

# ABSTRACT

## **Development Cooperation in the 1990s: A Study of Organization of American States (OAS) Project Management in Jamaica**

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This dissertation examines the state of development cooperation in the 1990s. Utilising the case study and qualitative interview methodologies, it reviews the OAS development cooperation and project management arrangements in Jamaica in the final decade of the twentieth century. It compares the *prevailing approach of participatory management of development* cooperation and the traditional bureaucratic approach to development management. This strategy has been adopted and promoted by both multilateral and bilateral agencies, in the Sector-wide Approach (SWAP) to development cooperation management.

It emphasizes the importance of recipient country responsibility in formulating and managing effective development intervention to address poverty eradication. The contention, throughout, is that the donor-controlled, centralized, bureaucratic approach to development cooperation practised in the past three decades, was *inimical to effective development results in* recipient states. Equally, the elitist approach to development cooperation management utilised in developing, recipient states like Jamaica, was not conducive to a successful attack on critical poverty. The “bottom-up”, consultative and participatory management approach had not been utilised to ensure that the needs of the poorest were addressed. The major findings of the dissertation is that OAS style, “development partnership” currently practised, is still dominated by bureaucratic-control elements and this has resulted in project management inflexibility, with resulting negative impacts on project implementation in Jamaica.

**Keywords: Joan Cynthia Neil; Development Cooperation; Jamaica**