CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The underdevelopment of the Third World countries is a universal fact in the present day competitive world. Among the Third World countries, the East Central African nations viz. Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda, are very backward and it can be stated that except Kenya, the four countries are the least developed countries. Among the explanatory variables, the most important is the colonial legacy. The scenario of the underdevelopment of the East Central Africa is marked with enthusiasm and competition among the developed countries to supply development aid. The channels are varied, from institutional to national in character. Many are multilateral agencies to come up with financial and technological assistance. It is not a unique feature specifically to the East Central African countries, as this is part of the development ethos in many of the Third World countries.

For this purpose, the period from 1973 to 1982, i.e. after a decade of the independence of the East Central African nations has been taken for the present study. The newly born East Central African nation states lack necessary external policy in getting the development aid in desired
forms from various sources. However, after a decade of their independence, how these countries have looked after their development problems needs to be analysed and understood within the framework of this study.

Basically, these countries were the colonies of European powers. Despite the disappearance of colonial rule in these countries, they are still facing the onslaught of exploitation under the garb, specially in the name of scientific and technological assistance and other aid programmes. Out-dated technology is being transferred to these countries. In the name of health care, the population of these nations get drugs and medicine after to be tested, many times resulting into serious after effects. Loans received are long-term but lead to an unbearable 'debt-trap' as one can notice in the case of Latin American nations. Sometimes hard bargain agreements compel these nations to export agricultural products much in demand in the developed world on throw-away prices. In order to bear the debt and to increase the paying capacity, these developing nations have to produce more, even at the cost of chemical pollution and wasteland creation on the marginal lands and deforestation resulting into ecological imbalances.

Territorial issues are part of the colonial legacy in various forms and intensity. None of these East Central African nations is without a territorial issue, often
resulting into border clashes and wasteful expenditure on arms development, specially through purchases from the developed countries. Border disputes are also necessary to be solved as these are obstacles and are responsible for the conflict situation. There are examples like the border disputes between Tanzania and Uganda; Kenya and Somalia; Tanzania and Malawi; Kenya and Ethiopia and Uganda and Zaire. Due to these problems, the bilateral relations are always at stake. There is always an opportunity for external powers to intervene in the local affairs.

With the nature of the underdevelopment and the conflict situation of the border problems, the East Central African nations could not come out from the clutches of the critical situation, i.e. growing dependence and exploitation by the external powers, unnecessary growing expenditure on arms build-up, lack of independent judgement on the regional and international issues, accentuated regional imbalances and marked disparities among the people and the callous role of the ruling elites who is almost a pawn to the external powers. Therefore, the case of the East Central African countries viz. Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda is remarkable on many accounts i.e. in terms of colonial legacy, underdevelopment in socio-economic terms, political ambivalence and immaturity and inter-state and inter-tribal contending issues and bilateral border problems etc.
From the point of view of geographical and demographic aspects, the East Central African countries covering a total area of 1.8 million square kilometer and population of about 70 million (1985). They were part of British (Kenya and Uganda), German and British (Tanzania), Belgium (Burundi) and German (Rwanda). Kenya is located on the eastern coast of Africa, with some known maritime activities. Tanzania, as the melting pot of more than 100 tribes, has typical equatorial regime. Uganda is a typical case of hinterland landlocked State. Burundi and Rwanda in the region which is part of the great African rift valley are known as "Land of almost Ideal Beauty". Geography is strong in leaving its impact on the development process in this region, partly because of the fact that the man has yet to sharpen his tools, techniques and power for gainful exploitation of nature. The majority of the East Central African people fall below the poverty line and are agricultural and rural in character with main cash crops of coffee, cotton, tobacco, tea, sugarcane and spices etc. They have either very weak industrial base. The network of means of communication and transport is skeletal in character and does not encourage industrial balanced development.

Almost all the countries of the region are organic parts of the Indian Ocean Region. They are part of the
rich agricultural resources region which export products of the commercial crops to the outside world. There is no regionalist mark on the export-import trade relationship. They are western world oriented in their export and import trade links. They form the part of the typical extra-regional ethos of the Indian Ocean Region. It is a pity.

Considering the socio-economic fabrics of these nation-states including political instability and developmental activities by getting aid, the present theme which is being discussed in the thesis is important, both as affecting the basic interest of these countries as well as their foreign relationship and future stakes in development. In fact, the development aid from various donor countries and agencies cannot solve all the development problems of these countries. At the same time, these countries cannot solve their developmental problems with their indigenous inadequate basic infrastructure, it lacks finances, technology or skilled human resources and will to exploit for a balanced development. Naturally, when the investment is less, they will get low production and in result, they will get low income. This is a vicious circle of poverty. Therefore, they need fair external assistance which can uplift their standard of living.

But by getting more aid in form of loan with high interest, they may not escape from the financial crisis.
They need soft term loans to have much needed technical assistance which is indispensable for the development of the industrial sector and necessary infrastructure. For this, the coordination and co-operation between the donor and recipient countries is necessary. Along with this, these countries' basic requirement is that of trained manpower. This necessitates development training programmes through educational and manpower training institutes. Another important feature of the natural ambience of these countries is the beautiful nature as possible base for developing the international tourism. There is wildlife and many world-famous sanctuaries, but proper tourism has not been developed till date. There are international tourist organizations involved in exploiting this, but this does not return income generated in right proportion. If tourism and training of necessary human resources is generated in these countries, then it will generate enough resources to take care of funding economic development as well as in raising the living standard of masses. These countries must reorient themselves to harvest nature's gift.

Information and date base is primary and secondary in nature and collected through year books, monographs, government documents, UN publications, research bulletins and paper clippings and other general literature on
development aid and its background. The material on the motivations of donor countries in supplying the aid to the East Central Africa with terms and conditions has been collected from the general literature. However, it is necessary to make a note that enough primary information and data could not be collected in the absence of the field work to these countries. It would have helped greatly if a chance to visit these countries could have materialized. Hence much necessary data could not be acquired in order to use much needed techniques and tools of analysis. No doubt, this lacunae has slightly affected the quality of the work, but one cannot do much about it in the absence of the field work.

The thesis is divided into the following chapters:

Chapter I : Introduction
Chapter II : Emergence of the East Central African Nations and the Colonial Legacy
Chapter III : Resources and Development Problems
Chapter IV : Need for Development Aid
Chapter V : Aid Availability and Pattern
Chapter VI : Major Powers and Development Programmes
Chapter VII : Other Participating Nations, including India
Introduction being the first chapter, reviews the relevant literature, objectives and hypotheses of the dissertation. It gives the information regarding the nature of the East Central African nations' underdevelopment, the problems of development and the way to solve the same. The sources of data and the methodology indicate how and from where the material has been collected. Thus the first chapter gives the conceptual background of this research work in order to expose the theme.

The second chapter deals with the historical background and pre-colonial history of the East Central African nations i.e. the condition of their social, economic and political setup before the arrival of colonial masters and also during the colonial rule as well. It discloses pathetically backward conditions of the East Central African people during the colonial rule and the manner they were exploited to lose their precious wealth. This chapter describes the circumstances of the emergence of the East Central African nations. It shows how the people of these countries had struggled and fought for independence during the colonial era. Consequently, as a result of the colonial legacy these countries have the problems for the development in agriculture, industry, and other fields. The border disputes persist as a result of the legacy of colonial rule.
The nature of limited resources along with the development problems of these countries, specially in the case of agriculture, industry and business sector, as well as the GDP and GNP are being discussed in the Third Chapter. The resources from the agriculture sector are very important, as most of the population (75%) is in agriculture sector. The skilled manpower in agriculture and industrial sector is inadequate. As such, the East Central African nations could not come up to the extent of self-sufficient consumption. On the other hand, these countries suffer on account of rapid increase in population number thus increasing the occupancy ratio detrimental to the growth and development. These countries have infrastructure problems of means of communication and transport.

The core of the fourth chapter is on the need for development aid. In this chapter, the factors or the causes to seek the development aid, and the conditions of various underdeveloped sectors are discussed. The atmosphere of the relations between the donor and recipient countries is exposed along with their conditions attached to the development aid programmes. The objectives of the donor countries and agencies in supplying the aid and the recipient countries in receiving the development aid are
discussed in this chapter. The competition among the donors in supplying the aid to Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda is focused in this chapter.

The fifth chapter deals with the subject of aid availability and pattern. In this chapter, the sources of aid is cited and discussed like the main source of aid from Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, Organisation for Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other agencies. The pattern of aid to the East Central African countries are given in this chapter. Among the aid patterns, the bilateral and multilateral channels in respect of short-term and long-term loans are discussed. The motivation in supplying the aid to these countries is explained. The aid from the developed countries and the impact of the development aid on economic and political fields of the recipient countries is explained to understand the true nature and intentions of the donor countries.

The sixth chapter describes the role of the major powers i.e. the USA, the UK, West German, Sweden and Japan and their development aid programmes to the East Central Africa. The role of the individual countries, organisations and agencies is emphasized. Among the major powers, how and why the Super Powers are executing their programmes, is
The motivations behind the competition among the developed countries are explained and discussed in this chapter. The nature and quantum of aid and its impact on the agriculture and industrial sectors of the East Central African nations is explained and analysed.

The last and the seventh chapter, deals with the role of the other agencies like OECD, OPEC and multilateral agencies in giving aid to the East Central Africa. From the Third World countries, the role of India is discussed and how the Indian Government is pioneering the development aid programmes in the East Central Africa, is analysed in the context of the foreign policy framework and available resources in India.

In order to pinpoint here the traumatic experience of these East Central African nations in getting independence from the colonial masters and in proceeding with the development and self administration are being focused. This all have yet to bear the fruits. Extraneous factors as well as domestic environment could not allow to achieve much needed respite from underdevelopment, poverty, malnutrition and social backwardness. Associated with exploitation under the neo-colonialism, rapid population growth almost coming to demographic explosion, political immaturity and corrupt administrative machinery, and
unprecedented pressure on the natural endowments almost resulting into ecological crises, these countries need radical change in the man-nature development relationship in order to assure good quality of life. This region is almost nature's rich domain and needs conservation and regulated development process, which could only be possible if neo-colonialism and international exploitation mechanism is forestalled once for ever otherwise the future of this region is bleak.