

MINEPA SECONDARY SCHOOL,

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TOPIC: “ What are the main challenges of development in Kilombero Valley and how can they be Solved”

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A challenge: Refers to a situation of being faced with something that needs great mental or physical effort, in order to be done successfully and therefore tests a person's ability . Or It is a test of one's abilities or resources in a demanding but stimulating understanding.

Kilombero Valley: The valley is characterized by various economic activities such as agriculture, livestock keeping, mineral extraction, fishing as well as tourism which is found at Kibasila swamp used to cover a big part of Kilombero river valley, one of the four Ramsar Sites in Tanzania.

Development: Is a multi-dimensional concept which is defined as a change from a low stage to another advanced stage in different aspects of human life, that is, social, political and economic. This is the process of coming into existence of creating something new or more advanced to improve life. According to Mwalimu J.K. Nyerere, development should have relationship with people. Any meaningful development should benefit the people around.

Development and economic growth in the Kilombero valley can be effectively measured in terms of the social and economic activities engaged or performed in the area during production of goods and services. This can be done through making full utilization of the natural resources available within the area. Both the Local and National government can try their level best to push up development to the people living around Kilombero valley through building roads and bridges to make sure that; the production of rice, maize and cocoa in the region get enough market to satisfy the needs of producers.

However, private companies together with NGO's should interact positively in building economy in the region so that; the standard of living of the producers in Kilombero valley becomes suitable. Through these measures, the promotion of sustainable development within the valley and Tanzania can be fully optimized/obtained.

From an ancient time, people within Kilombero valley were still yet conducting economic activities like agriculture, fishing, hunting and

lumbering to improve their lives. Unfortunately, in one way or another when performing such activities, they automatically become resulted into many challenges to the development and success of Kilombero valley. Therefore, the main challenges of development that face Kilombero valley are as follows:

Illiteracy: This situation involves all people in an area who are not exposed to formal education, most of whom do not know how to read and write. High rate of illiteracy makes people not aware of themselves and other matters important for their future life in their day to day activities. Within Kilombero valley, this situation has been a great challenge to the development of the valley simply because people have ignored the issue of conserving the environment to make it suitable for living. Many people have been conducting deforestation and overstocking in the area, the practice which has resulted into desertification and soil erosion at large. This has brought many changes within the region.

Poverty: State of being extremely poor, inferior in quality or insufficient in amount. This is the scarcity or the lack of a certain amount of material possessions or money. Weak purchasing power to buy the basic needs such as food, housing and health services. They are living hand to mouth. For example, fishing activities which are accompanied the use of poison along river banks. This pollutes not only water resources, but also destroys species in the water.

Overgrazing: Reduces the usefulness, productivity and biodiversity of the land and is one cause of desertification and erosion in the valley. Overgrazing is a cause invasive species spreading of non-native plants and weeds. It is caused by nomadic grazers such as Maasai and Sukuma pastoralists at Malinyi and Kisasi-Iluma areas within Minepa and Mbuyuni villages.

Poor market for agricultural products: A market is a place where buyers and sellers come into contact exchanging goods and services. Producer lack constant internal and external markets for selling their crops such as rice and maize. This leads to low unstable produce price compared to the cost of production. The situation has been caused by poor communication

net work like roads available in the area. This results to poverty as far as the purchasing Power of the producers to afford other goods and services (as basic needs to them) become low daily.

Poor farming practices: Over grazing and over cultivation have led to poor land management aggravated by pressure for more food and money, therefore, they keep too many animals on the land and the pasture is eaten away quickly. When there is less vegetation cover, soil is washed into the river easily. Excessive use of soil becomes so infertile that no vegetation can grow on it. The land becomes less fertile than before, so the soil is washed into the rivers more easily. This leads to poor harvests as a result of using poor methods of farming.

Human Resources underutilization for any organization to function effectively; it must have resource of men (Human resource), money, materials and machinery. Skilled human resource brings in innovation. John F. Kennedy says: *“The human mind is our fundamental resource”*. So, in the Kilombero valley, we have lacked people (leaders) at the local level who can know how to manage and organize well human resources (people), physical resources (environment) and combining all the activities available in the area, in order to bring a required development; without leaving behind educating people daily on the effects of their day to day practices (such as using poor methods of farming like hand hoe instead of cow plough or tractors). This has contributed to many challenges of development as stated here above.

Future intervention:

Appropriate education: All the people should be given special education on how to use the valley properly, without destroying other important potentialities found in the region. For example, producers should know that, their lives depend entirely on nature. If one destroys it, he or she encourages risk on the valley. And if conservation of the environment is

done in large quantities, life will become better and suitable for all living organism within the valley.

Working attitude hard: In order to reduce the high poverty rate, people should be encouraged to work hard and find legal means of getting basic needs for their survival. However, the government should invest in jobs and policies to increase worker's salaries and families' economic security, children and families see improved outcomes in both the short and long term.

Science and technology Innovation: the use of modern tools like tractors instead of hand hoes should be encouraged. This will increase productivity and hence results into improving living standard. of by improving farming practices.

Local leaders' seminars: The leaders should be given seminars on how to organize and manage well natural resources. This is because the power of human mind is the basic factor for production in any production processes.

Conclusively, in order to reduce development challenges, encourage better farming practices such as rotating crops and embracing diversity, integrating livestock and crops, and adopting agro-forestry practices.

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ESSAY ORGANIZER: KILOMBERO VALLEY TEAK COMPANY (KVTC)

**ESSAY TITLE: WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES OF DEVELOPMENT IN
KILOMBERO VALLEY AND HOW CAN THEY CAN BE SOLVED?**

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Development is a multidimensional processes that involving entire economic, political, social and cultural aspects. Because Growth Domestic Product does not consider social issues in development, it is not good to use (GDP) to measure development level because GDP does not consider social issues Tanzania's growth is not seen in equal measure in the Kilombero valley.

As I am student, I perceive that the past development was in very low level, due to the most people engaged in production of one crop which is paddy only; they were not engaged in diversification of economy. Also the present development is at least is in the good level as people engaging in diversification economy. The future development will be good if those challenges of development will be at least solved.

The members of students' household can be influenced by the development through engaging in creation of groups (SACCOSS) for the given loans, keeping animals and creation of different gardens, as they can plant the various vegetables which will provide income.

Kilombero valley development challenges;

Poor transport and communication network, Most of the roads in Kilombero valley are not useful during rain seasons, this hinders the smooth transportation of farm inputs to the farms and out puts to the market or home. Poor transport network increases the production cost to the farmers hence it discourages the farming activities, a good example the road from Ifakara to Mlimba.

Poor climatic conditions, the valley is much affected by floods and prolonged period of drought. Floods and drought affect crops maturity.

Deforestation and bush fires, majority of households in Kilombero valley are not aware on the use of industry gas as environment friendly cooking fuel, they depend on firewood and charcoal for their energy needs, this increasing pressure on forests. It is believed that deforestation process in large extent related to fuel wood and charcoal harvest. Also the valley suffers from summer bush fire set by hunters and farmers. Traditional charcoal production and bush fire has led to severe environmental problems, include land degradation, drought, loss of wet lands around the valley.

Dependence on food crop and unwillingness to engage in none farm activities. Most farmers in Kilombero valley depend much on production of paddy in very small scale just for food. They are not aware in production of cash crops such as Sugar cane, fruit trees (bananas,

orange trees, mango trees). Then most of natives in Kilombero valley have not diversified their economy into non-farm activities. Most of non-farm activities in Kilombero valley are occupied by people from other regions such as Sukuma, Chaga.

Poor Access to loan facility Many banks are not willing to provide loans in the agriculture sector, claiming that this sector is more vulnerable to loss because most of farmers in Kilombero valley depend on rainfall for farming. Moreover, most of rural people in Kilombero are not aware of the arrangements for microfinance services, they are afraid that they may be imprisoned if they take loans and fail to repay timely. Some people believe that seeking loans in order to improve living standards is not good, hence they normally neglect going for loans.

Lack of market for produced farm crops, most of farmers in Kilombero valley are small holder farmers who suffer from the market of their produced paddy crops. The valley is populated with domestic middle men buyers who buy the crops at low price, for example during harvesting time the paddy is obviously sold at Tshs 5000/= per 20 litre bucket. This discourages the production of paddy because the cost of production becomes higher than the market price of the produced crops.

The following are the ways to solve those challenges of development in the Kilombero valley;

Mass education, KVTC should prepare and broadcast the radio programme that insists and encourages people to use alternative sources of fuel like industry gas. KVTC must continue to organize as many as possible inter school debates which insist on the issue of environment conservation in Kilombero valley. The company should also prepare a debate (essay) that includes farmers and business men in those villages (inter villages) affected by KVTC's teak project. KVTC should also supply free or at very low price those sawmill residues to all villages that are affected by KVTC's project so as to solve the challenge of fuel needs while reducing the problem of deforestation in Kilombero valley.

KVTC should finance the small holder entrepreneurs and farmers around the valley, KVTC should introduce the SACCOS to finance small business entrepreneurs and small holder farmers with a reasonable interest rate and with exchange to crops at the time of harvesting respectively. This will encourage young people to start businesses and increase their income and make farmers to prepare their farms on time and afford the cost of farm inputs such as agricultural chemicals and fertilizers as a result increase farm produce hence achieve development.

Improvement of transport and communication system, The government and other stakeholders should construct the Ifakara to Mlimba road in tarmac level. This will have double impact to the people of Kilombero valley since, first will reduce the cost of production because the transportation cost of farm inputs and outputs will be not higher, again good roads will encourage the inter regions crop buyers to reach the valley and buy those crops at higher price, hence market problem will be solved and encourage people to produce more crops.

The local government should encourage the irrigation system, for example Idete Prison irrigation scheme since the valley is blessed with many rivers therefore people should not rely on rainfall for farming instead they should develop the culture of irrigation system. This will reduce the risk of crops loss also will encourage many financial institutions to finance in agriculture sector in Kilombero valley, knowing that irrigation system reduces the risk of loss to the banks when providing loans to the farmers.

NGOs and governments should encourage the production of cash crops and participation in none farm activities. That can be achieved by introducing village by-law or policy that will demand people to engage in none crop production such as keeping dairy cows, pigs, and poultry, since experience shows farms and non-farms like Mama Ntilie, shops, handcraft activities people are less poor.

Importantly, development and economic growth to be measured effectively in Kilombero valley it is better to use measures such as household food security, per capita income and production, education levels of people, traditions and norms, health services, nutrition status of children especially in typical rural areas, transport and communication system, housing and environment management both individually and in household levels. Basically, improving capacity of civil societies and NGOs to interact with government to set and implement the development agenda and projects using bottom-up approach is an important issue for Kilombero valley to speed up its social and economic development.

**KILOMBERO VALLEY COMPANY LIMITED
ESSAY CONTEST**

TITLE: WHAT ARE MAIN CHALLENGES OF DEVELOPMENT KILOMBERO VALLEY AND SHOW HOW CAN THEY SOLVED

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INTRODUCTION

Development is the improvement of people's lives in a country. It includes the raising the living standard of people in improvement of production of goods and services. Development is divided into two categories that are economic and social development. Economic development refers to the increase of economic growth which means the improvement of production of quality and quantity goods and services. On other hand social development is the improvement of social services provision.

Development also has two levels, that are individual level and national level. In the individual level it is only deals with the improvement material well – being of the individual such as; good house, car, clothes and shelter and personal freedom as well as good feeding. In a community level or national level involves the improvement of social services such as good health services, education, electricity and technological advancement.

Economic development has its indicators like; per capital income where its calculated taking the annual income of the country (GNP/GDP) divide by the number of populations of the given area. The country that its per capital income in less than 635 USD is considered as less developed while the country that has more than 5,710 is considered as high developed.

Another indicator of development is Birth rate, this is total number of live births to total population per a given period. Where the birth rate is high it indicates that the country is poor while the birth rate is low is considered that the country is developed

Population growth is another indicator of economic development. There is a rapid population growth in less developed countries while the population change in developed country is very minimal.

Life expectancy is another indicator of development. Life expectance is the average of years of life of people. The life expectance is very low in less developed countries compared to developed countries where by people live for long time.

Other indicator includes literacy rates, energy consumption, employment level. The development in the valley is too slow if compared to Mbeya, Dar es salaam and Mwanza. This is due to many challenges that face this area.

KILOMBERO VALLEY DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

The people of Kilombero valley try their level best to improve their lives but they face the following challenges;

Cultural ceremonies, in this area there are many different ceremonies especially after harvesting of their crops from June to November. These are traditional and religion ceremonies which made villagers to use all their crops in this ceremony to feed people. This is a big challenge in economic growth of the area. People could use their crops to sell and get capital to invest in different projects like building houses for people to rent but due to overspend of crops which leads to famine especially in the months of January to May.

Poor utilization of natural resources, the valley enriched with different resources such as land, water, mineral and forest resources, but most of these resources are not utilized enough to improve life standard of the people. Example people who live near the banks of river Lumemo or Kilombero could engage themselves in irrigational agriculture.

Lacks education, most of the villagers in Kilombero valley are less educated. They lack planning skills in their family, example they fail to balance their income and their uses which leads to overspend versus underproduction. For any family to develop it should consider on how many are they and how much they produce so that they can avoid unnecessary bankrupting. Also, mother and father should have a knowledge on how many children should they deliver in the relation to their capacity in production.

Diseases, this is the eruption of different diseases like cholera, typhoid, malaria and HIV/AIDS. This destroy human labor and economy.

Poor infrastructure, lack of good roads. People of this area use only earth road Ifakara to Malinyi which is not conducive during rain seasons.

Poor technology, most of villagers use poor tools in production such as hand hoe, poor selection of seeds, poor planting, poor knowledge of using fertilizer. The livestock keepers use poor breeds, poor treatment of their animals result to poor yield which leads to poverty and underdevelopment.

Lack of entrepreneurship skills; Most of the villager's lack skills on how to use available resources and opportunities to run the business for their development. The villagers are not creative on what should they do to run the business for their own development.

Government policies weakness, the government some extend fails to implement its policy example KILIMO KWANZA policies where government subsidies are cut off to the farmers, high price of fertilizer and other pesticides. Also, the government fails to control the price of crops produced by natives example this year the price of 1kg of rice is still 1200 Tshs. This makes the farmers crop cheap while they spent a lot of money during farming.

Environmental destruction, such as cutting trees for timber, charcoal and firewood is another challenge. Disappearing trees leads to drought hence poor yield.

The Way Forward.

The following steps should be taken to solve the problem.

Students' should study hard enough to know how to live and to use the available resources to develop themselves. By doing so they increase the rooms to be employed as teacher and doctors to help their people.

The family and society should invest in education by sending their children to school regardless their gender.

Providing loans to the villagers, is the process of lending money the people so that they can use it as capital to be used in investment. Giving people money of cultivating their farms and to repay back when they harvest.

Giving entrepreneurship education to the natives, the government and other Non- government organizations should educate people on how to identify the opportunities available in their environment to run business. Example of skills include soap making, weaving, hair dressing and perfumes.

Improving infrastructure like roads to tarmac roads so as the villagers to have access to the market where they can sell their crops.

The government should build more schools, health centers, mines so more will be employed on formal sector like KVTC. Encourage other companies to do the same.

Proper land allocation. The government should make sure that every piece of land is utilized and located properly to avoid land conflicts caused by double land allocation. The government should think on changing their plan of taking land from people in Kikwachu, Mbenja and Madabadaba. There are large farms of paddy in this area which is the back bone of villagers found in Kilombero valley.

Environment protection education.

The pastoralists should be educated to reduce their cattle. KVTC has tried the best to protect environment by giving people education. Therefore, other companies and stakeholders should join the efforts.

Generally, Kilombero valley is not well developed. Society, Government Organization, non –government and other stake holders should play their part to faster the development in the area