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Highlights

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Discovering Thoughts, Inventing Future

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Taking Culture into Account in Development

By Akpomuvie Orhioghene Benedict

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Introduction- The essence of development will find its manifestation, its reality and meaning in the extent to which the changing patterns and indicators that we monitor (for example; per capita income, life expectancy, infant mortality, school enrolments and balance of payments) are translated into a real change in the ability of the people to live fuller lives and to have power over their own destinies. As rightly noted by Serageldin (1998), this empowerment includes the power to express themselves to the full richness of their evolving cultural identities....evolving by their own manifest abilities in response to their own wishes and aspirations.

The empowerment idea manifests itself at all levels of societal interaction. It is found in giving voice to the disenfranchised; in allowing the weak and the marginalized to have access to the tools and the materials they need to forge their own destinies. In allowing each and every household the possibility of becoming the producers of their own welfare rather than consumers of others' charity.

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Taking Culture into Account in Development

Akpomuvie Orhioghene Benedict

I. INTRODUCTION

The essence of development will find its manifestation, its reality and meaning in the extent to which the changing patterns and indicators that we monitor (for example; per capita income, life expectancy, infant mortality, school enrolments and balance of payments) are translated into a real change in the ability of the people to live fuller lives and to have power over their own destinies. As rightly noted by Serageldin (1998), this empowerment includes the power to express themselves to the full richness of their evolving cultural identities....evolving by their own manifest abilities in response to their own wishes and aspirations.

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Salim (1998) contended that each society has its own distinctive system of values that constitute an important part of its culture. A society or community needs to harness and maximize the resourcefulness of its culture in a dynamic manner to develop harmoniously. It is important however to stress that we live in an interdependent world within which each society or culture must strive to keep pace with scientific and technological progress. The challenge according to Salim (1994) lies in determining the ways and means of fostering a synergistic development between science and technology on the one hand, and cultural values on the other. Technology does not have cultural implications and when introducing new technology, due consideration should accordingly be given to the cultural values inherent in a particular society. We are all too familiar with development projects that have failed because they were superimposed on a cultural environment that was not conducive and therefore could not enlist the support of the people concerned.

Modo (1988) note that scholars in Africa have until the late 1980s regarded culture as the main impediment to development in Africa. This was because the concept of culture had not been properly conceptualized, understood and utilized in the

development process in Africa. Development, Modo (1998) observed, had hitherto, been seen only in quantitative terms like Gross National Product (GDP) and...Gross National Product (GND) at the expense of those engaged in production i.e. the workers

The debate on the compatibility between cultural values and technological development is also directly linked to the issue of the compatibility between traditional and modern values. Some advocates of the latter, contend that cultural values and traditions are obstacles to modernization. As Salim (1994) rightly observed; rather experiences in development, as in the case of Japan, clearly demonstrate that traditional cultural values and modernism are compatible and that a people can certainly, achieve socioeconomic development in harmony with their beliefs and cultural values. Africa he noted, is proud of its rich and varied cultural heritage. Whether it been in the field of painting and sculpture, music and dance, literature or archaeology, African culture is universally acknowledged and appreciated. This is, indeed, a reflection of the creative genius of the people of Africa, Salim (1994) concluded.

II. CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT RELATIONSHIP

The culture of a people according to Bashir (1991) is the totality of their experiences, involving their systems of thought and the general heritage arising from their interaction with their social physical environment. Culture is therefore our total being or existence. Our ability to successfully and positively address the issues of culture should be seen as our success in societal actualization and hence development while our inability would be a manifestation of our failure to develop ourselves politically, economically and socially. Bashir (1991) contended that this underscores the close relationship between culture and development.

With the failure of dependent development in Africa, many other countries in the post-cold war world, will want to know what kind of development that does work. Robert (1994) noted that we should take culture into account when discussing development has been known for at least forty years. What is not known he observed is how to take culture into account; both scientifically and practically. The cultural dimension of development is the place to start this discussion.

A clear understanding of the relationship between culture and development will therefore bring

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about an appreciation of the fact that any step towards development should of necessity start with the examination of the people's popular culture and the values inherent in them; for these inform the people's choices in life and hence their general well-being. Bashir (1991) averred that development should therefore been seen as the actualization and popularization of these values; either collectively or individually. The foregoing implicitly suggests that any development process which is based on the values of an alien culture is bound to be problematic.

Examples abound all over Africa where many development projects have failed mainly because social analysts who understand the culture of the people were left out. (Modo, 1994). Cernea (1991) noted that the problem is mainly due to engineering bias. This happens when an overwhelming concern to complete the civil construction, blinds the planners to the social needs of resettled people. For example, Modo (1994) stressed that too many projects have provided for new houses, roads and water supply without taking into account how people will earn a living at the new group site, if the resettled village does not have farming land available around the new settlement. Examples of such faulty projects in Africa due to lack of cultural concern by the handlers include; the Manantali Dam Mali (some 10,000 persons displaced), Mangboto in Togo (12, 000 persons displaced) and the Baardheere Dam Project in Somalis Juba river. Both Manantali and Mangboto projects under estimated both the needs and costs for resettlement. In the Baardheere Dam project, the Italian consulting companies failed to mention what would happen to the significant member of farmers and other inhabitants who would be forced to move by the reservoir submergence (Cernia, 1991).

This article is aimed at advancing the culture research techniques in the design and implementation of development programmes in Africa. It's further geared towards showing that such cultural techniques, has the advantage of putting the people first in development; it enables the people to see themselves as active participants in the design and implementation of projects that are meant to benefit them. Pitt (1976) called the technique 'development from below'. This technique enables the people to use resources within to produce new things.

Bashir (1991) observed that central to the process of socio-economic development is culture. If a people's culture determines their values, norms and general world view, then the role of culture in economic development cannot be over-emphasized. European cultural imperialism which is targeted at dislodging African's indigenous cultures is a calculated attempt at perpetuating dependency in Africa particularly Nigeria. If the values and norms of any society determine its life style and this in turn determine the demand and supply structure in such a society, then no process of

economic development can take place without a cultural base (see Bashir, 1991). Development is therefore the realization of the full potentials of that society as dictated by its values. The expression "popular culture" is carefully used here to depict the peoples' culture which in official circles, is often considered as national culture. The more indigenously based such culture is, the better for the society in achieving and sustaining a high level of development.

III. PROMOTING CULTURAL IDENTITY

Every region has cultural manifestations that strike deep responsive chords in the people. This occurs according to Serageldin (1991) because they draw upon an authentic heritage that helps define the shared image of self and society that creates a collectivity. The clarity of that cultural identity and its evolving continuity are essential to create an integrated and integrating cultural framework. A cultural identify is integrated in so far as it provides a coherent framework within which norms of behaviour are articulated and integrating insofar as it allows for the incorporation of new elements. Such a cultural framework is to Serageldin (1991), a sine qua non to have relevant, effective institutions rooted in authenticity and tradition yet open to modernity and change. Without such institutions, no real development can take place. Indeed, the lessons of failure in Africa frequently can be traced to the absence of such institutions. More importantly, the absence of a viable cultural framework in this sense tends to translate into an absence of national self-confidence and social fragmentation with Westernized elites and alienated majorities.

Bashir (1991) regrettably noted that the most obvious implications of cultural imperialism as Taylor's study shows, is that African culture particularly that of Nigeria is "overwhelmed" by Western culture (knowledge, belief, art, morals, law and so on). Through the media, alien consumer patterns are being promoted among the people of Africa. Consumer societies have been created in these countries with life styles, values, tasks and inspirations based on models and commodities of the Western industrial countries.

The conviction is that the fate of a victim of cultural imperialism will continue to be decided from outside and in this way, its progress can be retarded, as its production and consumption patterns will be fashioned out in accordance with the needs and values of alien culture. In this way, western nations have come to dominate the economic and political lives of Third World countries.

Sadly, through imperialism of free trade, our indigenous dresses consumption patterns and world views are generally "giving way" to European alternatives or to hybrid cultures which are neither European nor indigenous to the people. From these, we

have been reduced to cultural hybrids whose consumption patterns and world view have been geared towards the consumption of goods produced on the basis of western values. This has happened through the transfer of taste in the course of free trade. All these have led to cultural and material enslavement and by extension, under-development.

It is very pertinent to note that western political, social and economic institutions that have been adopted are not in themselves necessarily incongruent with the achievement of desired national goals. Some of them, when properly used, can assist in the process of development. The problem therefore lies on the way such values have been applied and the interest they have been tailored to serve.

IV. CULTURAL APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

The cultural approach to development has been adopted by many countries both in the distant and recent past. Faced with British cultural imperialism which would have perpetuated the backwardness of Germany in the 19th century, Bismarck sensitized his compatriots on the path to national pride and identity through cultural reawakening. Their production goals were tailored towards meeting the values and consumption patterns of Germans and not what Britain wanted. Thus, the Germans looked inward to develop themselves.

Similarly, the Japanese took their destinies in their hands during the reign of Takugowa. Here, a conscious political step was taken to ensure that western cultural imperialism did not thrive. Up to this day, the Japanese have maintained this cultural approach to their development. In China, similar cultural revolutions were taken by the communist party under the aegis of chairman Mao-Tse-Tung.

The last decade marked a turning point in acknowledging the importance of culture in the development process. Etounga-Manguelle (1991) noted that since the beginning of the 1970s, a number of voices at UNESCO have been raised regularly that stressed the importance of the culture in the social, economic and political evolution of contemporary societies. Nonetheless in Africa, this awareness seemed to focus on reasserting cultural identity, which Africans, rightly or wrongly, believed, was really threatened by the emphasis on purely economic development.

For African countries, particularly Nigeria to develop socially, economically and politically, there is need for a "cultural revolution". This according to Bashir (1991) should of necessity face foreign culture imperialism camouflaged in its free trade philosophy. Forming cultural policy as Nigeria embarked on in 1988 is not enough. Formulating policy is one thing while implementation same is another. Specialized agencies under the Ministry of culture should be recognized to

face the challenges of promoting and popularizing the national culture through every available responsible means deemed necessary.

To face the challenges ahead, the various Ministries through its related agencies, should collect and conserve some of our cultural heritage which have the required transformational or adaptation potentials that can enhance our efforts in our developmental quest in the same spirit, traditional institutions should be encouraged to preserve popular customs.

Similarly, through cultural education, respect and pride in a nation's cultural heritages can be restored in the adults and inculcated in the minds of the young ones; thus fostering in them a conscious national identity and patriotism. The starting point towards societal actualization is the inculcation of patriotic feelings in the citizenry. With such feelings, which is the manifestation of love for and dedication to the cause of a nation, the road to greatness is fully guaranteed. Any country with the citizenry not imbued with this feelings, is bound to remain underdeveloped and under the bondage of foreign domination.

V. CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, it's clear that there is a nexus between culture and development of a nation. It therefore goes that any nation that is interested in her social economic and political advancement or progress should never undermine the role of culture.

Africa is as committed to modernity as it is to its cultural heritage and values. It can therefore ill-afford to replace its cultural values by some so-called world culture to whose elaboration Africa was not given opportunity to contribute. Is it wise or advisable for the world to share one and the same culture? Would a uniform culture not stifle creativity and genius and thus hinder human progress? Rather I choose to believe that it is possible to aim at a world within which common values can be shared while specific cultures develop and in which the specific and the universal can merge and be mutually strengthening and enriching.

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Religion as a Resilience Tool to Manage Stress in Adolescents: Islamic Approach

By Abdulraouf Y. Lamoshi

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Abstract- Religions, including Islam, send a consistent message to the believers that the ultimate goal is to guarantee happiness and tranquility. The main strategy for that is through offering a spiritual sanctuary from all kinds of adversities. Using the inner strengths and having a pure soul and a strong relationship with the ultimate power, God, are the cornerstone for that approach. Adolescence is a vital phase of our lives, where many challenges are expected and potential consequences have to be faced. Islam acknowledges the interior power that exists in young people, which can be exercised to have a calm mind, healthy consciousness, and positive thought. This study proposes using religion, Islam, as a resilience tool to underpin young people to cope with their hardships.

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Religion as a Resilience Tool to Manage Stress in Adolescents: Islamic Approach

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Abstract- Religions, including Islam, send a consistent message to the believers that the ultimate goal is to guarantee happiness and tranquility. The main strategy for that is through offering a spiritual sanctuary from all kinds of adversities. Using the inner strengths and having a pure soul and a strong relationship with the ultimate power, God, are the cornerstone for that approach. Adolescence is a vital phase of our lives, where many challenges are expected and potential consequences have to be faced. Islam acknowledges the interior power that exists in young people, which can be exercised to have a calm mind, healthy consciousness, and positive thought. This study proposes using religion, Islam, as a resilience tool to underpin young people to cope with their hardships.

I. INTRODUCTION

Religions, in general, aim to provide to the believers feasible ways to achieve happiness and have a comfortable life. According to Peres, Moreira-Almeida, Nasello, & Koenig, (2007) religion can provide answers to the wisdom behind the difficult situations and past tragedy events, which can alleviate stress symptoms. Also, Kneier, Rosenbaum, & Rosenbaum, (2006) stated that people with spiritual beliefs can benefit from their faiths and prayers in different ways; such as having a strong sense of peace, exercising their inner strengths and capabilities to cope with challenges, and improving their psychological status and quality of life. Furthermore, through prayer and rituals, patients are able to feel connected to God and other believers from which they can derive the consolation and determination they need to handle the physical and psychological illness (Kneier, Rosenbaum, & Rosenbaum, 2006).

Generally speaking, most religions, not just Islam, encourage their followers to look at the world in an optimistic way, forget the past painful moments and enjoy their life. Pastors Osteen & Osteen, (2008) promote Christians to not waste their times in the past, ask God to revive and restore their souls, and enjoy a fresh new beginning right now. Additionally, Ritter, Preston, and Hernandez (2013) noticed that Christians tend to use more optimistic words and are more socially connected on Twitter than atheists. All of these principles are highly encouraged by Banks (1998, p.100), who stated that having an uncontaminated mind from past painful moments and no worries about the

future can clean the thoughts and souls to be able to see the beauty of life.

This study will address the value of the religion as a way to solve people's psychological problems, the importance of Islam in this field, the specificity of the adolescence period, and how Islam address the psychological instability in the life of the believers.

II. ADOLESCENTS FEATURES

The adolescent period, in particular, has some specific criteria, which make it so critical and sensitive to handle. The main challenges the majority of adolescents are exposed to include independency, responsibility, new intimate relationships, personality establishment, and gaining the required skills for adulthood (Zarrett & Eccles, 2006) (Buss, 2000). Furthermore, young people face many obstacles that make the achievement of happiness and mental wellness a difficult task. For instance, some of these obstacles are obesity, substance abuse, violence, depression, and high expectations about the future spouses and jobs (Buss, 2000). All of these challenges put extra burdens and stressors on adolescents' shoulders and make them more vulnerable for depression and other psychosomatic problems. However, adolescents own some unique attributes which make them more capable of using their inner strengths and innate health to overcome the potential troubles. Kelly (2004) stated that Health Realization proposes that adolescents have more freedom to think without restrictions, but most of them are instructed to adopt analytical and process thinking to help them solve their current problems by using only what they have learned. Also, it is much easier for adolescents to adopt a healthy relationship between thinking and experience that can help them establish good rapport with their external environments (Kelly, 2004). Moreover, Csikszentmihalyi (1999) mentioned that though young people may face some difficulties to make a balance between the external and internal inputs, their cleared minds can guide them to ignore the negative external impacts and have healthy experiences. Dyke, Glenwick, Cecero, & Kim (2009) found that adolescents who stick to their spiritual practices had positive mentalities and more life satisfaction. A number of scholars are recommending that adopting new approaches that depend on religion and spirituality may open promising and effective ways to solve many psycho-social problems (Kelly, 2004). A number of

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studies showed promising results in terms of offering an efficient way for adolescents to overcome their psychological setbacks and have mental wellness using the spiritual approach (Kelley, 2004).

III. ISLAMIC STRATEGIES

Islam pays a special attention to stress and its effects on one's life. Also, it mentions that youths are an important factor in building healthy societies. Practically, Islam employs the power of the three Principles; Mind, Consciousness, and Thoughts, through encouraging people to empower their inner strengths to have a comfortable life, not wait for external circumstances to change. Islam recognizes spiritual forces as an influential tool that can impact both mental and physical wellness; Muslims usually use and value their belief as a remedy for the psychological problems by changing their insides (Laher and Khan, 2011). The Islamic approach to face life's adversities include different strategies to alleviate the burdens of life, which may push some people, especially youths, to hurt themselves so much so they commit suicide. Sedgeman (2005) stated people who understand the foundation of their thoughts' nature and healthy state of mind can enjoy the privileges of inner wisdom, calmness, and wellness. Therefore, by following the Islamic employment of the Principles, youth would be able to achieve innate health.

The first technique is to improve people's perception of life's events through having a clear consciousness, which in turn leads to positive thoughts that result in positive attitudes. Islam states that whatever happens to a Muslim carries good ultimate outcome, prophet Muhammad peace be upon him (PBUH) says; "How wonderful the statuses of a believer are, for there is a good in every affair of his, and this is not the case with anyone else except in the case of a believer for if he has an occasion to feel delight, he thanks (God), thus there is a good for him in it, and if he gets into trouble and shows resignation (and endures it patiently), there is a good for him in it" (Bin al-Hajjaj, & Siddiqi, 1981, 1779). This assurance can help adolescents to receive all events with a quiet mind and healthy consciousness. As a result, they would be able to build a constructive experience that can help them fill their thinking with optimistic feelings, regardless of the external incidents. Moreover, the Quran instructs Muslims to not grieve devastatingly over unpleasant events that are because everything that happens has already been predestined before the creation of the universe. Allah says; "No disaster strikes upon the earth or among yourselves except that it is in a register before We bring it into being - indeed that, for Allah, is easy - In order that you not despair over what has eluded you and not exult [in pride] over what He has given you. And Allah does not like everyone self-deluded and boastful

"(Saheeh International, 1997, 553). As Banks (1998, pp 131) mentioned, that satisfaction and gratitude can have positive impacts on the souls and minds and can assist people to be contented and wise.

Second, be optimistic, do and say good things to people: "Do not worship except Allah; and to parents do good and to relatives, orphans, and the needy. And speak to people good words and establish prayer and give charity" (Sahih International, 1997, 11). This will encourages adolescents to feed themselves with good inputs through the words and actions that would help others, and can in turn lead to healthy feelings, which can evolve a serene state of mind and fruitful thoughts. Also, Muhammad (PBUH) says; "There is no divination but the best type is the good omen. It was said to Allah's Messenger: What is good omen? Thereupon he said: A good word which one of you hears" (Bin al-Hajjaj, & Siddiqi, 1981, 1366). This concept of getting used to saying good and optimistic words is also promoted by Taylor et al.'s (2000) and Banks (1998, p. 111) who discussed the positive impacts of optimism and hopefulness on psychological well-being in general and after traumatic incidents. Therefore, the adolescents could use this principle to help themselves and each other to overcome stressful events in their lives.

Third, do not feel failure. Islam promotes those people who start a journey to have a clear Mind that can connect them with the ultimate power, Allah, that leads to release their inner strengths. Muhammad (PBUH) says; "the strong believer is better and more beloved to Allah than a weak believer, although there is good in both. Strive to attain that, which benefits you, seek help from Allah and do not lose heart. And if anything befalls you, do not say: 'If only I had done this and that, such and such would have happened.' Instead say, 'It is the decree of Allah and He does whatever He wills'; for (the word) 'if' surely opens the door for Satan's work" (Bin al-Hajjaj, & Siddiqi, 1981, 1594). These encouraging words help youths, who usually need to choose certain things over others or work to achieve their dreams, to have a quiet mind, get rid of any potential ill thoughts, and therefore can access their inner wisdom. As a result, youth may not get frustrated, and do not regret any choice they take. All of these assurances can bring peace, comfort, quietness, and release the inner strengths that can help adolescents enjoy, rather endure, their lives. Healthy feelings can develop good ways of thinking by eliminating deceptive thoughts, which can result in productive feelings and a peaceful mind (Sedgeman, 2005).

Fourth, Dr. Muhammad Areefi, one of the most famous scholar in the Muslim world, wrote a book under the title of "Enjoy your Life" in about 600 hundred pages where he used the Quranic versus and the prophets statements that encourage people to live a better life. In this paper, I will summarize some of those conclusions. I think the main foundation of these recommendations is

the three Principles, where he encourages people to have a quite Mind, positive Consciousness, and healthy Thoughts. For instance, he promotes Muslims to say only the good things and do not criticize, and if someone were obligated to comment on something not good, s/he should use the gentlest terms (Areefi, 2008, p. 199). Also, he calls people to avert from trouble; "Do not torture yourself and do not gather dust upon you", and if there is a speech of hatred or vulgar language do not accompany those people (Areefi, 2008, p. 316). I believe this approach can purify adolescents' insides and clean their feelings by discarding those illusionary negative thoughts, which turns any potential distressing experience into a positive one. Moreover, he instructs to not commit suicide because Allah very merciful, and he is only testing them in this life, so enjoy your days with what you have available, and you will always be happy (Areefi, 2008, p. 325). Allah says in Quran "do not kill yourselves or one another; Indeed, Allah is to you ever Merciful" (Saheeh International, 1997, 74). Another important advice was that a Muslim should appreciate the valuable things in his/her life before he thinks how disadvantageous s/he is, surely that could make him/her pleased (Areefi, 2008, p.188). These concepts have been mentioned by Sedgeman (2005), where she stated that people who live their daily lives in a quiet state of mind despite their current external circumstances, past adversities, or being worried about the future can have a pleasing life and better health. He also promotes people to respond positively and with a smile to everyone, Muhammad (PBUH) says your smile and good word are a charity. Moreover, do not get preoccupied with what people say and should not burden yourself with what you are not able to do. Forgiveness and emotional balance are crucial attributes that can guarantee both internal and external peace (Areefi, 2008, p. 462). These last mentioned characteristics were also stated by Banks as an important asset for tranquility, he said that "Love and understanding harmonize the mind of humanity to its true inner nature" (Banks, 1998, p. 117).

Fifth, Dr. Ayaid Al-Qarni wrote another book "Do not be Sad" where he collected so many Quranic and prophethood recommendations that aim to make people not get sad or frustrated. The core issue of most of these advices is Health Realization, which arises from a real understanding of human psychological functioning and provides a model for practical applications of this concept. He advocates people to be thankful, forget the past, do not bother yourself with the future, keep busy with a fruitful work, live your life as it is, learn how to stay happy, and avoid anxious thoughts (Al-Qarni, 2005, p. 53). These advices have been mentioned by Kelly (2004) where he stated that the best technique for young people to resolve "specific adaptive problems" is to avoid painful thoughts and gain the wisdom and healthy thinking. Also, Al-Qarni (2005) endorses Muslims to not give up on the mercy of Allah,

who can turn any bitter situation into a good one, and not be frightened by difficult events. People should not let disasters shook them, have a permanent hope, have a true faith in God Who will help them be a better person, and pay attention to their inside (Al-Qarni, 2005, p. 178). These recommendations can have positive impact on youths to develop healthy feelings and improve the quality of their thinking through having a serene mind, which can create healthy experience from inside to handle the external circumstances. Al-Qarni (2005, p.236) insists on that Allah Who took care of people in the past, and he will do the same in the future, do not complain too much, and have security of souls and calm mentality. When those inner sources, secured soul and quiet Mind, are determined and released, they can alter the worldview of those young people, then can pursue their lives in a healthy perspective. Furthermore, as advices fit the best to youths Al-Qarni (2005, p. 231), having positive attitude is the cornerstone of living well, do not get angry, and do not hate people, and keep praying and look for refuge with Allah that will give you tranquility and peace. In Quran Allah says "Allah sent down His calmness, tranquility, and peace, upon His Messenger and upon the believers" (Saheeh International, 1997, 173). This approach has been adopted by Sedgeman (2005) who stated that when people recognize and access their own innate power sources can develop a calm mind by using healthy feelings to evolve positive thinking and be able to manage all difficulties. Al-Qarni (2005, p. 297) says "Happiness is a divine gift that does not distinguish between the rich and the poor". These words are very similar in meaning to Banks' statement (1989, p. 47) "Thought is a divine gift, which serves you immediately after you are born".

IV. IMPLICATIONS

Implementing these recommendations and techniques can help a large portion of young people to overcome their daily life obstacles. Furthermore, these strategies can be exercised by the parents and other family members to assist themselves or their adolescents to handle the challenges and difficult situations they may face. Having a peaceful life provides the whole society with the needed building blocks that can strengthen the social fabric and construct a productive community. Future studies should explore the differences between those adolescents who employ religious beliefs to manage their hard times and those who do not. Then, the short and long term outcomes can be compared in terms of psychological, social, and academic impacts.

V. CONCLUSION

Islam offers a spiritual sanctuary for all people, especially youths, to live a peaceful life by using their

inner strengths and having a strong relationship with the ultimate power, God, being optimistic, purifying their feelings, and not waiting for outside events to improve. Islam acknowledges the importance of the spiritual status as an interior power that exists in young people and can be exercised to have a calm mind, healthy consciousness, and positive thoughts. This can be underpinned through a continuous contact with Allah and have satisfied spirit regardless of the outside situations.

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Seasonal and Spatial Differences in Feeding Ecology and Behavior of the African Civet *Civettictis Civetta* in Arba Minch Forest, Arba Minch, Ethiopia

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Abstract- Feeding ecology and behavior of the African Civet (*Civettictis civetta*) was studied to reveal the feeding habit and behavior in Arba Minch Forest. This study include both wet and dry seasons. This study was carried out by direct and indirect observations. Direct observation was carried out during night using night visionscope. Indirect observations were made by analysing faecal samples. There were seasonal variations in the items consumed by the African Civet. They were omnivorous generalists as per the findings of the present study.

Keywords: diet, faecal analysis, generalists.

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Seasonal and Spatial Differences in Feeding Ecology and Behavior of the African Civet *Civettictis Civetta* in Arba Minch Forest, Arba Minch, Ethiopia

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Abstract- Feeding ecology and behavior of the African Civet (*Civettictis civetta*) was studied to reveal the feeding habit and behavior in Arba Minch Forest. This study include both wet and dry seasons. This study was carried out by direct and indirect observations. Direct observation was carried out during night using night visionscope. Indirect observations were made by analysing faecal samples. There were seasonal variations in the items consumed by the African Civet. They were omnivorous generalists as per the findings of the present study.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Order Carnivora includes a wide range of mammals characterized by a diversity of diet. Studies on diet of carnivores help to understand their evolutionary adaptations and distribution throughout their ranges (Rabinowitz, 1991; Chuang and Lee, 1997). The African Civet (*Civettictis civetta* Schreber, 1776) is the largest representative of Viverridae (Ray, 1995), which occurs in the sub-Saharan Africa from around 15° N longitude to 24° S latitude. Even though, Civets are primarily carnivorous (Dannenfeldt, 1985), they are omnivorous generalist, eating small vertebrates, invertebrates, eggs, carrion, and vegetable matters. Understanding the feeding ecology and behavior of the African Civet with seasonal and spatial variation is important for its conservation, management, disease control and sustainable use of the 'civet'/musk, which is one of the natural resources of Ethiopia. The present study, therefore, focuses on feeding ecology and behavior of Civets to reveal husbandry methods in using natural food items to improve the health of captive Civets in modified habitats in Arba Minch, Ethiopia.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

a) The Study Area

Arba Minch Forest is part of NechSar National Park (NSNP). It is located about 510 km south of Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia (Duckworth *et al.*, 1992). It is located between 5° 57'–6° 05' N latitude and 37° 32'–37° 48' E longitude at the center of the Ethiopian Great Rift Valley with an altitudinal range of 1,108–1,650 meters above sea level (Bolton, 1973). Arba Minch Forest, which is part of the Park, covers about 2120 ha (Figure 1).

b) Food Items

Civets have specific defecation sites called 'civentries' and looking for such defecation sites, one can be sure of the presence of Civets in an area. Food items were estimated from civentry sites. Numbers of faeces were recorded on a daily basis for both wet and dry seasons. Droppings were collected using 7 cm x 17 cm polyethylene bags, washed with tap water and filtered through 1 mm x 1 mm mesh sieve to observe undigested food items by naked eyes. Undifferentiated parts of the samples were dried, crushed, treated with acetone and examined under a binocular microscope. Acetone (2-3 ml) was added into a gram of the crushed faecal matter to dissolve it. Doubtful contents were identified through comparison with reference materials from the habitat in the study area and using collections in the Herbarium of Addis Ababa University. Fruits and other plant items were identified up to the species level.

c) Statistical Analysis

SPSS software, Version 16.0 was used for the analysis of the data. Diet choice was calculated using frequency of occurrence of each of the food items expressed as percentage. Absolute frequency (n/N) was the number of food items (n) in relation to the scats analyzed (N). Relative frequency (r/R) was the relation of identified food items and the number of food items observed during analysis (R). One-way ANOVA test was used to identify the most preferred food item. Chi-square test of relative percentage frequency was performed to see significant food items in the diet.

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III. RESULTS

a) Seasonal and Spatial Differences in the Natural Food Items of Civets

Data on food items of Civets as observed during the wet and dry seasons are given in Table 1. The most frequently observed food items in the Civet droppings during the wet season were millipede and centipede (15%). *Euclea divonorum* and *Diospiris abyssinica* were absent from wet-season droppings. The least consumed items during this season were leaves and fibres. Figure 2 show the nature of droppings at civetries.

During the dry season, the most frequent food items observed in the Civet droppings were *Diospiris abyssinica* (12.93%) and *Ficus* spp. (12.93%). The least consumed food items were snail and food with plastics. Seasonal differences in the overall diet were statistically insignificant ($\chi^2 = 0.093$, $df=1$, $P > 0.05$).

b) Bushland Habitat

There were 11 food related items in faecal samples collected from bushland habitat (10 food items and 1 non-food item) (Table 2).

Insects (13.1%) were the most preferred food items. *Euclea divonorum* and *Diospiris abyssinica* were absent in this habitat. Insects (13.1%) consist the highest percentage of consumption of the African Civets in this habitat during the wet season. In this season, plastic (2.18%) was observed as the least item in the Civet droppings. Hair with bone (14.21%) was the most frequent food item during the dry season. Leaves and fibres (5.07%) and plastic (3.55%) were observed in a low proportion in the food of African Civet during this season.

c) Forest Habitat

From this habitat, 13 items (12 food and one non-food item) were observed in Civet droppings (Table 3). *Diospiris abyssinica* was the most frequently observed diet as recorded from the analysis of droppings (17.17%). The preference of food items was statistically significant ($F = 234.528$, $df = 261$, $p < 0.05$).

During the wet season, millipedes and centipedes (18.91%) and *Ficus* spp. (18.91%) were the most frequent food items of Civets in the habitat. *Euclea divonorum* and *Diospiris abyssinica* were absent during this season. During the dry season, *Diospiris abyssinica* (29.8%) was the most frequent food item, and leaves and fibres were absent in the droppings of Civets during this season. In this habitat, seasonal variations between food items consumed by Civets were significant ($\chi^2 = 6.17$, $df=1$, $P < 0.05$).

IV. DISCUSSION

a) Spatial and Seasonal Habits of Feeding of the African Civet

Data on feeding of the African Civet confirms that they are generalist feeders. The division of the data into two phases was to facilitate a comparison of the seasons as the feeding habit of the African Civet is dependent on the availability of the seasonal food items (Ewer, 1973). The diets vary among seasons, based on the availability of the food items.

Wondimagegne (2006) reported that the feeding habit of Civets was affected due to the spatial orientation. There was high variation between forest and bushland habitats. Because some food items were localized in a certain habitat. *Euclea divonorum* and *D. abyssinica* were eaten only by Civets in the forest habitat, as the distribution of these plants was only in this habitat type. There was also a difference in the relative intake of diet categories. In bushland habitats, the availability of insects, millipedes and centipedes, fruits and other food resources was high. As a result, Civets in the bushland area consume relatively more invertebrates and mammals than those Civets in forest habitats. Invertebrates such as insects, millipedes, and centipedes also formed Civet food and protein source (Dagnachew and Balakrishnan, 2014). The proportion of invertebrates in the diet of Civets was lower in forest compared with bushland habitat, as this habitat was poor in the availability of invertebrates. Civets in this habitat fed more on fruits especially of *D. abyssinica* and *Ficus* spp. to meet the essential nutrient requirements. In this habitat, the availability of fruits was higher than other food items.

The effect of season in the feeding behaviour of Civets in the present study area was insignificant. The effect of season in the feeding behaviour of Civets was reported in both Menagesh-Suba State Forest (Bekele, 2007) and Jimma area (Wondimagegne, 2006). But, insignificant effect of the season in the feeding habit of Civets was observed during the present study in the Arba Minch forest. The area is covered with plants of different species (such as *B. aegyptiaca*, *T. indica*, and *Ficus* spp.) that give fruits throughout the year. Further, the area was supplemented with water from ground water streams during the dry season. Therefore, the vegetation composition of the area was almost similar throughout the year and this was reflected in the food habits with no significant difference in the feeding pattern of Civets in the present study area. However, few items in the diet of *C. civetta* such as *E. divonorum* and *D. abyssinica* were seasonal. These were eaten during the dry season, which were available in the habitat during that season.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the data of the present study, African Civets are considered as omnivorous generalists inhabiting different habitats. African Civet is dependent on the availability of the seasonal food items. They are regarded as omnivores because they consume variety of food items of both plants and animals. The diet vary among seasons, based on the availability of food items.

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Table 1 : Relative frequency of food items in the droppings of the African Civet during wet and dry seasons.

Food items	Food items (%)			
	Wet season		Dry season	
	No. of observation	RF (%)	No. of observation	RF (%)
<i>Ficus</i> spp.	45	13.23	45	12.93
<i>Euclea divonorum</i>	0	0	31	8.91
<i>Diospiris abyssinica</i>	0	0	45	12.93
<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	34	10	21	6.03
<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i>	37	10.88	25	7.18
Banana	26	7.64	27	7.75
Hair with bone	39	11.47	43	12.35
Bird claw	23	6.76	14	4.02
Insects	37	10.88	39	11.21
Millipede and centipede	51	15	28	8.04
Snail	27	7.94	11	3.16
Leaves and fibres	13	3.82	10	2.87
Plastic*	8	2.35	9	2.58
Total	340	100	348	100

RF = Relative Frequency.

* Probably eaten with human food waste deposited in plastic carry bags around by villagers and visitors.

Table 2 : Relative frequency of food items in the droppings of the African Civet during wet and dry season in the bushland habitat.

Food items	Food items (%)			
	Wet season		Dry season	
	No. of observation	RF (%)	No. of observation	RF (%)
<i>Ficus</i> spp.	24	10.48	25	12.69
<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	24	10.48	15	7.61
<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i>	27	11.79	20	10.15
Banana	16	6.98	25	12.69
Hair with bone	26	11.35	28	14.21
Bird claw	18	7.86	11	5.58
Insects	30	13.1	26	13.2
Millipede and centipede	30	13.1	20	10.15
Snail	17	7.42	10	5.07
Leaves and fibres	12	5.24	10	5.07
Plastic*	5	2.18	7	3.55
Total	229	100	197	100

RF = Relative Frequency.

* Probably eaten with human food waste covered in plastic bags thrown around by villagers and visitors.

Table 3 : Relative frequency of food items in the droppings of the African Civet during wet and dry season in the forest habitat.

Food items	Food items (%)			
	Wet season		Dry season	
	No. of observation	RF (%)	No. of observation	RF (%)
<i>Ficus</i> spp.	21	18.91	20	13.24
<i>Euclea divonorum</i>	0	0	31	20.52
<i>Diospiris abyssinica</i>	0	0	45	29.8
<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	10	9.0	6	3.93
<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i>	10	9.0	5	3.31
Banana	10	9.0	2	1.32
Hair with bone	13	11.71	15	9.93
Bird claw	5	4.5	3	1.98
Insects	7	6.3	13	8.6
Millipede and centipede	21	18.91	8	5.29
Snail	10	9.0	1	0.66
Leaves and fibres	1	0.9	0	0
Plastic*	3	2.7	2	1.32
Total	111	100	151	100

RF = Relative Frequency.

* Probably eaten with human food waste covered in plastic bags thrown around by villagers and visitors.

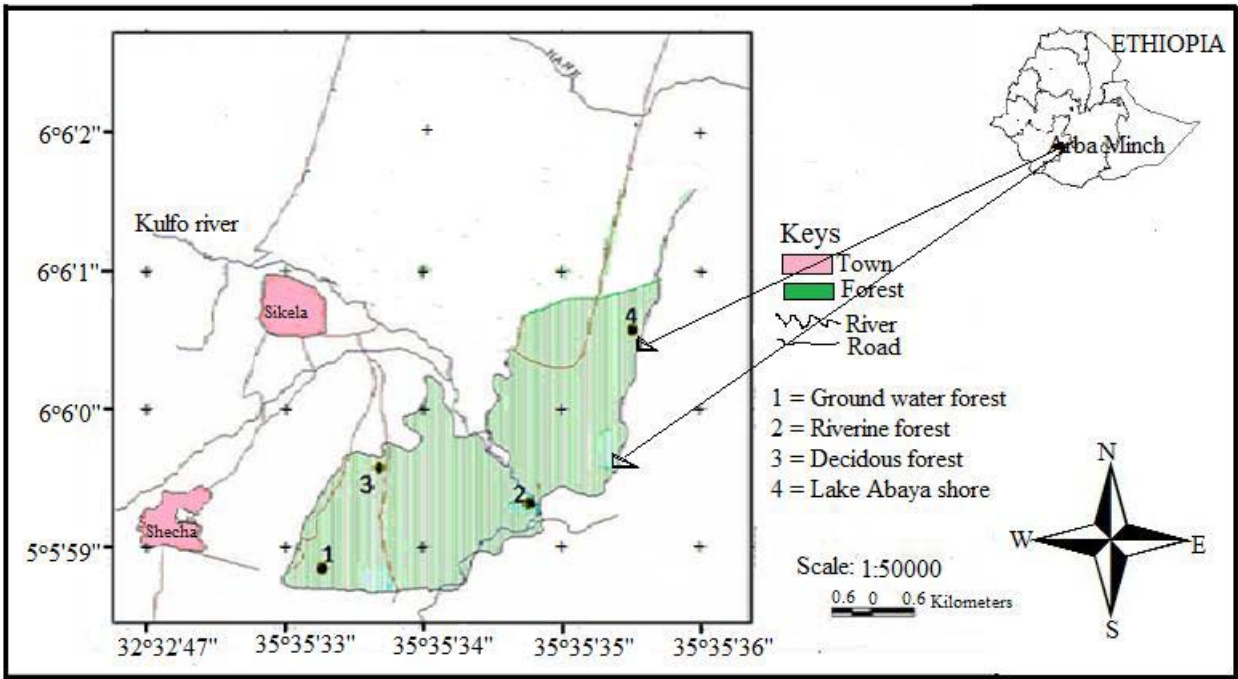


Figure 1 : Map of the study area.



Figure 2 : Civetry showing droppings of adult Civets.



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The Resilience of Urban Agriculture in the Face of Adversity from the City Authorities: The Case of Mkoba

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Abstract- Against a backdrop of serious hunger and general poverty in the country residents in most urban areas have embarked on urban agriculture as one of the safety valves. General food insecurity has become a permanent feature of most rural and city households. This is because opportunities in the formal sectors are all but non-existent. Pursuance of urban agriculture has been done despite the spirited ruthlessness from the city authorities who regard the practice as being against urban by-laws. This paper analyses this phenomenon. Drawing on empirical evidence from one residential area in Gweru, Mkoba, the paper argues that urban agriculture is a safety valve that is here to stay and the sooner the city authorities reform legislation to accommodate it the better. Urban agriculture generally practiced by women, and to some extent men, has aggravated the burden that women carry in raising the family and it has therefore entrenched their characterization in society as “Beasts of Burden”. The contestation over urban spaces between the residents and city authorities is one which the latter are slowly but surely losing because urban agriculture has become a significant feature of urban livelihoods.

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Nyasha Chaminuka ^α & Peter Makaye ^σ

Abstract- Against a backdrop of serious hunger and general poverty in the country residents in most urban areas have embarked on urban agriculture as one of the safety valves. General food insecurity has become a permanent feature of most rural and city households. This is because opportunities in the formal sectors are all but non-existent. Pursuance of urban agriculture has been done despite the spirited ruthlessness from the city authorities who regard the practice as being against urban by-laws. This paper analyses this phenomenon. Drawing on empirical evidence from one residential area in Gweru, Mkoba, the paper argues that urban agriculture is a safety valve that is here to stay and the sooner the city authorities reform legislation to accommodate it the better. Urban agriculture generally practiced by women, and to some extent men, has aggravated the burden that women carry in raising the family and it has therefore entrenched their characterization in society as “Beasts of Burden”. The contestation over urban spaces between the residents and city authorities is one which the latter are slowly but surely losing because urban agriculture has become a significant feature of urban livelihoods.

Keywords: urban agriculture, survival strategy, resilience, by-laws, city authorities.

I. INTRODUCTION

This paper analyses urban agriculture (UA) that is practised by the residents of Mkoba in Gweru, Zimbabwe. Urban agriculture takes place on private, leased or rented land in peri-urban areas, in backyards, on vacant public lands such as industrial or residential lots, roadsides, or on semi-public land such as school grounds and other institutions as well as in lakes and rivers. Urban agriculture often differentiated as intra-urban and peri-urban agriculture can be defined as the production of food for example vegetables, fruits, meat, milk, fish and non-food items such as fuel, herbs, ornamental plants, flowers within the urban area and its periphery for home consumption and for the urban market. It also encompasses related small scale processing and marketing activities including street vending of fresh or prepared food and other products. In many places urban agriculture is also closely linked with recycling and use of urban organic wastes and waste water. “Eight hundred million people were practicing

urban agriculture, 200 million of them market producers employing 150 million people full time ” (UNDP, 1996: 9). Since then the numbers have increased. For a long time the importance of urban agriculture was overlooked or dismissed as merely the result of traditional habits brought by rural migrants to the city, expected to fade away over time when these people integrated into the economy. There was opposition to urban agriculture from public health and urban planning circles which perceived urban agriculture either as a threat to public health that should be abandoned or as a low rent land use that would not be able to compete with other urban land uses. Such perceptions were institutionalized in restrictive by laws and regulations at national and city levels although these have remained largely ineffective. This paper analyses the resilience of urban agriculture against adversity from the city authorities who have failed to accommodate this survival strategy despite its strategic importance in the lives of the city dwellers. It essentially argues that this phenomenon has been resilient despite the adversity from city fathers because of food insecurity and general poverty afflicting many in the city.

II. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRACTICE

Although urban agriculture is an activity that has set roots in Zimbabwe, it remains a contentious issue. Reports of battles between urban farmers and city council authorities most of which would have resulted from councils having directed the burning or slashing of people's crops are quite common. It is about time people know the policy and legislative framework as far as urban agriculture in Zimbabwe is concerned. Municipal governments to a large extent have looked upon agriculture as incompatible with urban development and as a relict of rural – urban migration that dwindles as cities and urban economies grow. Historically no support has been given to poor urban farmers to access land on which to practice agriculture. Access to land for urban agriculture had largely been through informal ways such as invasion, self-allocation, inheritance, squatting and a few rent land from those who might not want to cultivate crops that season. The

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lack of recognition of UA and failure to allocate land to it has intensified urban land conflicts.

Gweru City Council (GCC) has expressed concern over the high levels of illegal urban farming taking place in the city and threatened to slash maize cultivated in prohibited areas and said the illegal cultivation had become an eyesore. In an interview on 5 January 2012 with the Standard newspaper reporter, Gweru City Council Deputy Major Councillor Taurai Demo said "some residents in the city went to the extent of hiring tractors to till pieces of land in prohibited open spaces including those earmarked for urban expansion". Demo further stated that "Local authorities had for long been lenient and would now act on the practice as the City Council has not acted for some years to stop urban farming, a development which is said resulted in residents flouting city by-laws" (The Standard 5 January 2012).

Despite by laws restricting urban agriculture because of its perceived side effects more and more Gweru residents like others in urban areas across the country are planting crops hoping to provide food for their families. While acknowledging the growing importance of urban agriculture by- laws restricting gardens were intended to promote proper land use. Such laws must not be flouted as doing so could devastate common urban lands. Research is needed into ways to balance people's needs with the preservation of natural resources. However in the face of economic crisis and widespread hunger, local authorities who used to strictly enforce such laws are now tolerating urban crops. The livelihoods of a large number of people in cities in Zimbabwe depend on urban agriculture.

It is believed that urban cultivation in Zimbabwe dates back to the formation of the first colonial cities. It was practised by people in various socio-economic groups and for a variety of reasons including subsistence, economic development and hobby. Within the last 15 years the practice has gained attention in urban centres due to increasing urban food insecurity, concerns over environmental degradation, competition from other land uses and its popularity as a longstanding practice of open space cultivation. Over the years the responsible authorities have made endless attempts to curb the practice which some still think of as a rural phenomenon albeit with very little success. The point some authorities seem to be missing is that people in urban settings engage in farming not because they enjoy the activity and feel the overwhelming urge to disregard the law, but primarily for subsistence purposes.

The urban poor throughout most of Africa have experienced difficulties over recent years and one of the coping mechanisms has been increased self-help in satisfying basic household needs. Food is one of these basic needs and urban agriculture both legal and illegal

has grown as a consequence of the difficult economic climate.

III. THE IMPORTANCE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE

As the biting economic situation that continued to escalate, most urban dwellers resorted to UA to augment their subsistence sources. The resultant effect was that the traditional form of UA has taken a new dimension as people diversify into such areas as horticulture and permaculture. In terms of scale, there has been a marked growth both in scale and substance. There has been an unprecedented increase on the number of urban farmers. Furthermore there has been a marked improvement in some instances from subsistence farming to market gardening. This has resulted in the backyard garden becoming too small to accommodate the increased demand for land by both urban land owners and non-traditional urban functions. The importance of this development is that it marked the official recognition of UA by local authorities collectively. It ceased to be activity that concerned particular local authorities, individuals but instead became a common phenomenon for which a common approach was sought. This presupposed a concerted effort to a common position for the advancement of UA. A similar pledge was made at regional level in August 2003 when Southern and Eastern African Ministers of Local Government signed the Harare Declaration pledging their support for UA and emphasized the need to create an enabling environment for its integration in urban planning and the urban economy. The Ministers of Local Government from Kenya, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe met in Harare on 28 and 29 August 2003 to discuss the theme of urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA). At the end of the conference they signed a declaration where they acknowledged inter alia that "UPA is a widely practiced activity in and around towns and cities within the region"(ZELA and MEDPESA 2005 ;8).

UPA has generally been practiced internationally without appropriate policy and institutional framework. UA plays and will continue to play a significant role in promoting food security, employment creation and income generation, health and nutrition and improving the economics of urban areas. Some governments in the region have made significant progress in incorporating UA and others are now beginning to rise to the challenge. The government of Zimbabwe directed that urban councils consider areas and sectors where new ventures could be started setting up municipal enterprises in agriculture, commerce, establish systems for marketing, provision of inputs required by co-operatives. As a result of this directive, many municipal councils established cattle ranching projects and cities such as Gweru went a step further

and set up abattoirs for the slaughter of cattle. Horticulture enterprises were also set up by some municipalities for selling flowers to the public (ZELA and MDPEA 2005 ;9).

The practice of UA cuts across all income groups as both the rich and poor are involved in the activity. The main difference is expressed in terms of access to resources and the driving force behind the activity. Cities are viewed as engines of economic and social development and as a result of harsh economic environment, pressure on urban resources has been rising uncontrollably. This trend has been exacerbated by increasing rates of rural–urban migration by job seekers and incessant droughts. The rise of UA in Zimbabwe is attributed largely to economic hardships (ENDA Zimbabwe 1994 ;96). “It is viewed as a coping strategy by urban households to sustain their livelihoods ” (Matshalaga 1997, Mudimu1996 ;11). UA takes place on home front or backyards (on plot) and on open public places around the city built environment (off plot). On plot farming is mainly confined to vegetable production. Open space cultivation (off plot) is devoted largely to production of cereal crops such as maize.

Within the last 15 years the practice of UA has gained attention in urban centres due to increasing urban food insecurity, concerns over environmental degradation competition from other land uses and its popularity as a long practice of open space cultivation. Studies have shown that “UA should be recognized as an integral and permanent element of the urban socio economic and ecological system” (Van Veenhuizen and Danso2007 ;17). It forms an important part of the livelihood strategies of large numbers of the urban poor.

In many cities rapid urbanization is accompanied by increasing urban poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. As a result in many cities the number of people involved in UA tends to increase with urbanisation rather than decreasing as has been previously assumed. Another factor is the growing urban demand for perishable products coupled with the comparative advantages of production close to markets and the availability of productive resources including urban organic waste, waste water and vacant public land.

The history of crop slashing as a regulatory measure dates as far back as the 1980s but municipal councils have not been consistent in this regard as they shift between accommodation of UA and repression .Urban councils have generally tolerated UA in periods of drought and economic hardship, however there is no consensus on the issue. Politicians appear double-faced as in their constituencies they sympathise with the plight of the urban farmers but are sometimes silent or supportive of regulations that prohibit open space cultivation .This in some instances has seen the politicisation of the practice of UA.

Urban agriculture was considered an informal sector activity (Pryer & Crook, 1998, Bowyer –Bower & Tengbeh, 1997, Tevera, 1995). Most literature reflects the negative publicity it has received where those involved have been discouraged and punished .This has been due to arguments by local authorities that the uncontrolled encroachment of traditional cultivation practices upon environmentally sensitive land and the ill-advised use of chemicals in crop production have many ills. These include the spread of mosquitoes, rodents and the uncontrolled animal husbandry which compromises public health (Mbiba 1995 ; 8).

The uncontrolled urban farming in Gweru with stream bank cultivation and the use of fertilisers and pesticides is said to have contributed to pollution of water reservoirs” (Ngwenya 2003) It is argued that if not sustainably practised urban agriculture could cause serious environmental damage hence there are arguments that agriculture must be confined to rural areas and where it encroaches urban areas it ruralises them thus making them ugly.

The official view remained that urban agriculture was bad for the environment and dangerous to health because stagnant water and damp vegetation attract mosquitoes and rodents. Central government land policies preferred to stress the rights of the poor to return to white owned rural farming areas through land reform. Many rural families were drawn to cities by the need to find work but they retained their rural links and urban farming made them feel complete as human beings.

Urban agriculture was commonly perceived as an activity that is marginal, temporary and archaic. Some regarded it as an activity that is actually harmful to urban farmers, the environment, the urban land economy and the appearance of the city. Most concerns about urban agriculture are about the potential rather than the inherent problems. If not practised properly UA can indeed be both unsanitary and polluting. Government and local authorities have frequently responded to these problems by prohibiting urban agriculture rather than trying to resolve them. This was due to mere attitudinal biases and mistaken beliefs for instance that farming is anaesthetic or that it serves as a hiding place for criminals.

It is thus from the foregoing that the stance of Gweru City Council has been hostile towards the practice of urban agriculture. This prohibitive stance of the local authority can be attributed to a number of factors such as the perceived hazards posed by urban agriculture , its incompatibility with the notion of urban development as well as misconceptions by local authorities regarding the practice of urban agriculture.

The Gweru Public Health by laws are extensive and deal in detail with public health issues that may affect urban agriculture. Having been adopted from public health general by-laws most of the provisions are

similar to those of other local authorities. An important point to note is that generally the relevant by laws for all the local authorities are couched in a negative language that first deals with prohibition of the activities unless certain conditions are met. This probably explains the perception that has been created that urban agriculture is illegal in Zimbabwe.

In the past urban agriculture was illegal in cities and towns in Zimbabwe (Pryer and Crook 1998 ;29). It was often criticized for causing a drying up of the urban water supply and for causing soil erosion. In a report by Bowyer-Bower and Tengbeh (1997) on environmental implications of urban agriculture, they cited changes in the hydrological regime, vegetation change, chemical pollution resulting in eutrophication, crop toxicity. Urban farming is often against urban land use regulations or banned for reasons of perceived effects under existing environmental protection legislation (Drakakis - Smith, Bowyer-Bower and Tevera 1995; 21). Municipal authorities in Zimbabwe have used legislation to repeatedly destroy crops prior to being harvested.

In other cities such as Harare some urban farmers have formed cooperatives to contribute money towards buying inputs such as seed and fertilizer (Herald 2009). It would appear that urban farming has been legitimized and the government has become supportive of peri-urban farming. Peri-urban field days have been held in Harare and these have been supported by the government.

The absence of clear policies and statutory documents relating to urban agriculture has been associated with multiple conflicts between UA practitioners and urban managers. The central government is not entirely opposed to open space urban cultivation in Gweru. The general view of the central government departments noted above is that city councils should state their preferred position to the central government for recommendation and approval. Urban agriculture in Zimbabwe subsists in a plethora of fragmented and uncoordinated legislation dealing with environmental issues. This context hampers implementation of comprehensive urban environmental planning and management systems. Most current environmental legislation originated in the colonial era and is not suited to contemporary and emerging socio-economic and environmental problems in urban centres. Cities are fast becoming the principal territories for intervention and planning strategies that aim to eradicate hunger and poverty and improve livelihoods requiring innovative ways to enhance the food security, nutrition of the urban poor and vulnerable households. In Mkoba Gweru this has seen the intervention of donor agencies such as CARE International, providing material, technical and financial support for the establishment of cooperative gardens in Mkoba which are operational to date. The local municipality has also

been supportive in this regard by allocating land for these cooperative gardens.

IV. LEGISLATION GOVERNING URBAN AGRICULTURE

UA is regulated by various policies and pieces of legislation such as the Country Planning Act, Environmental Management Act, Public Health Act, Bees Act, Forest Act, Farmers Licensing and Levy Act as well as the Protection of Land law which deals with the use of municipal land. The pieces of legislation are meant to order and regulate urban agriculture as opposed to prohibiting it. The misinterpretation and selective application of the numerous pieces of legislation has been previously taken to imply that urban agriculture is an illegal activity. Urban agriculture faces a number of fragmented and uncoordinated legislation dealing with environmental issues. This has hampered the implementation of comprehensive urban environmental planning and management systems.

Despite antagonism from city council authorities, the practice of urban agriculture has proved to be resilient since the practice has stood the test of time. The resilience of UA is due to rising poverty, unemployment and food insecurity which leave urban dwellers with no option besides urban farming. UA has also been resilient due to policy inconsistency among local municipalities who vacillate between hostility and accommodation of urban agriculture. There is no single legislation or policy for UA in Zimbabwe but several legal instruments address the issue of UA in one way or the other. It is the combination of the various pieces of legislation on UA as a practice coupled with misinterpretation by those that enforce laws that has led to lack of clarity on the legal standing of the sector as well as selective application of the laws governing the practice of UA.

V. TURNING A BLIND EYE TO URBAN AGRICULTURE

Local authorities have also acknowledged the immense positive contribution of UA hence the tolerance of the practice. Available research indicates that urban agriculture can be a profitable undertaking especially in the case of products that are in high demand and have a comparative advantage over rural production. Market-oriented urban agriculture generates net income that in most cases is equivalent to or better than the minimum urban wage. Urban agriculture has proved to be a resilient and a dynamic sector with all year round production, small scale processing. Urban farming also provides a source of employment not only for urban farmers themselves but for hired labourers and workers in micro enterprises such as processing of produce and street vending. Urban agriculture has proved to be a contributing to food security and resilience. During times

of economic crisis as was experienced in Zimbabwe from 2006-2009, urban agriculture increased rapidly since it provided safety nets for the poor in Mkoba by augmenting household dwindling incomes. The practice of UA enhanced their access to fresh food and nutrition by making fresh food available. The practice of UA also enhances nutrition and health as suggested by some studies that urban farming households have a better nutritional status as compared to non-farming households. It creates better conditions for poor urban families to produce and market various products.

UA as a sector can also promote sound urban environmental management since it has a high potential for improving the urban environment by using organic wastes. It also conserves energy and food because there are fewer food losses during transportation and handling and offers an alternative to the long distance transport of food from elsewhere. The practice of UA also enhances civic participation in urban management of municipal resources including land, water and urban wastes. The planning and implementation of UA and related projects for recycling and reuse of urban organic wastes and waste water can have direct positive effects on people's living conditions while generating feelings of self-reliance and creates links between the urban poor and other actors.

The economic meltdown that was experienced in Zimbabwe from 2006-2009 saw an unprecedented increase in the number of urban farming households as a coping mechanism. Almost every household in Mkoba grabbed every vacant space to practice farming while those in villages 13,14,15,16,18,19 and 20 leased land from a farm owned by Mr Mauto situated on the western outskirts of Mkoba 14 and 19. The urban farmers pay an annual rent of US\$7 to the farm owner for them to cultivate in his farm. The economy of Zimbabwe shrunk significantly which resulted in a desperate situation and widespread poverty. Hyper-inflation was a major problem from about 2003 to 2009 and the economy deteriorated significantly. In recent years there has been considerable economic hardship in Zimbabwe as the national economy contracted resulting in shortages of foreign currency, fuel and food. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita dropped by 40%, agricultural output dropped by 51%, industrial production dropped by 47% and Foreign Direct Investment declined to US\$30 million in 2007 (UNDP 2009). Price controls were imposed in 2007 on a wide range of products including food, medicines and soap which resulted in severe shortages of basic commodities in shops. Although a few years ago urban agriculture was mainly carried out by women and children, the economic hardships in 2008 saw more and more men becoming actively involved in the practice to supplement family income. The phenomenon has grown in magnitude, significance and scope hence it is now practised by both men and women due to the changing

gender dynamics of this sub sector. In most cases women were viewed to be the major players in UA. In instances where the husband was employed he only bought the needed inputs while leaving the woman to provide the necessary labour. The working husband would however help the wife during his free time. Men also felt that it was culturally appropriate for women to be concerned than men on the type of food that their families ate hence it was their major responsibility. This could be a reflection of the African culture where traditionally a man was expected to allocate a portion of his fields to his wife (Cheater 1984: 14). Men who actively participated in UA were either unemployed, self-employed or if employed earned so little that they were motivated to supplement their meagre salaries through UA. The rising percentage of active males could be attributed to the changing attitudes towards gender roles associated with farming. A growing number of men realised that farming was not gender specific since everyone eats hence farming must be every one's responsibility. As breadwinners men have the responsibility of fending for their families and in this case UA is not only defined by gender but also by the occupational status of male members of the household. Formally employed men could contribute financially by hiring servants to undertake manual tasks of crop production. Poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition have become critical problems and meeting these challenges both men and women play a crucial role in household food production. This can boost household nutrition as well as generating income and building social inclusion of the urban poor in Mkoba. The vital contribution of UA was largely neglected by city officials, economic planners and development practitioners who tended to concentrate on the industrialisation of food production. This perception has however since changed due to the growing realisation of the immense contribution of UA to sustainable urban livelihoods.

Local authorities now realize the existence of urban agriculture as a worthwhile endeavour. An increasing number of local and national governments are promoting urban agriculture in response to serious problems of poverty and food insecurity. The Gweru City Council deputy Mayor Taurai Demo highlighted that local authorities had been lenient due to economic problems that were experienced in Zimbabwe (The Chronicle 12 January 2012). When the country's economy was not performing well in 2008, the majority of urban dwellers resorted to urban farming to make ends meet and as a local authority, Gweru City Council resolved that it should let people cultivate these small pieces of land to earn a living.

What is clear from an interview conducted with the GCC Town Planning Department is that unauthorised cultivation is not allowed but farmers can only be permitted to cultivate in areas meant for institutional development which are yet to be serviced

and developed. GCC authorises urban farming after having looked at its own development plans and is being lenient to farmers based on humanitarian grounds as UA is assisting in poverty alleviation. GCC is also now tolerating urban farming in undesignated zones due to shortage of manpower to slash crops illegally grown by farmers (Interview with Mrs Chikwatu; 10 April 2013). In 2001 the Government of Zimbabwe due to its agrarian stance allocated sixty thousand hectares of land in Harare in a bid to eradicate poverty in urban areas. This was after the government realized that many families in urban areas were actually surviving on the maize planted on the small patches of land. The Minister of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing Ignatius Chombo said the government had set aside land for urban farming because it had the potential of eradicating poverty in cities. In the past only people in high density areas were actively involved in urban agriculture. The situation has since changed with green belts being seen in all suburbs including the affluent areas.

While most land occupations during the fast track land reform programme from 2000 onwards took place in commercial farming areas in predominantly rural areas, there was a steady movement into and occupation of various forms of urban and peri-urban areas as the landless urban people took advantage of the opportunity presented by the chaotic situation created by farm occupations countrywide. There was political interference during the farm invasions in Zimbabwe as officials who had influence in local municipalities encouraged invasion of open spaces in towns (Interview with Mr Mtekeri Gweru Municipal Police; 30 March 2012). The accommodation of UA in Mkoba Gweru can be demonstrated by the nexus between land reform and resilience of UA as the ZANU PF government desired to win back the urban vote since all councillors' posts in Mkoba are held by the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). Many scholars have demonstrated the importance of UA in urban areas and that access to land was the greatest constraint to the activity (Mbiba 1995, Mudimu 1986, Masoka 1997, ENDA Zimbabwe 1994;10). Thus some people seized the opportunity presented by the fast track to access land for UA. Land use issues especially availability of land, access to land and usability of land and tenure problems are of particular concern to urban farmers. The existence, prevalence and growth if it occurs, of food production in urban environments is seen as being predominantly about the use of space in densely settled locations with the exception of small numbers of animals kept in backyards. Land is the fundamental resource required for farming, while access and tenure are seen as critical to the contributions UA may make to household food security and to livelihood composition of the urban poor (Ellis and Sumberg 1998 ; 2).

There has been a major paradigm shift from hostility to accommodation of UA by GCC owing to the realisation of the growing food insecurity of the urban poor especially the unemployed in Mkoba. GCC shifted to tolerance of UA based on humanitarian grounds since the farmers are not being charged anything and this is also due to the realisation of the positive impact of UA in poverty alleviation and sustainability of urban livelihoods. Since the residents in Mkoba are also a major factor in electing office bearers, the elected officials also tolerate UA for political expedience so as to guarantee their re-election by the residents.

The practice of UA has evolved over time to include new actors and has taken a new dimension as people diversified into such areas as horticulture and permaculture. In terms of scale there has been a marked growth both in scale and substance. There has been an unprecedented increase in the number of urban farmers. There has also been a marked improvement in some instances from subsistence farming to market gardening. This has resulted in the back yard garden becoming too small and the tendency has been to move to off plot cultivation. The transition to off plot cultivation resulted in the invasion of nearly every possible open space .Targeted areas are those open spaces reserved for future development.

The growing magnitude of UA has been attributed to a number of factors such as increasing urbanization coupled with increasing rates of rural urban migration. It is however difficult to create sufficient employment for their rapidly increasing population. Meanwhile diseases such as HIV/AIDS have eroded the income earning capacity of many households. As a consequence the urbanization process goes hand in hand with an increase in urban poverty dubbed the urbanization of poverty. Increasing food insecurity among the urban poor and problems in accessing fresh, nutritious food at affordable prices went unnoticed by municipal authorities due to a middle class bias in urban planning. At the same time planners paid little attention to problems of urban food production.

Urban agriculture can contribute significantly to the economic, social well-being of urban dwellers and as well as promoting food security. Urban agriculture expands the economic base of the city through production, processing, packaging and marketing of consumable products. UPA provides employment, income and access to food for the urban population which contributes in relieving chronic and emerging food insecurity.

It provides social benefits such as better health and nutrition, increased income, employment creation, urban agriculture has improved the livelihoods of many Mkoba residents .UA has been a positive response to tackle food concerns and the needs of the residents. UA contributes to energy efficiency by reducing the need for

the transportation of foodstuffs since these can be produced locally.

The biting economic situation in Zimbabwe from 2005-2009 caused many residents in Mkoba resort to UA to subsidise their subsistence. The economic freefall led to the decline in productivity in companies, such as Bata Shoe Company, Zimcast and Zimglass. These companies used to employ a large section of their work force from Mkoba. The economic down turn took its toll and resulted in company closures, retrenchments and resignation by many workers in Gweru. The overall effect was rising poverty, loss of family income hence households were forced to engage in urban farming to make ends meet. The practice of urban farming was a contentious issue as reports of battles between farmers and City Council authorities over the slashing of crops used to be common. This was due to the perceived negative effects of UA on the environment.

VI. CONCLUSION

It can thus be deduced from the foregoing that the resilience of urban agriculture in Mkoba is due to a multiplicity of factors such as the need to promote sustainable livelihoods, urban food insecurity and vulnerability, rising urban poverty, change in the attitude of Gweru City Council as well as the need to mitigate the debilitating effects of HIV/AIDS. There are, however, many challenges facing urban agriculture including the absence, inadequacy or inconsistency in the policies and legislation regulating the sector. There appears to be a huge divide between officials who use the law to prohibit the practice of urban agriculture and the residents who respond to food insecurity by practising UA. The growing significance of the contribution of UA to urban livelihoods has led to a paradigm shift from hostility to accommodation. Studies during the past decade have shown that UA has been recognized grudgingly as an integral and permanent element of the urban socio-economic system as it forms an important part of the livelihood strategies of large numbers of the urban poor. The plethora of challenges that face UA need redress if it is to significantly contribute to the socio-economic livelihoods of the urban dwellers.

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A Happy Congolese Sisyphus? Rolling the Rock of the Conradian Project AD Vitam Eternum!

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Abstract- This paper shows that the major problem of the Congo is to move from an extractive space to a political one, that is to say, resolutely abandon the Leopoldian and colonial state model. This is the challenge facing the Congolese since independence, but it has its roots in the original strategy of political and economic organization of the Congo Basin. The magnitude of this titanic challenge was clear from the accession of the Congo to independence and to this day Leopoldian model is still very present. Getting rid of it is the task many generations of Congolese have to reckon with.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has long stood and stands today as symbol of the antithesis of social order. Indeed, the most knowledgeable analysts note that the problems of Congo are many, deep and complex. However, few identify the real cause or source, namely the persistence, subtle or violent, of the Leopoldian project that was primarily based on the exploitation of natural resources of the Congo and is now continued by the multiple "guardians of colonial structures." The Congolese state is in fact the continuation of the colonial state, which was supposed to disappear. In this article I argue that the most urgent and challenging issue in the Congo now is to build a Congolese nation not just a vehicle for a new Leopold. The paper will first show that the only representation of the State many Africans knew was the colonial state. In the case of the Congo the presence of abundant minerals and fertile soil made it particularly very difficult for the indigenous Congolese to maintain their independence. However, as I will show in the second part of this paper, there were many attempts in the Congo to free the country from the colonial model. Unfortunately most of them if not all of them failed. Politicians like Patrice Lumumba or Laurent Desire Kabila paid the ultimate price while trying to get rid of the neo-colonial state. In the last decades two dynamics have been observed in the Congo in response to the continuation of the Leopoldian project. On the one hand there is an internal centrifugal movement in reaction against the persistence of the colonial state. Congolese are trying to claim their destiny by rebelling against structures of outside control. On the other hand, there is an external centripetal dynamic reinforcing the neo-

colonial project with the complicity of some Congolese politicians who are turned into well-paid "architects of poverty." The third part of paper will deal with the two dynamics. In conclusion, I would suggest that the new Congolese nation should be designed to focus on power as productive instead of exercising power as repression, extraction and obsession with order. The first releases the creativity and imagination, the second inhibits and controls them; the first integrates and builds, the second alienates and marginalizes. The first develops and expands, the second exploits and impoverishes.

II. THE COLONIAL STATE

Much of modern Africa has known only one representation of the State, namely, the colonial state whose exercise of power is now discredited. The typical African state is actually the colonial state transferred into the hands of new managers since independence¹. To understand the concept of the state and the exercise of power in Africa, we must understand the colonialist project.

The colonial state was characterized by order and brutality, effectiveness and inhumanity, discipline and repression, productivity and operations. Indeed, it was not the intention of the colonial powers in Africa to build a state worthy of the name, but rather organized structures to provide the raw materials necessary for the development of Western cities.

In Africa, the Congo case is unique in that it combines the disproportionate, coercive and predatory ambition of its colonizers and the abundant riches of its soil and subsoil. No wonder that the Congo was one of the most exploited territories of colonial Africa. As Hobsbawm (1989) points out, at the Berlin Conference,

¹ According to A. Roosevelt (2011), the colonial state was not really disciplined or effective. Because it was not disciplined (drunken and lazy abusive colonials) nor effective (it could not win economically without forced labor it could not win people's adherence by reason or persuasion or benefits so had to do it by force), it was not even economically effective because it ran each successive industry into the ground and left Congo in economic trouble at independence. Yes indeed there were roads, but these roads did not serve the country or population but just the industries and their captains. Pro-Belgian colonial apologists Van Reybrouck claim that Congo was so organized and well supplied with infrastructure at independence but it's not true. There are some interesting critiques of the late colony by some UN functionaries sent in to take over when the Belgians fled during the mutiny of summer 1960.

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the Congo was designed as an extraction area and never as a political space. The Congo Free State of Leopold II in 1885, and the Belgian colony, from 1908, were governed by the original project of extraction and exploitation of raw materials. The network of roads and railways, the health and education system, the metropolitan administration of the colony all met the predatory logic of Leopold's project that Adam Hochschild (1998) characterized, rightly as business of barbaric plunder.

The Congo is grappling with the ideological and structural remains of the colonial state, which are expected to disappear to give rise to the birth of a true nation. In fact, the demise of the colonial state and its remains is the precondition for the emergence of the Congolese state.

Leopold's project -subtly continued today by other actors- whose purpose is not to build a Congolese nation, but to establish and maintain an extractive space, benefiting the metropole (now synonymous of capitals of economic globalization) remains the major obstacle to the emergence of the Congolese nation.

Originally organized as an extractive environment for the provision of raw materials, Congo has never become a politically stable and independent nation. Despite its independence and all successive political reform apart from the Berlin Conference, there has never been a coherent political consensus on the Congo. Congo today is a continuation of the colonial state, which has to disappear.

Thus, the major problem of the Congo is to move from an extractive space to a political one, that is to say, resolutely abandon the Leopoldian and colonial state model. This is the challenge facing the Congolese since independence, but it has its roots in the original strategy of political and economic organization of the Congo Basin. Contrary to what some simplistic analysis suggest, this challenge is not an easy task, since it requires major structural changes or, as Mudimbe said, "killing the father's smell." The magnitude of this titanic challenge was clear from the accession of the Congo to independence when in the words of Crawford Young (1965) "a colonizer who suddenly lost the deep conviction of the correctness of his policy was faced with a revolution by the colonized who lacked both the structure and ideology. Total colonialism was replaced with complete independence overnight, but the very completeness of the victory of the colonized was concomitant result of impotence which emptied the success of its substance."

For a better perspective we should remember that Congo had a long history of rulership at all levels, and it had much better balance of powers than the Euro-imperialist model brought over from the metropole. Kings versus Queen mothers, diviners versus provincial chefs and court officials, religious societies/versus the rulers, etc. In many cases African kingdoms were very

large and familiar with the provision of goods and services at supra-regional political and economic level. Industries and commercial vehicles were numerous. The colony had to use force and decrees to prevent Congolese from out-competing them. So Congolese entrepreneurs were taxed or prohibited, while colonial business were subsidized and protected by the state.

To date, the Congo is still negotiating with a limited success, trying to make viable an extractive space without a coherent political consensus. The history of independent Congo is, in fact, marked by attempts to free the country from the colonial legacy. It is true that these attempts were never completely successful, resulting in what could be called a failed state.

III. FIGHTING THE COLONIAL LEGACY IN INDEPENDENT CONGO

The repeated attempts and failures to get rid of the colonial legacy have not discouraged Congolese people who are determined to get their country back. Albert Camus, the French philosopher of the absurd, suggests that we should dare imagine Sisyphus happy. Like Camus, Congolese people seek to fight the colonial legacy without abandoning their cultural values, including the principle of the "intrinsic value of human life."

The first attempts to challenge the colonial state took place in Kinshasa (Leopoldville) and in Kisangani (Stanleyville) in early years of independence movements. From January 4 to January 7, 1959, riots against colonial subjugation broke out in Leopoldville and Stanleyville.

On the January 4, 1959 at mid-day a meeting of ABAKO (Association de Bankongo) an ethnic political party led by Joseph Kasa-Vubu based in Kinshasa was cancelled at the last minute by Mr. Tordeur, the former colonial governor of Kinshasa. The information about the cancelation of the Abako meeting did not reach members gathered for the meeting who were surprised to learn that Governor Tordeur had cancelled the meeting. People began to chant and ask for immediate "independence", which triggered the three days riots in Leopoldville and Kisangani.

Abako members challenged the oppression exercised by the colonial state. The Force Public tried to squash the rebellion using violence typical of the colonial state, which resulted in multiple deaths. However the outburst forced Belgium to surrender. This riot, where people were claiming their freedom from foreign subjugation, was followed by the Round Table Conference during which the Belgians agreed to grant independence to Congo on July 30, 1960. Along with seventeen other African countries, the Congo gained its independence in the 1960s. Belgium, being a late starter in the colonial game, did not foresee the prospect of

decolonization in good time. It had trained fewer candidates to take over as administrative officers than the other colonial powers, resulting in only three Congolese with graduate degrees in the country at the time of independence. However, its pace of mineral extraction and agricultural commercialization had rapidly created an urbanized and partially proletarianized population (Peemans 1996). This abrupt and poorly prepared departure was followed by the short-lived rise to prominence of amateurs and half-educated politicians like Patrice Lumumba among others.

In the DRC in 1960, the very nature of the social structure and political process placed extraordinary power in the hands of individuals standing on fragile pinnacles. Simultaneously, however, the pressure pulling at this power and the social forces constraining individual actions were so strong that none of these individuals could go against the colonialists who wanted independence in name only. The neocolonialist United States hoped to gain strategic minerals from countries like the Congo and to keep those resources away from their Cold War enemy, the USSR. The US sought to promote their notion of "democracy" a little more enthusiastically than the jaded Europeans, but they were also perfectly willing to dispense with it for strategic calculations (Noyce 2001).

Five days following independence on July 5, 1960 Congolese soldiers rebelled against their European officers. This was the first crisis with which the newly independent Congolese government had to grapple. Congolese soldiers could no longer accept the racial discrimination to which they had been subjugated by their white counterparts within the army. In fact for General Jansen's the Commandant in Chief of the *Force Publique*, as he put it himself in a formula that read like, for La Force Publique, *Avant l'Indépendance = Après l'Indépendance* (before Independence = after independence) meaning that the structure of the Congolese national army should remain the same; white officers being naturally superior to black officers.

On July 11, 1960, Katanga province seceded under Moïse Tshombe. This secession could hardly be called as a rebellion against the colonial project. On the contrary the Katanga Province wanted to carry on the Leopold project the entire country was contesting after independence. Belgian officers regrouped there under their country's orders and mining companies. As he reveals in his importunate book, "I was General Janssens," he and his fellow Belgian officers had refused to Africanize the leadership and had organized a plot to remove Lumumba. It was not true that discrimination was supposed to continue, merely that that's he and the colonials wanted.

However, 20,000 peacekeepers were sent to the Congo to protect Europeans and to restore the colonial order of things. Western paramilitaries and mercenaries who were often hired by mining companies

to protect their interests poured into the Congo. The goal was to keep the colonial order and ensure that raw material flow from the mines to the shores were continuing without interruption.

On August 6, 1960, only few months after Independence, Kasai announced its independence from the entire colonial monster created by King Leopold. South Kasai's secession was orchestrated by the Belgian military in Katanga and US companies.

IV. LUMUMBA AND THE FIGHT AGAINST THE COLONIAL ORDER

On December 1961, United Nations peacekeepers recaptured Kasai and on January 15, 1963, the Blue Helmets regained the control of Katanga. These rebel regions were joined with the rest of the state in the logic of the colonial State with its characteristics of exploitation, repression and inhumanity, and an extroverted economy.

The United States, Belgium, their NATO allies, and the UN removed Lumumba from office, but the parliament voted him back in. As both CIA and Belgian intelligence wrote home, Lumumba kept coming back after every attempt to sideline him. After a succession of failed western controlled governments, the United States put Joseph Mobutu in power after helping Belgian officials in Katanga to assassinate Lumumba.

The figure of Lumumba is one of the most known in the Congo and all over the world. However, as Anna Roosevelt points out in her article, "Behind the Veil: Culpability in the assassination of Lumumba,"

"The exact circumstances of the crime have long been hidden. Those involved concealed and destroyed evidence, falsified facts, framed others or kept silent... Though it was a capital crime in nearly all relevant jurisdictions, no police investigation nor prosecutions were held, and the case never went to a judge or jury. Despite recurrent rumors of direct US and Belgium responsibility, most official and scholarly sources attribute the assassinations to Congolese leaders and soldiers" (2011:2).

A few commissions of inquiry into the assassination of Lumumba were established in the US and Belgium. The culpability of the US and Belgium was established by these inquiry commissions. A recent inquiry launched by Belgian scholar Ludo De Witte and the Belgian parliament acknowledged that many Belgians were involved in the plot against Lumumba even exposing many scholars and journalists as undercover Belgium security agents (Roosevelt 2011).

Lumumba was fighting against the repressive, exploitative and discriminatory Leopoldian State incarnated by the Belgian colonial State. His assassination translates the fierce resistance of the Conradian project to this day.

Most of Congo still supported the independent government and by 1964, a closest aid of Lumumba Simba rebelled against the Congolese government. Simba's rebellion had engulfed half of the country. Simba did not only oppose the Mobutu government in Kinshasa which symbolized the continuity of the Leopold project, but also the underlying aim of the project where the economic trajectory remained the same as during the colonial subjugation. Once again Western troops from the US, Belgium and European mercenaries were sent to establish order, which trapped the Congolese under colonial control.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 a series of domestic protests took place in the Congo in the hope of getting rid of the colonial project, which has been perpetuated by the "gatekeepers of the colonial structures." In 1991 Congolese people protested against unpaid wages by looting all the oligarchs of the regime who upheld the Leopold project. To counter these actions, 2000 French and Belgian troops were deployed to Kinshasa to evacuate foreign nationals and indeed protect the regime of "gatekeepers".

In 1991 the Congolese decided to legally confront the Leopoldian State and get rid of it during a Sovereign National Conference. More than 2000 representatives from various political parties gathered in Kinshasa under the leadership of Bishop Monsengwo to reimagine another future for the Congo outside the Leopold project. However these attempts failed because European handlers helped Mobutu to divide the congress and keep power until his removal by Laurent Desire Kabila with the help of Rwandan and Ugandan national armies in May 2007.

V. LAURENT DESIRE KABILA AND THE FIGHT AGAINST THE CONRADIAN STATE

Although welcomed by many Congolese, who let his military coalition pass almost unobstructed through Congo, Laurent Kabila is a mysterious presence in the history of Congo. Was he a true relic Lumumbist or an affiliate of western interests? Sometimes he acted like the one and sometime the other. In the beginning he seemed to pursue the country's independent interests, but by the end he was handing out obscene concessions for Congo's riches to murky foreign corporations with little controls. He became the son Mobutu did not have. In 1960s, the Americans imposed favorite candidate Joseph Desire Mobutu, proved to be powerful enough to nearly destroy the whole country over the next thirty-five years. Mobutu's corruption lasted until he was ousted in 1997 by Laurent-Desire Kabila with the help of Rwandan and Ugandan soldiers (Wrong 2000:3). Kabila was the neo-Mobutist solitary dictator who transformed the world's most attractive minerals market into a buccaneer industry enriching himself and his family network at the expenses of the Congolese

people. Kabila was later assassinated by one of his bodyguard in January 2001. His son Joseph rules in a manner perceived by outsiders as better suited the dictum of "good governance" and responsible economic management, yet the country remains "war-torn," and example of a "failed state". (Morre 2001, 2004, Clapham 2002, Duffield 2000; Ottaway 2002)

However, in some of his lucid moment, Laurent Kabila was aware that the main struggle was against the colonial State Lumumba fought for. Unfortunately at the end of his regime he behaved like the Leopold's heir.

VI. TWO DYNAMICS: CENTRIFUGAL AND CENTRIPETAL.

Observers of the political life in the Congo in the last two decades could see that the country was housing two dynamics. From inside, some regions have expressed the desire to delink with the central government of Kinshasa, which symbolizes the colonial project. This movement of pulling over from the center has sometimes taken on the form of a rebellion where a group of people decide to deprive the government from its claim to a monopoly of violence. This resistance is also against the type of state Kinshasa perpetuates, the colonial state. All the rebellions from the 1960s to the series of rebellions we have today, could be understood as internal attempts for these groups to dissociate from the colonial Leviathan. Some groups have had some success. The Rally of Congolese for Democracy (RCD), a Rwandan backed rebel group took control of part of North Kivu and has managed to extend its control to the entirety of South Kivu from 2000 to 2003. In 2006, a dissident general of the Congolese army, M. Nkunda Batware also rebelled against the government and threaten to capture the city of Goma and its hinterland in 2006. More recently a movement named after the March 23, 2006 agreement between Nkunda's group and the Kinshasa government, the M23 briefly took control of the city of Goma in November 2012. Kinshasa was obliged to negotiate with the rebels. Even today many local rebel groups still fight the government in order to control their own region and to pull out of the colonial state.

This centrifugal movement confronts centripetal tendencies emanating mostly from outside players and foreign interests. The Congolese structure today is a reproduction of colonial one, but with local managers. Those who benefit from the continuation and the maintenance of the colonial state characterized by exploitation and repression, brutality and obsession with order, are also fighting to keep the status quo. The Kinshasa government receives foreign aid to better control the country, it buys weapons to ensure that it reinforces its claim over the monopoly of violence and oppresses and destroys those who will not follow. This centripetal dynamic is sustained by outside interests for their foreign policy goals with the complicity of local

leaders. Following the aftermath of the Twin Tower attacks in New York, in the name of the war on terror, the Congo was given aid by the US to strengthen its unity and to keep its uranium out of the hands of the Al-Qaida. In the 1960s, the neo-colonial Mobutu government was supported in order to keep Congo's minerals out of the hands of the communist USSR and the oppressive and exploitative structure continued unabated. The 20,000 peacekeepers based in the Congo are there to ensure that the extraction continues uninterrupted and not to support claims for the just redistribution of resources. The UN seems to be another sort of 'state,' or part of an emerging 'global state,' that does not work very effectively at keeping the peace, but does certainly help a few people to accumulate wealth? On the side. Of course, it is ostensibly creating a peace that will help big capital make a cleaner sweep. This is the primary role of global military governance. By giving former colonial powers such as France power over its forces, the UN continues the neo-colonial project. For example, it was French and Belgian officers who supported, armed and directed the disruptive Rwandan genocide forces into eastern Congo.

VII. A RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL CASE OF CENTRIFUGAL COMMUNITY: THE NANDE

The Nande community of Northeast Congo is known for its entrepreneurial spirit (MacGaffey 1991, Vwakyankazi 1991, Mirembe 2005, Raeymaekers 2007, Kabamba 2013). But what distinguishes them from other groups is the desire to invest in their local milieu. Contrary to other groups like Luba (Kabamba 2011; Petit 2000) the Nande invest the profits of their gold trade back into Beni and Butembo where they were produced. They consider the State to be a parasite (MacGaffey 1991). Mobutu sent his republican guards into Butembo to collect money while leaving the businessmen alone. Today, an alliance between businessmen, church officials and multiple formations of militia have given the Nande community the freedom to distance itself from the neocolonial government in Kinshasa. Joseph Kabila who behaves as a monarch, a Leopold heir, collects money from the Nande for his elections, but for the businessmen the message to Kabila is clear: "leave us alone!"

Using the entrepreneurial spirit, and their relative success in transnational trade of gold, the Nande have built a social cohesion in a chaotic DRC. The reason of this success is the community's effort to insulate itself from the Leopoldian project maintained by the Kinshasa regime. However, the Nande case is part of the centrifugal movement, which is strongly opposed by the violence of the neocolonial State and its beneficiaries engaged in the centripetal maintenance of the Congo. This movement seems infinite because the more the neocolonial state is fought against the more it

keeps coming back. It is the Sisyphus fate of rolling the rock on the mountain. The Congolese are rolling the rock of the Leopoldian State over and over on the mountain of human history. Albert Camus tells us that one should imagine a happy Sisyphus or happy Congolese.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Indeed, Congo has known only one representation of the State, namely, the colonial state whose exercise of power is now discredited. The idea that power is the monopoly of the state which exercises it from the top-down is increasingly challenged in our time where networks powered by interactive decision making processes typically include non-state actors. Theoretically, power understood as potential, that is to say, the elemental power by which humans deploy their productive capacity and their creative possibilities, is probably prior to power understood as potestas, that is to say the obsession with order which often proves repressive. However, Congo, defined as a symbol of the antithesis of the social order, has all the signs of the decay of power as potestas. In fact, a critique many students of political science have of the Congo is not so much the absence of the state (which is undeniable) but the necessary decline in my opinion of the colonial state or of power as potestas, leaving the field open to opportunistic powers. However, the demise of the colonial state and its remains is the precondition for the emergence of the Congolese state.

As the case of the Nande shows and many studies of the kingdoms and chiefdoms show, Congolese are perfectly able to organize and govern themselves and perfectly able to cohere into large political entities. The key is to remove the stranglehold of outside institutions to let the country roll under its own power.

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Transgression of the Concept of Public-Private

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Abstract- In this era of individualism almost everyone is concerned about maintaining the privacy, but it becomes too confusing as the core concept of public and private can no more be described in a straight and easy way. Both of these issues get different dimensions which actually transgress the characteristics of being "Public" or being "Private". Even the concerns of people about privacy and concealing or sharing their private matters or experiences are also changed. This paper deals with present ideas regarding these complicated issues of public and private, how these changes are occurred, which trend works behind this change and also the existing psychology of the modern people regarding the conception of privacy and public matters. Earlier, while people kept diary to reflect their dreams, pain and pleasure, but now the technocrat people share almost every thinking firstly in the "What's on your mind" box in Face book. It becomes so normal to share the mind with lots of people. In this capitalist and corporate world human being are no more treated as human being rather they are treated as commodity. Privacy and livelihood of individuals become victims of dominant corporate culture. Their experience, life style, emotion everything become the products for selling.

Keywords: individualism, public, private, transgression, gaze, panopticon, social media commoditization.

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Transgression of the Concept of Public-Private

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Keywords: individualism, public, private, transgression, gaze, panopticon, social media commoditization.

I. INTRODUCTION

Individualism, freedom of self, space for own are the most talked topics for today. Everyone is concern about own interest, own life and mainly about not to give any space to any *outsiders* to own periphery. In a word, privacy is one of the prime concerns of modern people. But, this is the time of confusion, instability, raising questions, time of deconstruction, reconstruction and the time of destabilizing the definition. It is difficult to give any fixed definition or say something definitely that, "this is this" or "that is that". This is also applicable regarding the concept of "Public" and "Private". Now a day it is difficult to say categorically which one is public issue and which one is private. In a general sense public means, those issues, all the people have right to know about, anyone can ask question, can give or have their own views and comments (apart from the social/ legal/religious

restrictions). Particularly 'public' means for "all", for a large number of people are related to it though they themselves are not known to each other or have any connection with one another. On the other hand the word "Private" mainly refers to the personal issues like individuals' choice, liking or disliking, family decision etc. The main difference between public and private is, Public issue is for sharing with a large number of people while private issue is only for limited personal areas. But, in this period people have different sorts of ideas regarding "Publicity" and "Privacy" which make it too complicated to distinguish the concepts in a straight and easy way. Technology, change in human psychology, social structure and mainly the economic power play of the authority have the influence on existing ideas on Public and Private. Now, people share with a relatively large number of persons of their private experiences, which we can say "Privately public". On the other hand, there are some issues, which should be circulated in detail to gain large number of public concern, but are not accessible to all. There are restrictions or social barriers on these public issues which can be marked as "Publicly Private".

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II. FACEBOOK & PERSONAL DIARY

Technology has changed the way of our lives, way of our expressing emotions, thoughts, feelings and any state of our minds. Sometimes it seems that we do not control the technology rather it controls us. Technological changes are vital factors in controlling the ideas regarding public and private. Internet, mobile phone, webcam etc. including the media bring the epoch making change in human mind. We may take "Facebook", "Twitter" or "Google +" as the example which in the name of social networking actually blurs the boundary between public and private. If we analyze the statistics carefully then we can see that the users of Facebook are large in number than the diary keepers in present time. Earlier, while people kept diary to reflect their dreams, pain and pleasure, to document their told and untold thinking and experiences only for their own and kept the diary in a secret place so that no one can know about the diary and its contents which were exclusively private. But now the technocrat people share almost everything readily in the "What's on your mind" box in Facebook. It becomes so normal to share the *mind* with lots of people and to expose a private experience in public. If we observe the "Status" of Facebook minutely then we see that these are on topics

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including political view, social criticism, religious belief etc. But apart from these there are topics which are too personal to share, like personal feeling of grief and grievance, personal rage, anger or hatred for someone even it includes the conversation with the beloved. It cannot be denied that Facebook or Google + help to circulate news among the known, semi-known and unknown persons, these social networking sites help to create a kind of network but at the same time with this *net* gradually we are being so tightly wrapped with that our minds fail to *work* as individual mind rather it becomes a part of that *net*. For example, a person just has an intention to circulate an announcement about reunion of his school and gives it as his Facebook status. He starts using Facebook with this. Then he starts sharing the school memories to reunite the friends, maybe there are some common friends who are attached both of his or her school and childhood memories, so that he or she starts sharing his memories about childhood and gradually it goes onward and so many personal matters. One more thing, we often use webcam for video conversation with the so-called friends about whom we have least ideas. Do we ever think in this way that when we are using the webcam sitting in our bedroom for the conversation with a semi-known or almost unknown guy actually we give them access to enter into our bedroom? Using the technological advancement we give entry to the public to our private life consciously or unconsciously. Same thing happens in sharing the pictures. As "profile picture" or in the "album" a person accustomed with sharing pictures in such a way as if it is an integral part of the life. Even by using "Check in" we announce where we are with whom at any particular moment. It seems accomplishment of any tour or event is partly depended on sharing pictures on Facebook a family tour or family gathering whether it is worth sharing or not.

a) *Publication of Private*

Now come to another point which can help to understand the blurring position of public and private in present days. It is the Celebrities. In the celebrity show, in the entertainment pages of newspaper we get details about the private life of the celebrities. The TV show like "Big Boss" or the tabloid paper keeps nothing as private in the life of the celebrities. From the earlier period people have interests about the celebrities. They are curious to know the detail about the popular figures. Media as the part of their business tries to meet up this public curiosity and it is not an unusual. But now a day, it seems the celebrities themselves are in competition of exposing their private lives more and more exceeding the others. For example, before the special occasions like Eid or Puja there are special shows on TV channels and pages on newspapers only on the topic that what will the celebrity do on that special day, what will he or she wear, what will he or she purchase for the family and

even what will he or she specially cook for the family. There are also some shows which are for celebrating the birthday of the popular face while birthday can be marked as an occasion for personal celebration. Even some known faces use rumors or scandal about their private life to make themselves popular or somehow known to the public. Media use the personal conversation or video of the celebrities for economic benefits and in many cases the celebrities themselves give consent to it. It seems that celebrities take their private lives as the capital to gain popularity or success in their career. These are the example of "Publication" of private matters.

b) *Publicly Private*

But there are some areas which strictly have the reasons to be treated as public, which need more and more public concern but they are neglected as private matters. Abusive behaviors to the family member, torturing home-maid, neglecting the physically challenged child etc are the example of these. Even committing suicide is still now marked as a personal matter by majority people. Gaze of the society actually control these issues. In most of the cases the victims keep silent and try to hide their problems and sufferings from the other by thinking that what will say the others, how the society will react after knowing their problems regarding, for example, the problem of an addicted child or the problem of cruelty from the torturing husband. Gaze of the society also controls the mind of the people who have desire to raise the voice against these problems or have a desire to help a victim. If he or she is not powerful enough (both economically and by social status) then he or she have face hundred of questions like "who told you to interfere into other *family problems*," "who are you to talk about these" etc. These issues like torturing own family members, committing suicide are still now marked as personal matter while these are extremely issues for the public concerns.

c) *Why this Public & Private?*

Now the question is why are these changes, why people share their too personal emotion too publicly, why they give access to the public to their private life. From our childhood we have heard a saying, "Human is social being". Man cannot live alone. Not only for livelihood but also for emotional survival they need others accompany. In this era of individualism people become too individual, too alone like the island. Most of the families are now nuclear families. Parents are busy with their jobs, siblings (if there is any) are too busy with their own study and career and they have hardly any bondage to share their feelings and emotion, there are hardly any scope for gathering the friends and relatives. In this corporate world human beings become like machines, they run after work for their survival. Individualism and self interest are the agenda of

capitalist society where there is no time to be concerned of others.

In the discussion regarding Marxism, Barry (2010) says:

The exploitation of one social class by another is seen especially in modern industrial capitalism, particularly in its unrestricted nineteenth-century form. The result of this is *alienation* . . . People, in a word, become things. . . . the pursuit of individual economic self interest would bring economic and social benefits to the whole society (the belief which was and is the underlying rationale of capitalism). (p. 151)

So, in this situation, all are looking for an outlet, a space where they can share the emotion and also wants the reaction and interaction. By sharing the private matters publicly, people actually want to find an escape from loneliness or alienation. By sharing own feeling on a social networking site people actually want to connect themselves to reduce their loneliness.

Human being wants recognition and attention of the others. It becomes almost impossible to live without any attention of the other. Human psychology is very complicated and our psychology has different levels and parts. We always try to hide some part of it and to focus on the other parts.

In the discussion of psychoanalysis Tyson (2006) says:

“Our unconscious desires not to recognize or change our destructive behaviors-because we have formed our identities around them and because we are afraid of what we will find if we examine them too closely- are served by our *defenses*. Defenses are the process by which the contents of our unconscious are kept in the unconscious. . . . Of course, sometimes our defenses momentarily break down, and this is when we experience *anxiety*. Anxiety can be an important experience because it can reveal our *core issues*. . . . *Fear of abandonment*- the unshakable belief that our friend and loved ones are going to desert us (physical abandonment) or don't really care about us (emotional abandonment). (p. 15,16)

In this busy world people hardly have any time to pay any attention for the other. So, when a person shares a too personal experience publicly there is obviously a reason that he wants to grab the others' attention.

Commodification of human being is another reason which blurs the concept of public and private. In this capitalist and corporate world human being are no more treated as human being rather they become commodity. Nationally and internationally privacy and livelihood of individuals become victims of dominant corporate culture. Human experience, life style, emotion everything become the products for selling. For example the celebrities themselves become the product knowingly or unknowingly. They have to sale their private experience in the name of sharing because of gaining popularity

which is directly connected with their livelihood. There are many shows on TV channels on the topics related to private life style of the Celebrities. But we do not view such number of shows on the topics like- how a neighbor can raise his or her voice against the abusive master of next-door or how they can help the parents of an addicted child. There are hardly any regular shows or column on the newspaper which focuses on the issue that committing suicide is a crime and say that problems of life should be faced rather to end the life. Though some human right organizations work on these issues recently but if we compare it with the earlier examples which are mentioned, then we find that the number is very insignificant, those can be counted in finger. The numbers become just opposite only on the special days like Women's Day, World day against child labor, International day against drug addiction etc. There is a clear reason, that is, selling the private experience of a celebrity is much more easy and profitable than a programme on steps against social problems like cruelty on women or drug addiction etc. So, there is a chain which controls the privacy or publicity of human life and the chain of control depends on the mode of economy and the form and character of the state power. One more thing, that is, in this era, the concept and theory of postmodernism mold the thinking of the people greatly and they have a mind to question or *problematize* any sort of traditional or stable idea. It is a common question in their mind that who defines which should be public or which one should be private. The concept of individualism influences the individuals to choose their own position though unknowingly all of them are within the chain.

In the discussion about “Cultural Studies and Secret” Clare Birchall (2006) says:

Who will decide what is and what is not legitimate, and how do we know that that decision is being made responsibly? What apparatus is available to bring to light and / or legitimate one kind of knowledge over another? What can or cannot be fully revealed? (p.295)

Regarding privacy and publicity the same thing happens. An issue which is considered as a private matter by one and can be an issue of sharing with all to another. This blurring and confusing situation makes it complicated to decide which one should be marked as private and which one as public. All these reasons and factors work as the catalyst for the transgression and reshuffling of the idea of Public & Private.

III. CONCLUSION

In conclusion it can be said that, in this era of individualism people are concerned about privacy but the core concept of public and private become too vulnerable in this modern and corporate world. Actually now it is a question- is there anything “Private” in our

life? Do we have any "Private Place?" for us where CCTV cameras and mainly the Gaze of the society follow us for all the time? Do we have any "private thinking" while our thinking is controlled by ideology and hegemony? You will be tagged as a backdated one if you do not have access in the social networking sites and if you are not a part of this network, you have to remain alone in your room while the other members of your family and the friends are busy with earning their livelihood, if the celebrities do not sell their private life they have to be tagged as unpopular or not famous figure by the media which will directly affect their careers. So, it can be said that we are within a chain where the economic interest of power and authority takes the opportunity of restlessness and loneliness of modern life which make it too simple to share the "mind" with a lots of people to create so many confusions that transgress the boundaries of the concepts of Public and Private.

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Family Treated as a Value for a Child Brought up in an Educational Care Centre (The Orphanage). Case in Poland

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Abstract- Family life concerns subjective and individual moments which are always unique, and constitute a part of one's life. Therefore, it is more difficult to establish the value that is attributed to the notion of family by people in general. In order to define the value of specific, existing family environment, the quality of life of the constituents of such an environment are taken into account. Experience and the level of satisfying individual needs have a great impact on the quality of one's family life. If a family finds itself in a deep trouble, and is unable to tackle it, then its life quality is impoverished in a significant way. The consequences of disfunctioning of a family as well as the inability to perform the tasks that a family is expected to fulfil are severe. These ramifications have a great impact on a child's life, and the worst case scenario happens if the child is separated from its family. On the basis of the interview with a person who grew up in the orphanage, it can be concluded that despite the fact that one may have bad memories about their family, and he or she may think low of it, family is still ideologically valuable for them.

Keywords: family, educational care centre (orphanage), disfunctioning family.

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Family Treated as a Value for a Child Brought up in an Educational Care Centre (The Orphanage). Case in Poland

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Keywords: family, educational care centre (orphanage), disfunctioning family.

1. THE THEORY ABOUT A FAMILY

A family is a complex educational subject focusing attention of the humanities and social studies. In the easiest way it could be defined as the 'basic social unit'¹.

From the pedagogical point of view, taking into account nowadays sociological and psychological categories, a family could be described as a life and upbringing environment. In the pedagogic field there are many supporters of the concept Kelm A.², Wroczyński J.³, Brągiel J.⁴, Olubiński A.⁵. This point of view assumes that a family creates a basic, natural and universal

environment for life and upbringing all family members – both the adults as well as the adolescents. This process of development follows from a structuring and restructuring experience. In a family as a life and upbringing environment parents and children, other family members, relate with each other, live together, experience and take care of each other. They lead to optimal satisfying their needs and harmonizing them. The experience appearing from the interaction of the inside of the family is an educational base⁶. Additionally, close relations in a family create optimal conditions for a cognitive, affective experience and evaluation of an individual in a family unit.

The systematic approach defines family as a complex structure of a group of people depending on each other, creating their own reality. Connecting their emotional ties, they form individual and total interactions fulfilling common aims and tasks. In order to interpret a family in the systematic approach the family members have to be known, the changes in their development need to be understood and the relations between them have to be noticed. The family interaction has a special meaning for its members' and an individual's development due to its length, intensity and repeatability⁷.

According to Nowak-Dziemianowicz⁸ the scientific knowledge connected with the issue of a family points three types of discourse. In the first one, the

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¹ F. Adamski. 2002. *Rodzina. Wymiar społeczno – kulturowy*. Kraków: Wyd. UJ

² A. Kelm. 1974. *O opiece nad dzieckiem w rodzinie*. Warszawa: WSiP

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⁵ A. Olubiński. 1994. *Konflikty rodzice – dzieci, dramat czy szansa?* Toruń: Wyd. A. Marszałek

⁶ M. Tyszkowa. 1996. *Jednostka a rodzina: interakcje, stosunki, rozwój*, [w:] M. Przetacznik-Gierowska, M. Tyszkowa, *Psychologia rozwoju człowieka*. Warszawa: PWN

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⁷ M. Braun-Gałkowska. 1992. *Psychologiczna analiza systemów rodzinnych osób zadowolonych i niezadowolonych z małżeństwa*. Lublin: Wyd. Naukowe KUL

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⁸ M. Nowak-Dziemianowicz. 2006. *Doświadczenia rodzinne w narracjach. Interpretacje sensów i znaczeń*. Wrocław: Wyd. N. Dolnośląskiej Szkoły Wyższej Edukacji TWP we Wrocławiu

normative and ideological discourse it can be noticed that the experience of a family life relies on common systems of importance, just in the concept of their own capacities as well as in the set up expectations. The accepted normative assumptions forming a desirable family model unable to understand the changes within the bounds of all fields of a contemporary human being life. They order to moralize, obey, accuse in order to protect the values, individuals and communities at risk.

The second, instrumental and technical discourse of knowledge of a family emphasis the usefulness and usability of a family. Such approach reveals a family unit inspired with the economic theories. It is important to answer to question about the importance of a family to a contemporary human. Family problems are considered as financial theories and a family is noticed as a social capital. Moreover, a modern family is changing together with the surrounding reality, adapting to it in this way and creating it. In the instrumental and technical discourse the aims maintaining the structure of a community are determined. They ensure the order and balance and the methods and forms of work are precisely specified together with the means conditioning realization of the purpose.

A family in the third, practical and moral discourse, postulated by Nowak- Dziemianowicz M., should be based on 'understanding, reflective insight of subjective experience which accompanies a man in his family life'⁹. The establishment of a new discourse of knowledge of a family Nowak – Dziemianowicz justifies that necessary is understanding knowledge of the family life of a modern human. It should enable to put aside many normative prejudices constituting the knowledge about a family as a part of a social structure, instead of perceiving it as a symptom of subjective, individual experience, always unique and the one and only to form an individual fortune.

II. A FAMILY AS A SET OF VALUES

The concept of value comes from the Latin 'valor, valet' and it means being strong, healthy, powerful, worth, having a meaning for oneself and for somebody else¹⁰. The concept of value is identified with something precious and with something that is aimed for. These are ideas, things to convince and ideals perceived by the community and an individual as important and valuable. Thus, the thing that can be defined as a set of values forms the aims, norms and principles of proceeding, which enables the development and achieving permanent life satisfaction. The true values cannot be only perceived as ideological assumptions or without justified traditions but mainly

from the analysis of experience in respect of the development and upbringing a human being. Building one's identity on the basis of authenticity of the set of values a person understands oneself constructing one's morality and approach to other people. The reality bases on the set of values. Only their selection and the extent of realization proves what should be important for an individual. Depending on age and one's experience a human being can change the set of values¹¹. Nevertheless, some timeless and universal values can be determined. This name can definitely be used for a concept of a family. It is a family which is the original and basic social institution, being a universal form of the entire humankind living. It exists in every community. It stabilises one's and social life¹². A family gives an individual's identity as it is a starting point of the environment of being and becoming. Apart of being a value itself a family is also a place of constructing the hierarchy of its members¹³.

A family has also its functions. The level of fulfilling one's obligations by a family members affects the sense of the quality of the whole family life and its particular members. The higher the level of the quality of an individual life the higher the value of the whole family is¹⁴. Each family goes through different stages of its functioning which results in the changes of its existence. Experiencing crisis is a huge risk for evaluating the quality of life and the set of values.

III. CRITICAL EVENTS AND A CRISIS IN HUMAN'S LIFE

To emphasise the concept of crisis the necessary is to analyse the issue of a critical event. The critical life's event forms a special kind of a life experience, significant moments which push a person to a necessary change.

To the characteristic critical events we can include:

- explicitly separating from everyday life,
- longer focusing attention and pausing current activeness of a person who concerns critical events, the fact of their occurrence disturbs to maintain

¹¹ J. Gajda. 1997. *Wartości w życiu człowieka. Prawda, miłość, samotność*. Lublin: Wyd. Uniwersytetu M. Curie-Skłodowskiej
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¹² L. Kocik. 2006. *Rodzina w obliczu wartości i wzorów ponowoczesnego świata*. Kraków: Oficyna Wydawnicza AFM

¹³ K. Wrońska. 2006 nb 3, p. 115-126. *Rodzina jako wspólnota wartości*, „Pedagogika społeczna”

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¹⁴ T. Rostowska. 2001. *Konflikt międzypokoleniowy w rodzinie. Analiza psychologiczna*. Łódź: Wyd. UŁ

A. Bańka. 2005. *Psychologia jakości życia*. Poznań: Wyd. Psychologia i Architektura

⁹ As above p. 49

¹⁰ K. Denek. 1994. *Wartości i cele edukacji szkolnej*. Toruń: Wyd. A. Marszałek

one's inside and outside balance and previous relations with the world,

- they push to create new diagrams of activity,
- they influence the change of personal cognitive and affective ways of understanding reality,
- they require from a human being forming a new system of balance between one's identity and the external world¹⁵.

The burden for an individual resulting from undergoing a critical event is higher when it relates to more respected values. The feeling of their variety, difficulty, obstacle or unexpected profit depends on interpretation of an individual which they affect. What is characteristic is the double value which is a result of a specific interpretation of a situation. The positive or negative assessment of the facts is subject to dynamic which depends on the effectiveness of making attempts to deal with the critical events. Close and distant effects of coping with the critical events can favour human's development and the growth of his resistance and competence or on the contrary they can result in adverse and even pathological consequences. What decides about the high level of occurring the disorder is a large amount of critical events and excessive concentration in time connected with the assessment of their risk, losses and the feeling of hopelessness¹⁶.

Understanding the meaning of the critical event the issue of crisis can be analysed. It means a temporary condition of internal imbalance resulted from a critical event or life experience which requires significant changes and decisions. In the theory of crisis – analogously to the theory of stress – it refers to the principle of homeostasis and the need for maintaining it by a human being. Increasing feelings of tension and anxiety form an answer for to the question about an event threatening to keep the inside balance¹⁷.

The knowledge of a crisis consists of different trains of theory and the trains arising from the clinical practice. The division of the critical events was suggested by Cullberg J.¹⁸:

1. *The crisis of change* (normative, development) are an inseparable part of life. The crisis in E. Erikson's view is presented as a turning point or a crucial stage when an individual is having an intensive development potential and when the sensitivity for defect is increasing in the person. The strength causing crisis is the contradiction between the inborn factors of one's puberty and the cultural requirements. The transition to another stage of

development can happen only thanks to founding new forms of adjustment and including them to the harmoniously functioning entity, after overcoming the crisis¹⁹.

2. *The situational crisis* is defined also as misfortune, incidental or traumatic. They are the result of external unexpected events. Significantly, they affect the feelings of identity, security, one's health and even life, for example the death of a person close to one's heart, sudden disability, a serious somatic illness, loss of job. Their consequences can be extremely traumatic. In critical situations the reaction is going in the following stages:
 - a). shock – as a main mechanism to deny.
 - b). Emotional reaction as a moment of confrontation with the reality. Attempts to adapt to the new reality. This stage characterises high level of intensive feelings. The lack or too low social support creates the risk of fixation and transition the situational crisis into the chronic crisis. If an individual at this stage receives the support the level of emotions will decrease. Another possibility is a reflection concerning the reason of the crisis and its consequences.
 - c). Working on the crisis results with the gradual releasing an individual of the dominance of the traumatic experience. The interest about the future appears. The intensity and frequency of the emotional reactions decreases.
 - d). The new orientation's moment of rebuilding the feeling of one's value. At this stage the traumatic experience is replaced by an experience which enriches a human being and determines one's wisdom.
3. *The chronic crisis* is the consequence of a dissolved crisis. It is the lack of the skill to cope with the difficulties, passivity, hopelessness, lack the motivation for changes, the tendency to withdraw, making the social relations worse, the fear of keeping in touch and effort, lowering level of mood with the somatic disorders. Sometimes, labeling the person by the surroundings with the chronic crisis increases its not adapted ways of coping and strengthens the feeling of hopeless and dependency²⁰.

IV. A FAMILY IN A CRISIS

Crisis does not relates only to individuals. It can include also small groups or whole surroundings. It can even cover the family environment. Kantowicz²¹

¹⁵ G. Teusz. 2004. *Młodzież studencka wobec krytycznych wydarzeń życiowych*. Poznań: [w:] M. Piorunek, *Młodzież w świecie współczesnym*, Wyd. Rys

¹⁶ H. Sęk, (red.) 1991. *Spoleczna psychologia kliniczna*. Warszawa: PWN

¹⁷ W. Badura-Madej (red.) 1999. *Wybrane zagadnienia interwencji kryzysowej*. Śląsk, Katowice

¹⁸ As above

¹⁹ H. Sęk, (red.) 1991. *Spoleczna psychologia kliniczna*. Warszawa: PWN

²⁰ W. Badura-Madej (red.) 1999. *Wybrane zagadnienia interwencji kryzysowej*. Śląsk, Katowice

²¹ E. Kantowicz. 2001. *Elementy teorii i praktyki pracy socjalnej*. Olsztyn: Wyd. Naukowe UWM

describes a family experiencing the crisis as one which' is characterised by specific set of values unwanted from the social point of view and not fulfilling its control and protective, care and educational, socializing and emotional etc. functions. According to the above theories it is not able to complete the planned tasks forming in the same way the potential risk of correct functioning of a family and the development of its members, especially children'.

In case of sudden increase of contradictory relations among a family members or incorrect social relations the family members with the surroundings, different institutions, groups etc. we deal with a problematic family. If the situation is getting worse and the family cannot deal with the unfavourable life moment it is called a crisis or a social and individual risk family²². 'The problematic families are characterised by a set of features showing their dysfunction and pathology. Some of them are:

- Financial instability that is the low income of the family or its lack as a result of losing job or unemployment, numerous families, low economic efficiency,
- Social pathology in a family, for example alcoholism of one or both parents, other addictions, mental disorders, delinquency or verbal, physical, mental aggression
- Difficult living conditions, density of the population, lack of sanitary standards, poor basic equipment and furnishing,
- Parents with low social and emotional maturity that is - low childcare awareness, defective approach to a child, lack of interest in its needs and development,
- A single parent which is - separation, losing a spouse, a stay in prison, longer journey, a Miss bringing up a child alone'²³.

Inability with dealing a crisis by family members can result in a kind of the family's or its members' behaviour defined in nowadays lecture as pathological. Then the family starts breaking moral rights and the law. The elements of such behaviour and their consequences usually lead to intentional hurting other's feelings. Pathology is interpreted as hurting somebody or as implicit pain on somebody.

In a family life can be distinguished various, specific situations included in the concept of pathological condition. Their main characteristic is destructive, deprivation function. It mainly affects particular family members – parents and children. It includes particular negative and destructive consequences on a development stage of a personality: social dysfunction

and psychopathy, degradation of social role, professional or in social life. This can result in a social or physical isolation. In pathological families which failed dealing with critical situations some ways of regulating own family life can be distinguished: making own, important decisions for a family life or its particular members staying under the influence of different stimulant, organised crime, robberies, holdups, shoplifting, demanding ransom, violence, maltreating, incest, infanticide, paedophilia etc.

Besides already mentioned there are also other, difficult to notice and observe factors (for example: drastic conflict situations), they definitely have an adverse effect upon relations between family members and fulfilling their roles. However, the most disadvantageous for the family environment is coincidence with an unfavourable situational syndrome in family life because of destructive impact on family ties.

V. THE QUALITY OF CHILD'S LIFE IN A FAMILY FACING A CRISIS

The term 'quality of life' is used by representatives of many branches of science. However, the most common opinion about the phenomena is heterogeneous. In psychological field the term 'quality of life' is used alternatively with the term 'good psychical condition' or 'happiness'. There are usually two aspects of the quality of life given to define it. The first of them – an objective aspect – gives the meaning to one's attitude towards the state of the environment resources enabling their fulfilling. The second criterion is the subjective formulating as one's frame of mind accompanying meeting somebody's needs. They often result from the cognitive assessment of different relations between oneself and the surroundings, judging one's achievements or failures; or also the estimation of chances for realisation own aspirations, desires and life aims²⁴. 'The quality of life a category changing in time the experience of everyday existence and the function of the quality of life cycle development. This dependency is mutual which means that the quality of development has also another function which is defined as feeling the quality of life'²⁵.

During the early childhood period the quality of development estimates the quality of family ties – between parents and a child. Each critical situation and mainly imposition of a few dysfunctional features of a family can influence the fact that the emotional and psychical condition of the caregivers, their dissatisfaction, frustrations, nervousness can disturb forming appropriate relation and bonds. When the

²² S. Kawula. 2005. *Kształty rodziny współczesnej – szkice famiologiczne*. Toruń: Wyd. A. Marszałek

²³ As above p. 56

²⁴ A. Zandecki. 1999. *Wykształcenie, a jakość życia: dynamika orientacji młodzieży szkół średnich*. Toruń – Poznań: Wyd. Edytor

²⁵ A. Bańka. 2005, p. 13. *Psychologia jakości życia*. Poznań: Wyd. Psychologia i Architektura

unfavourable conditions are concerned they can develop into incorrect and dangerous attachment patterns that is an anxiety and ambivalent pattern, an anxiety and avoidance pattern, a disorganised pattern²⁶.

People who in early childhood in relations with the relatives shaped internal models of attachment of safe kind, achieved higher quality of life, better development prospects or they are able to use their individual resources in more effective way.

The factor determining the quality of a child's life in a family is meeting family members' needs and especially the children needs. Fulfilling family members' needs in unsatisfactory way results with many frustrating situations of different character. Mainly blocking the most essential need leads to the feeling of existence risk and, thus appearing unwanted behaviour and reducing the level of family functioning²⁷. The needs of physical experience and protection according to Maslow's pyramid of needs are basic and original in relation to others. The need of belonging and love, these are the needs of lack – indirect, and the direct so the higher needs. Unsatisfied basic and direct needs can determine the highest probability of occurring negative emotions and function disorder. In dysfunctional families the level of meeting one's needs is low, which sometimes leads to decreasing the quality of life of all its members especially children. Not satisfying a child's needs results in a condition which threatens the child's welfare. Such a situation requires the intervention of social services and even lawful actions aiming to protect the child.

VI. PUTTING A CHILD IN A CARE AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER

Each child has a right to be brought up in a family what is regulated by the law. Convention on the Rights of the Child determines that for a child's full and harmonious personality development he/she should be brought up in a family environment, in full of love, happiness and understanding atmosphere²⁸. Whereas, parents authority includes mostly parents' duty and right to be in charge of the child's person and property and to his education. It should be performed in such a way that requires the child welfare²⁹, so with care of his/her

physical and intellectual development³⁰. Not fulfilling parents' duties, because of a permanent obstacle, abusing parents' power (for example: giving alcohol, using violence, punishing, torment etc.) or allow flagrant negligence toward a child, can lead to the necessity to interfere in the parental authority sphere³¹. If because of the child welfare, he/ she cannot stay in the family environment then the child has the right to a special protection and to be provided with foster care³².

The child partly or entirely deprived of parental care can be placed in a foster family or in the round-the-clock care and educational centre. It can be an intervention, family, socialising, or multifunctional centre of care and education, which connects intervention, socialising actions and other to provide help to a child and the family.

The task for the twenty-four-hour care and education centre is to ensure the child permanent or temporary care and education. Its aim is also to satisfy children's essential livelihood, emotional, social and religious needs. The mentioned actions must be implemented at least on the level of currently in force care and education norms. Sending a child to a round-the-clock care and education centre can happen only when other forms of providing the natural family support or only after when putting a child in a foster family is not possible. The time when the child stays in the centre should be temporary – until the time when the child will come back to the natural family or when he/she can be placed in a foster family. However, in case of lack of such a possibility the child can stay in the centre until he/she comes of age. In a situation when the child comes to age but continues education in a school where he/she started education before 18 years old can stay in the centre until he/she finishes education³³. In different situations of putting a child in various forms of foster care the parent has a right to have contact with the child, as well as the child has a right to have a contact with the family. The situation is valid until the court of justice decides otherwise or the adoption will be announced.

VII. A FAMILY AS A VALUE IN NARRATION OF CHILDREN BEING BROUGHT UP IN A CENTRE OF CARE AND EDUCATION

The analysis of the way that a family is perceived by a child being brought up in a care and education centre has been completed thanks to quality method being used in a research. The investigated person is a nineteen year old woman who became

²⁶ L. Krzywicka. 2008. *Typ przywiązania i jego konsekwencje dla rozwoju dziecka*, konferencja „Dziecko z zespołem zaburzenia więzi”. Szczecin

E. Pisula. 2003. *Autyzm i przywiązanie: studia nad interakcjami dzieci z autyzmem i ich matek*. Gdańsk: Gdańskie Towarzystwo Psychologiczne

²⁷ A. Bańka. 2005. *Psychologia jakości życia*. Poznań: Wyd. Psychologia i Architektura

²⁸ Ustawa z dn. 25 lutego 1964r. Kodeks Rodzinny i Opiekuńczy, DzU z 1964 r, nr 9, poz. 59 z późn. zm. art. 95. § 1

²⁹ Ustawa z dn. 25 lutego 1964r. Kodeks Rodzinny i Opiekuńczy, DzU z 1964 r, nr 9, poz. 59 z późn. zm. art.95. §3

³⁰ Ustawa z dn. 25 lutego 1964r. Kodeks Rodzinny i Opiekuńczy, DzU z 1964 r, nr 9, poz. 59 z późn. zm. art.96.

³¹ M. Andrzejewski. 1999. *Prawna ochrona rodziny*. Warszawa: WSiP

³² Konwencja o Prawach Dziecka z dn. 20 listopada 1989r. Art. 20

³³ Ustawa z dnia 12 marca 2004 o pomocy społecznej Dz.U. z 2008r. Nr 115 poz. 728 art. 80

independent three months before the research. The description of the situation, experience, problems, emotions constitutes the issue that goes beyond what is measurable and objective. Using the quality method enabled to show the processes, sequence of events but not their results³⁴. The investigated person's thoughts were verbalised according to her own experience and beliefs. It was not the number of the investigated people but their authenticity that was crucial for the research. The technique of narrative interview was applied which enabled to see the meaning, the sense that the investigated woman gave to her own family situation and how she judges the quality of her own family life. The respondent was brought up in a family with six children, in this one disabled. The father addicted to alcohol often got into conflicts with law. As a result of the chronic family crisis and inability to deal with one's own life conditions the mother of the respondent committed suicide. The investigated woman was nine years old when her mother died. After the tragedy her father was imprisoned and the three children (an older sister, the respondent, a younger brother) were put in a centre. The father was given back his parent's rights after five years which the children spent in the centre. Then, two years later he was sentenced again and at that time two of the juveniles (the investigated and her brother) were given to another centre. The aim of the research was to understand how the respondent perceived the quality of her family before being placed in the centre. Then, the crucial point was to check what was her value of the family after being put in the centre and what is the sense and meaning for starting her own family in the future. The interview, in the part about perceiving the quality of her family before being placed in the centre, the woman described chronologically:

- Before being sent to the first centre and at the time of staying there: 'before we were put in the children's home for the first time we wanted to be altogether. I knew that it was poorly, we had nothing to eat, we were dirty, it was really cold at home but we would rather to stay at home. I thought that my father was not bad because he had never hit us. When we were already in the centre my brother was important for me. He was the youngest and I realised that he hurt the most because he really loved and respected our father. I wanted to come back home and I truly believed that our father would change for us'.
- Before being put in the second centre and at the time of staying there: 'When we came back home it turned out that my brothers and father drank. Simply, nobody cared about us. I started to be insensitive if they were with us or not. I could not

count on anybody from my family. I was sure that nothing good could happen to me when it comes to my father. Then I began thinking that our coming back home was not a proper decision of the court. I lost hope in my family, in the fact that something could change for the better. When we were sent to the children's home for the second time I was sad only the first day because I could not go for my niece's christening. I was supposed to be a godmother. For the first time something good and important could happen to me in my family. Later, I never wanted to come back home again. I had enough of my father and I did not have a contact with him. Even if he tried, I would never trust him again. I did not care about my closer or further relatives and I did not want to have anything in common with them. I did not have a family just like the one that I wanted to have. I wished my mum could live. She would obviously not allow for anything bad that happened to us. My mother had a hard life. My father and brothers were drinking and beating. I blamed them for this that my mother committed suicide. I was furious for them and I even hated them for this. The substitute of love and warmth was given to me by my elder sister but there was nobody to teach my younger brother how to show feelings'. The consideration about starting her own family the woman presented in reference to the past and present situation: 'I wanted to have a family. It was something that I never had and what I was missing for. I did not want to be alone forever. Today, only my sister helps me but she has her own family and I cannot demand too much of her. I have always talked to little about my family because I do not like it. However, in the future I would like to create a good family and experience the better feelings and moments of love, trust and care. In my opinion a family is important for a human but not the one that I had. I would rather never had it, it does not mean anything for me. In the future I want to create a family that I have always dreamed of and then I would find the true quality of a family'. The result of the conducted interview are the fragments of the family life. The respondent verbalised her own fate and she gave the meaning to her own past and the current situation. From the narration appears the fact that the woman experienced the crisis for many years. The fact of having in a numerous family, poor financial situation, the family members' addiction, improper parents' attitudes: '... father and brothers were drinking and beating...' means a prove about the impact of unfavourable factors. The pathology of the family members' behaviour resulted in another critical events. The woman during the first time of separation with the family wanted to be with the relatives. She was ready to give up her basic needs for example eating instead of fulfilling the indirect

³⁴ E. Zaręba. 1998. *Badania empiryczne ilościowe i jakościowe w pedagogice*. Kraków: [w:] S.Palka (red.) *Orientacje w metodologii badań*

needs – the need of love and belonging. Other situations proved that nobody fulfilled her expectations in this area so she stopped striving to keep the cohesion of the family: ‘... I have never again wanted to come back home...’. Very low level of family life’s quality influenced the low estimation of her own value: ‘... it would be better if my family did not exist...’. The respondent wants to start her own family in the future. This is something that she dreams about and is going to give her a chance to fulfill her needs. Although, it can be acknowledged that the value is constructed on the basis of one’s own experience for this woman the memories about her family are bad. Even though, she notices the value of having her own family. The imagination of her own family is based on ideological assumptions. Despite the fact that the natural family did not fulfill the essential needs the respondent wants to keep in her family such values as ‘love, trust, care’. The longing for having own family and planning to start it proves that a family constitutes an universal and timeless value even for people who did not get to know it in their own experiences.

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The Roles of Information and Communication Technology on Rural Development

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Abstract- In the present, phenomenon of information technology has been able to pass geography borders in different extends and affect on all aspects of the social, economic, military and education. so that the most remote parts of the world enjoy the human beings and 21st century named century of information explosion In Iran as well as many developing countries pay attention to study in this field. the present written study the status of Information Technology in rural areas based on existing capacities in the region to enterprise facilities and capabilities and use of Management Information Systems in social services.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Information technology is considered the most important strategic tool for the proper management of present day societies, and it is also developing at a remarkable speed. Development and application of information technology in rural areas, aiming at facilitating services and improving welfare indexes, initiates a new phase of rural development management which has formerly been considered by theorists and agents of rural development in many countries since the very last years of the 2nd millennium. This trend has accelerated at the beginning of the third millennium which is known as the age of information and the cyber and network world.

Many countries in the world today have made an attempt to provide the public with access to information technology in rural areas, and each has employed some strategies to achieve it. However, the common strategy to achieve public access to information and electronic services in rural areas has been in the form of telecommunications centers or information technology centers.

An electronic village is the one whose image is thoroughly changed by the wave of information technology and telecommunications, and the electronic applications play an obvious role in the life of the village people. People living in this village have access to different applications such as the electronic government, electronic trade, electronic learning and electronic hygiene and handle their daily tasks in agriculture, animal husbandry and trade through

electronic systems. The electronic village serves as the point of access of the villagers to the outside world.

Definition of Information Technology and Telecommunications

Information Technology Association of America, "ITAA", has defined information technology as "the study, design, development, application, implementation, support or management of computer-based information systems". In other words, Information Technology is the application of computers and telecommunications equipment to safely store, retrieve, transmit and manipulate data.

Also, the network connection between the computers makes it possible for the users to have access to a wide range of software and data and provides easy access to the internet and the electronic mail for the organizations.

II. FEATURES OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- 1- *Widespread Presence:* This quality roots in the fact that the impacts of the above mentioned technologies are now observed all over the world, even in the remotest regions, due to the range and diversity of telecommunications technologies. So, the isolated local cultures are now capable of moving beyond the limitations of time and space, and it has also enabled all forces around the world to come up and directly connect with the rest of the world. Therefore, information and telecommunication technologies have now covered the entire planet earth in the boundless space disregarding the time and space limitations. (Fat'hian 2006)
- 2- *Diversification:* These represent the extremes of a spectrum such that the more diversified one gets the less condensed it becomes. Through development and expansion, information technology enables different people, groups and organizations to have access to it.
- 3- *Delocalization:* Considering the range of spread of information and telecommunications technology, data is carried out in the cyber space. Therefore, information exists within this space and due to its dominance in the entire planet it is where information actually flows. It is such that under the present conditions information moves from one

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corner of the world to another by just pressing a button (Rajib M 2006).

- 4- *Decentralization*: Due to the multidimensional nature of information, different people, organizations and groups may have access to it. In other words, the multitude of sources and the content of messages, connection routes, various senders and receivers of information lead to decentralization in supplying and distributing information technology and consequently information flows at an extensive and complex level (Rajib M 2006).
- 5- *Flexibility*: This quality enables data to be present around the world and accessible by all in different forms and numbers. Thanks to science, data is transmitted rapidly, and due to its mobility, activeness and adaptability, it is more flexible under different conditions (Rajib M 2006).
- 6- *Speed*: Rapid growth of information technology and telecommunications, on the one hand, increases the speed of processing and computing in telecommunication systems such as computers and, on the other, immensely increases the speed of transmitting data.
- 7- *Openness and Clarity*: This quality with its diversity and ever presence has indeed drawn the attention of all to itself and managed to reveal the hidden points to the public (Fat'hian, 2006).

III. THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE ICT IN THE VILLAGE MANAGEMENT

The impact of such a role is more pronounced when the management is based on the ICT as one of the main factors and objectives of development. Information and telecommunications are just one of the requirements of rural development and accelerate the process of development just like a catalyst. We have to bear in mind that although the ICT influences the productivity and efficiency of the rural managers, its impact brings about other advantages for the villages as well. The following cases are mentioned below based on expert views and the findings of the study:

- 1- Villages with managers benefitting from the ICT are generally more flexible with regard to changes in the market and can better adjust themselves.
- 2- The higher the rate and the level of the ICT, the greater the village manager's efficiency to respond to new means of production and the latest technologies, and he will advance in pace with the rapid changes of the industry.
- 3- The impact of the ICT on village managers has positive side effects as well to the extent that it will also influence the other groups from the village and consequently improve their productivity.
- 4- ICT enables the village managers to make the most of the available resources.

- 5- ICT improves the level of knowledge and skill of the managers and makes possible the better use of the available capacities in the village.

- 6- Greater and better access of the rural managers to the ICT pronounces their greater participation in the society and accelerates the transmission from the traditional society to an industrial one (Amir Ahmadpoor, 2010)

a) *The Role of the ICT on Village Tourism*

Village tourism and its exploitation as an income-earning advantage has the same quality in all under-developed to developed countries of the world; however, its features are more or less different. Planning is one of the success factors along with the essential potentials for the development of this kind of tourism. A proper planning and an efficient management are called for the village ecotourism to flourish. It can be a source of high income for village communities and ultimately result in the increased income of the villagers and the village managers. However, reaching this goal and changing ecotourism into a culture is faced with a lot of problems in different societies, and it influences the rise or fall of the income of the villagers, directly or indirectly. Removing these problems can greatly assist the achievement of the objectives of the rural tourism, particularly the increase in the income of the villagers.

b) *The Role of the ICT in the Village Farming and Animal Husbandry*

Technology plays a significant role in flourishing and improving the economic and sociocultural conditions of the villagers. Promotion of agriculture, as a component part of the rural management, has its own special place here. Organizations promoting agriculture play a key role in mediating between the information technologies and the providers of technologies and services to their users. In doing so, they must pay attention to the suitability of different technologies, accessibility to technologies in villages and remote regions, adjusting the issues related to costs and benefits, assuring the access of different cultures to technologies, languages, social classes, age groups and sex-related issues (Richardson, D 2005).

c) *The role of the ICT in the Development of the Electronic Government*

Electronic government means providing the conditions under which the governments are able to offer their non-stop services to the citizens. This has been on top of the agenda of the states plans in the recent years and the intelligent statesmen have directed their goals towards realizing such conditions and tried to modify the socioeconomic and political issues with the aid of modern information technology and telecommunications and thus offer better services to the citizens. Good state management in the modern era means being accessible and the requirement of better

governing is the fast and easy access of the citizens to information and qualitative services. Good state management means that the government offers its services at a greater speed with lower cost and more efficiency to a wide spectrum of its citizens.

Electronic government is a way for governments to apply new technologies which give necessary services to the individuals to have proper access to information and state services and improve their quality, and to offer them new opportunities for participation in democratic processes. Since the administrative offices cannot be set up all through the country, electronic state is most effective in accelerating and facilitating the administrative affairs and state services. To enable villages to have access to information, electronic government is planned on top of the agenda (Mal'ee 2012).

d) *The Role of the ICT in the Development of Electronic Hygiene and Medicine in Villages*

Words like Telemedicine, Telehealth, and the most recent term e-health, are more or less similar expressions used by communication tools to improve the uniform access of all users to medical care. Telemedicine ability to facilitate medical care online and in the absence of a caretaker on the spot is indeed vital and valuable. This phenomenon provides the best possible use of the limited manpower at the least cost and can decrease the rate of mortality in developing countries.

Telemedicine makes constant training of doctors, nurses and the medical staff in remote districts possible and provides the opportunity for consulting the expert on medical issues online (Seida'ee, 2012).

e) *The Role of the ICT in the Development of Electronic learning in Villages*

Electronic learning refers to a vast spectrum of applied software and the ways of technology-based education which includes training based on computer and internet as well as on online classes and colleges. In other words, electronic learning is the use of the ICT in education which can substantially improve the level of knowledge and science of deprived and inaccessible places or villages (Seida'ee, 2012).

f) *The Role of the ICT in the Development of Electronic Insurance in Villages*

The most significant reason for the close relation between electronic trade and the insurance industry: Considering the global and local presence of the electronic trade, insurance companies also make use of the IT and electronic trade for issuing their bills and paying for damages for the following reasons:

- 1- Increasing the speed and quality of services offered by the insurance companies to the insurers

- 2- Increasing the speed and precision of recording the insurers information for better and faster services to them
- 3- Processing the recorded information to decrease human errors and increase the speed of decision-making
- 4- Decreasing the rate of illegal cheating and fabricated information
- 5- Improving the capacity of insurance companies to make connections with the international insurers for the use of updated knowledge
- 6- Creation of new risks which have necessitated new insurance requirements .All these cases can lead to better productivity and facilities in villages (Chera'ee 2007)

g) *The Role of the ICT in the Social Welfare Services of the Village*

The welfare organization is one of the most significant state-supported organizations that assist the deprived and the handicapped people in the society through the general budget. Thanks to the electronic services available in this organization, these services are available in the villages through internet and different portals.

IV. CONCLUSION

The examinations revealed that information technology can have potential positive and negative impact on different dimensions of the economic, social, political and even environmental life of the societies. Based on this assumption, any step taken towards development, be it national or rural, is rendered impossible ignoring the information technology and its capabilities. The truth, however, is that access to development is not just possible through the physical expansion of this technology; complete development and information development as a new model is a far too complicated process to be realized just by the physical expansion of a technology.

In other words, information technology as the axis of information development acts and grows on a social, economic, political and technical ground. Therefore, the more efficient the grounds for better use of this technology, the higher the rate of success of the society in developing information and arriving at information society.

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