita (in purchasers' values) at constant prices

This indicator of general economic growth is very much used in our planning. If the people are to be rich, it means they have to be mobilized to produce more in all the sectors of the economy in order that the national wealth (income) may increase.

However, due to external factors beyond our control, our plan targets for growth of GDP have never been realised; see below:

	Growth rate %	
	Plan	Actual
First Five Year Plan	6.7	5.0
Second Five Year Plan	6.5	4.8
Third Five Year Plan	6.0	5.4

8. As already stated, planning in Tanzania is man centred, that is, planning takes into account the welfare of the people. With population dynamics as shown above, our country sets into motion other economic indicators to cater for the population. Expansion of health centres and MCH clinics, hospitals, schools, manufacturing industries, roads, railways, housing schemes etc. have to be undertaken in order to meet the needs of the population dynamics. In the absence of a mandatory registration of vital statistics, and since population censuses are taken every ten years, demographic indicators become out of date after some time and hence other indicators will not be accurate.
9. From the foresaid, one can see that indicators though useful for analytical purposes, cannot be relied upon very much as tools for planning since they depend very much on the availability of actual data. However, they cannot be divorced from planning because in order to plan, one needs to have targets and these targets are geared to indicators in one way or another.

10. In conclusion, though indicators show performance level, structure and development of the economy, our planning does not rely entirely on indicators perse, but indicators are used to measure the impact of implementation of planning policies. For example, if the nation wants to expand University admission, it might relax certain admission conditions. Then after some years we look back and see how many students have been enrolled as a result of that admission policy. As already pointed out above, because of lack of actual data, it is not easy to conduct performance indicators, and sometimes they are constructed by using estimates. It would therefore, be catastrophic if one were to rely entirely on indicators in planning. Since this meeting for which I am writing this short paper will be devoted entirely on discussion of "A System of Socio-economic Indicators for African Planners", it is my hope that the meeting will come out with concrete recommendations about a set of socio economic indicators which are free from any bias which will cater for Africa's planning needs.

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