

How do African Clusters Evolve? Review and Synthesis of the Evolution of African Industrial Cluster Studies

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Background: Failure of Stand-alone SME's in Africa

- **“African Economic Growth: Wrong to Rely on Small Businesses” ?**
(Naude & Krugell, 2002)

Clusters could be the answer to Africa's growth & Development: But Do they Evolve?

- African clusters *evolved* from market towns to eventually become large commodity markets

(Pedersen, 1997)

- African clusters - A sign of poverty or development?

(Heinen & Wejland, 1989)

Really a sign of poverty or development?



The Question is not Do African Clusters Evolve? But How Do African Clusters Evolve?

- Some African clusters *Regress*, some *Progress*, while others remain *Stagnant*
(Van Dijk & Sverrison, 2003)

Previous study 1

New Entrants to African clusters:

- Intensify competition
- Lower sales revenue and
- Profitability

(Yoshino, 2011)

Previous study 2

If Education, Size, & Number of Employees *changed* in time New Entrants to African clusters could lead to improved:

- Profitability
- Quality of Products and
- Marketing

(Sonobe et al, 2011)

How do Evolution Occur?

Evolutionary Elements include:

- Variation
- Selection
- Accumulation

(Peneder, 2001)

- ‘Evolution’ not a synonym for ‘progress’

(Aldrich, 1999; Peneder, 2001).

Aim of the Study

- To derive a classification of emerging themes and determinants of industrial clusters evolution in Africa on the basis of comprehensive review and synthesis of the literature

Methodology

- **Deductive approach: Population ecology Vs. Strategic choice approaches/school of thoughts**
(Breslin, 2008)
- **Systematic literature review of 25 articles over a period of at least 30 years (1980- up to 2000's).**

Data Collection

Inclusion criteria:

- **Focus on growth & Development**
- **Both empirical & conceptual papers**
- **Key words & phrases: Industrial clusters in combination with**

Dynamism; adaptation; stages of development; life cycle; evolution; upgrade; variation; environmental selection; accumulation; self organisation; survival; change; technological dynamism; stages of growth; transition; catch-up; and path dependency

Data Collection

- **ABI Inform; Google scholar; academic one file**

- **Additional manual search in specialist Journals including:**

World Development; African Studies; Journal of Development Research; Economic Development Quarterly; Journal of Contemporary African Studies; The Journal of Development Studies; African Development Review; Development & Change; Journal of Economic Geography; Regional Studies; and Urban Studies.

Result and Findings

- **Research Design Vs. Approaches: Mismatch**
Dominance of Single Case study & Snapshot

(9 single case studies, 5 multiple case studies, and 3 cross comparative case illustrations or examples). Only 5 articles focused on conceptual development; 1 longitudinal ethnographic design; 1 In-depth observation with interview design; and 1 primary survey design).

Result and Findings

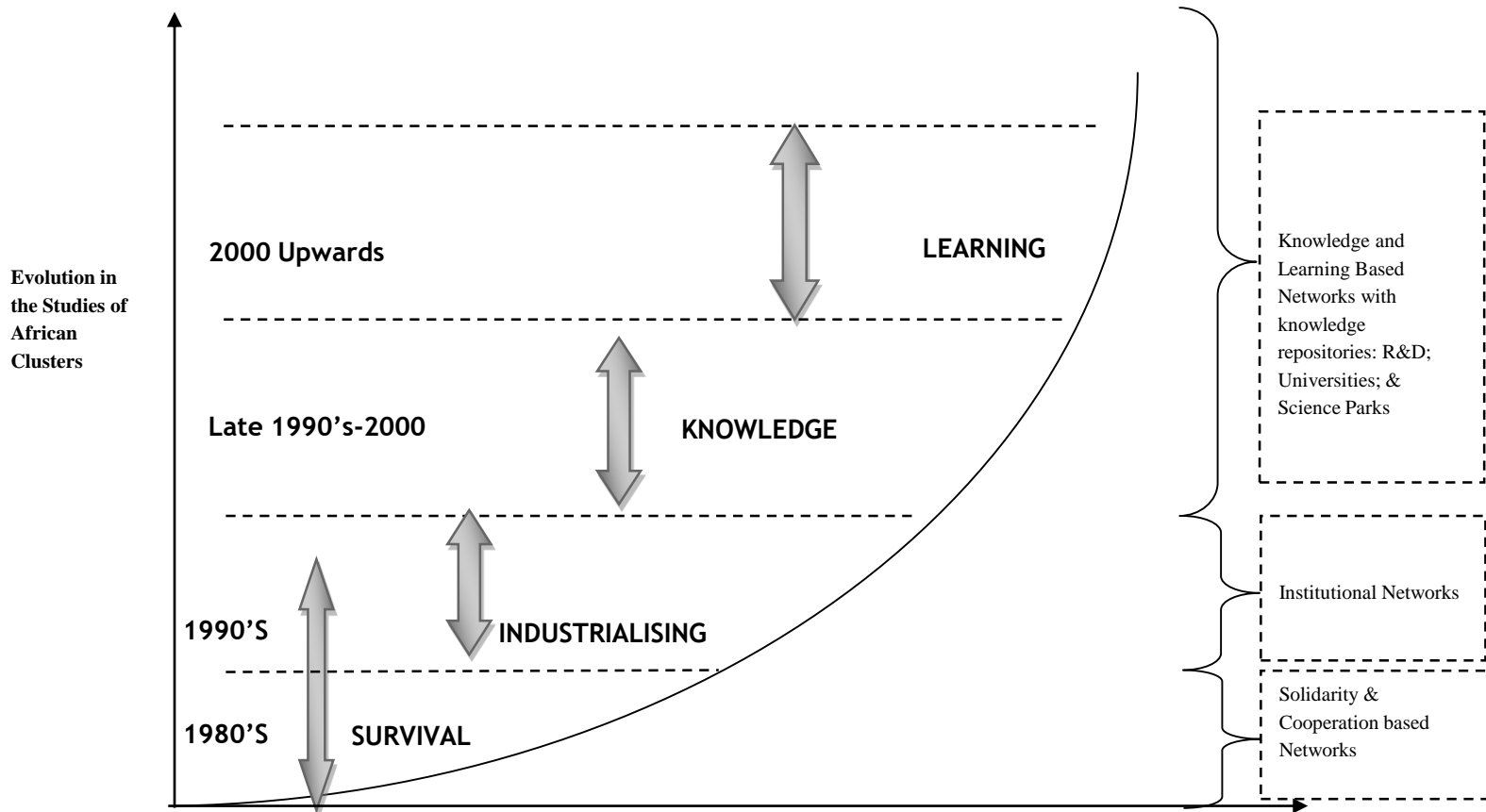
- **Determinants of Evolutionary Change :
Emerging Themes**
 - **Cluster Networking in Africa: Trending**
 - **Spatial Features: Infrastructure & Institutions**
 - **Regional Learning Vs Knowledge:
The Constraints**
 - **Cultural Values**

Findings: How African Clusters Evolve

Stages or phases of:

- **Industrialisation**
- **Learning**
- **Knowledge Structures**
- **Imitative Behaviour**

Advances on the Evolution & Development of African Clusters



Implications and Future Research

➤ Gaps Identified

➤ Policy Intervention to:

Upgrade Networks

Facilitate Knowledge sharing & Learning

Build Infra structures

Empower local institutions

Research Limitations

- **Secondary Research limited to only 25 Articles**

Thank You



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