

ABSTRACT

The study examined the basic conflict between the dependent status of the economy, a development strategy which has reinforced that dependence and the success of economic planning. It hypothesised also that policy formulation, because of the colonial history of the society, was characterised by a 'functional dependence'.

It emerged that the record of planning had been poor, particularly in respect of employment generation. The reasons for this were identified as: (i) the concentration of the activity of plan formulation within the public sector and (ii) poor implementation in the private sector, due to the weak and/or mis-conceived application of the instruments of policy. Also the programming exercise was conducted in an operational vacuum, and thus it could carry no 'action' implications for actors in the private sector.

The study concluded that the failures of planning could be attributed to two fundamental factors - the structural dependence of the economy, which was reinforced by the assumptions of the plans themselves, and the 'functional dependence' of the policymakers, as evidenced in the use of the instruments of policy and the steadfast avoidance of challenging the traditional assumptions about the role of foreign private capital in economic development.