

African Journal of Development Studies (AJDS)

Published consistently since 2012

ISSN 2634-3630 E-ISSN 2634-3649

Indexed by IBSS, EBSCO, ERIH PLUS, COPERNICUS, ProQuest,
SABINET and J-Gate.

Volume 15, Number 2, June 2025

pp 75-93

Development Theories Interlinked with Monitoring and Evaluation: An Epistemological Dialectical Concepts for a Developmental State

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31920/2634-3649/2025/v15n2a4>

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Abstract

The concept development as a theory represents a government that provides for its growing nation and its citizens. It is a concept that embraces nation-building through strategies that inspire confidence for a developmental state. This notion recognises that Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) exist as a centrepiece of the evolution of a developmental state. For instance, the central focus of the development strategy is argued to be interlinked with M&E; and these concepts are grounded to aid the capacity of the state to comprehend the needs of ordinary citizens. In this context, the study posits that monitoring and evaluation are conceptually formulated through developmental theories to improve the trajectory of shaping a developmental state. Additionally, the study reviews literature using conceptual and desktop qualitative research to explain the epistemological links between developmental theories, exploring concepts such as ideology, the theory of citizenship, and monitoring and evaluation. The theoretical framework remains the development theories which intend to prove that a developmental state can be achievable through monitoring and evaluation models that are responsive to the challenges of public service. The study

intends to conclude by arguing that monitoring and evaluation are inspired by development theories to achieve the objectives of the developmental state.

Keywords: *Development Theories; Monitoring and Evaluation; Developmental State; Public Service; Service Delivery*

Introduction

The study of building state capacity remains significant at all material times given evolving scientific literature and studies in the field of public administration and management. Lawson and Zarakol (2022) suggest that the state is a component that citizens are the important ingredient and without citizens, there is no state that can be formulated in a democratic nation. In this context, for the state to develop, monitoring and evaluation is argued to have provided modernity fashioned from the era of New Public Management (NPM) as a private sector instrument of exploring productivity (Sebake, 2024). It is in this regard that the study is relevant to argue that monitoring and evaluation are a communication tools for service delivery and policy between government and citizens in maintaining public participation as a principle of a democratic government.

The lens of the developmental state is not only a reflection of a functioning state department and government machinery but rather a functioning democratic state based on the rule of law and the will of the people (Blakeley, 2024). Additionally, democratic participation of citizens is ideologically theorised through the government that confidently engages its communities on policy and service delivery as an embodiment of finding symbiotic relations that are inseparable (Kalm, Strömbom & Uhlin, 2019). It is in this context that theorising development is equal to constructing a developmental state in which monitoring and evaluation instruments convey messages systematically to usher development. Conversely, the study tests the connection between theory and its practical application in contributing to the developmental state. For instance, developmental theories in triangulation reimagine how society can best be organised, and monitoring and evaluation are established as support from development theories and the desire to sustain the developmental desired state. It is themed under the reimagination of scientific discovery as articulated by Karl Popper in the 20th century (Dzhaambayeva & Kametkanova, 2020). The study intends to review literature in gravitating to qualitative research to depict the nature of the

knowledge that these concepts that are studied can complement each other and reaffirm a new body of knowledge for public administration and management. The study's conclusions on these concepts are expected to define a new research area, prompting deeper scientific and applied theory-based inquiry in public administration and management.

Setting the Scene: Development Theories and Developmental State

Several theories define the nature of society and what goes into it to become a developmental state. For instance, the Marxist theory of class contestation paves the way for a conflicting atmosphere to shape the state in the hands of the capitalists or the socialists in which the working class as a dominant class either remain in force or vulnerable to the capitalist ideological discourse (Block, 2021). The politics of the working class and those who own means of production are a political stage of contestation for a phase of development that either favours the majority or minority (Sebake, 2024). In this context, developmental theories are the foundational principles of the ideological epistemological grounds and often conflict with each other like the developmental state it wishes to shape. These grounds then define the policy perspective that democratises the state or closes the power to the elites as part of shaping the state to respond to its ideological and developmental theory as dialectical concepts of a developmental state (Offe & Keane, 2018). The concepts assist one another in making sense of what the developmental state is and what must be achieved at all material times. Therefore, it is that the establishment of state and its affairs without theory or philosophical underpinning is as impossible to ascertain what to achieve. In addition, cultivating a developmental state is a tedious process that may necessitate additional theories, such as the theory of citizenship, to forge a solidarity network of purpose (Turner, 2024). The theory of citizenship is based on democratic participation that establishes the basic principle of monitoring and evaluation based on a participatory service delivery mechanism (Sebake, 2022). A developmental state is not controlled by minority interests, as this typically leads to stagnant development and a failure to achieve national targets (Kymlicka, 2018). It is in this regard that the study of developmental theories contributes towards building and shaping the developmental state, with monitoring and evaluation being instruments that epitomise the democratisation of the developmental state to realise its broader objectives. While this section sets a scene by depicting theory through triangulation and the

practical variables that form symbiotic relations towards the formation of a developmental state, the next section explores literature review.

Literature Review

Human Capital and Innovation Systems

The notion of rethinking human capital in public service relays a picture of the ability to shape human capabilities through innovation utilising new systems for service delivery, and responsive to the needs of ordinary citizens (Nafukho, Hairston & Brooks, 2004). In this context, monitoring and evaluation are a “White Elephant” without human capital that comprehends the technical application of it. Nafukho *et al.* (2004) further point out that science does exist through linkages between foundational principle of Human Resource Development (HRD) and Human Capital theory through ongoing and deliberate effort for the improvement of human inputs and outputs. The conceptual overview of human capital historically connects with social investment for improving productivity and future developmental opportunities for world of work (Tan, 2014). In this regard, HRD is a systematic department that is more concerned with human behaviour and attitude towards enhancing productivity (Marginson, 2019). Accordingly, Coff and Raffiee (2015) suggest from a regional perspective that the development theories are a fundamental feature of economic development, in which progressive human capital has been very central for nations in the regions’ advancement towards total emancipation. In this context, the notion of development requires rapid cultivation of human capital in response to comprehend the rapid change of the industrial needs and modernity confronting developmental state.

Metla and Wotela (2021) highlight that a developmental state's success hinges on investing in monitoring and evaluation as a central policy implementation mechanism that promotes governance compliance. In this context, policy compliance and implementation are an indication of public service that is responsive to its service delivery plan where developing nations utilise the existence of monitoring and evaluation for foregrounding developmental state (Moiloa & Wotela, 2016). It is in this regard arguable that human capital evolution and monitoring and evaluation are machineries for a developmental state guided by science, industrial challenges and the society’s needs. Human capital, monitoring and evaluation are conceptually interlinked to influence the trajectory and the agenda of the developmental state.

Monitoring and Evaluation Context for Nation-building

The context of the study argues that monitoring and evaluation are principal instruments for nation-building which is translating to the developmental state in motion. Accordingly, Gault (2018) suggests that monitoring and evaluation are based on epistemological in-depth innovation for constantly improving the social context of a developmental state. In conceptualisation, monitoring and evaluation are set to foreground development agenda and hold the nation and its economy together and ultimately maximise the impact of transforming the livelihood of ordinary citizens. In the effort of building a cohesive nation, public service delivery remains an ongoing platform to escalate social change (Abrahams, 2016), in which development theories; and monitoring and evaluation are inseparable and dialectical instruments of a developmental state. Additionally, Kanyamuna, Kotzé and Phiri (2019) explain to us that monitoring and evaluation systems are an embedded component of public service that inculcate developmental approaches to strengthen and improve performance of government to promote an inclusive and integrated development. The conceptual understanding of the developmental state remains the government that understands its obligation towards accountability. Matsiliza (2017) notes that monitoring and evaluation, as planning tools, demand the integration of ideas from all stakeholders, especially citizens who are public service beneficiaries. In this context, monitoring and evaluation are developmental and form the basis for transforming service delivery for nation-building purposes. The study advances the idea that monitoring and evaluation are instruments of participatory governance that promote democracy as part of the national flagship and the developmental state is incomplete without monitoring and evaluation.

In another exploration, monitoring and evaluation align citizens' purposes regarding service delivery and policy perspectives (Sebake & Mukonza, 2021). In the earlier part of the study, the exploring of the theory of citizenship was established as a panacea for the continuous forging of governance and participatory democracy and is a pillar for developmental state. It is fundamental that the developmental state is based on the ability of the state to meet its policy objectives through democratising its decision-making processes and therefore M&E is positioning itself as an important aspect of such facilitation (Allen, Metternicht & Wiedmann, 2018). Additionally, M&E is an important contributor to sustainable development on the basis that it is implemented to establish and corroborate a common agenda for

transforming social landscape of the society and strive for continuous improvement and unity of a developmental state (ElMassah & Mohieldin, 2020). In this regard, it is evident that the theory of citizenship assists in finding expression in the monitoring and evaluation and therefore it is an important component of a developmental state.

Developmental State Measured through Service Delivery

In examining the role of public service, it is important to reflect on how public servants respond to the fundamental question of government performance towards attaining its developmental agenda. Offe and Keane (2018) argue that service delivery is a process of the developmental theories for advancement of social change in bettering the lives of citizens. Additionally, the concept of the developmental state is appreciated through the theories of development that aim at the infiltration of structural arrangements and their transformation (Offe & Keane, 2018). It is in this regard that service delivery represents a political appreciation of a developmental state, which at this stage, introducing monitoring and evaluation as models that are of an integrated strategy for service delivery remains ideal for a developmental state.

Pepinsky, Pierskalla and Sacks (2017) suggest that managing service delivery is a bureaucratic process that requires innovative and integrative systems that are holistic in approach to provide an account of the performance of the developmental state. Through this study, I argue that monitoring and evaluation is partly responsive to the bureaucratic process, while at the same time, it is a political system that is responsive to the reimagination of a developmental state (Pepinsky *et al.*, 2017). For the South African context, the National Development Plan provides a broad conceptualised and implementable service delivery, in which government performance position monitoring and evaluation as a contributing integrated machinery of a developmental state (Sebake, 2022). It is essential that monitoring and evaluation provide a historic account of service delivery of a developmental state, and it fundamentally contributes to holding society collectively for a common purpose. The earlier therefore epitomises the theory of citizenship at its best and forges cohesion on matters of governance in society. The next section lays the groundwork for scientific research by outlining the type of research, and how data is collected and analysed.

Research Methodology

The scholarly enquiry is not fit for purpose if it does not respond to the strategy of navigating the data that assists in concluding the study. It is often that the research methodology is viewed as a clear statement in which the objectives of the research intend to be met without any compromise of ethics related to the field of study (Patel & Patel, 2019). Additionally, it is a strategic choice exercised by the researcher to collect and analyse the data to conclude the study logically (Sebake, 2022). This study adopted the qualitative research method, which is based on a literature review to support the emerging scientific arguments with a new input to the knowledge society.

Research Paradigm and Approach

Scholarly research requires a specific paradigm to ensure its continuous relevance to the line of inquiry (Johnson & Onwuegbuzie, 2004). In essence, the fundamental orientation of this study is to explore what is being investigated and how it intends to contribute to the knowledge society. It is in this regard that research paradigm must be philosophically routed into a specific theoretical context to respond to the research ontology, and epistemological contrast (Rehman & Alharthi, 2016). Additionally, the study explores the philosophical grounds of development theories to produce a model for M&E. Therefore, it intends to take a shape of theoretical exploration as it evolves in governance praxes of M&E.

Research Design

Data Collection and Analysis

In terms of design, the research aims to collect data from academic articles and select those that are relevant to the study's scope. The data collection strategy is a desktop study, necessitating in-depth reading to select relevant and recent articles over older ones for enhanced scholarly research (Moser & Korstjens, 2018). In this context, such in-depth reading leads to the analysis of the data in which a logical conclusion of the scholarly study can be made. This strategy is vital for ensuring data quality in scientific studies and for fostering renewed critical scholarship relevant to the subjects under review (Sheard, 2018). The published articles are guarantee reliability and utilisation of qualitative research

method is reliable given dependent on researchers' interface with literature and application of critical analysis to postulate and discover new dynamics out of concepts being studied. The next section intends to lay out a discussion in which critical findings are presented to make sense of the connectivity of the applied theory in the establishment and the sustainability of the developmental state.

Discussions and Key Findings

The literature review study is important to provide the desktop issues to systematically demonstrate adding to the scientific body of knowledge. Jennex (2015) argues that a literature review provides an awareness of the rapid nature of growing literature on any subject matter to shape scientific knowledge. The literature review study is an important element of scientific knowledge as it evolves (Boell & Cecez-Kecmanovic, 2015), which ultimately formulates a distinct systematic rethinking of the metaphor. This section reviewed 54 articles, arguing that development theories and monitoring and evaluation are interrelated and crucial for shaping a developmental state through effective public service delivery. The findings below are presented to facilitate the journey of this scientific discovery on the study of connecting concepts to formulate a functional democratic and developmental state. It is the state that depends on its theoretical underpinning and develops systems that support the functioning of such as state as it must be witnessed transforming into a social contrast that improves the lives of its citizens (Rahwan, 2018). It is in this context that this section provides reviewed literature that validates the argument that positions applied theories in the establishment and maintenance of progress of the developmental state and its affairs.

Framing the Developmental State

The White Paper promulgated in 1998 provides the basis for the developmental local government that is responsive to the local agenda of improving the lives of citizens by providing services (Mathebula, 2016; Sebake, 2022). It is in this context that the developmental state is more concerned with the ability to model economic development through unearthing government strategies on enterprise development activities and broadening the capacity for thriving local development planning approaches (Sebake, 2022). On the other hand, the developmental state is a posture of a thriving state with the capacity to inspire

industrialisation that guarantees job creation for sustainable livelihood (Woo-Cumings, 2019). In this study, I argue that the developmental state provides its citizens with an ecosystem for self-reliance and self-organisation. Accordingly, Sebake (2016), underscores that developmental local government is the first key step toward advancing the developmental state, achieved by working with citizens to enhance local governance and service delivery. It is in this context that strengthening the state in all spheres provides an opportunity to realise the objectives of the National Development Plan 2030 as an overarching strategic intent of defining South Africa's conceptual developmental state (Evans & Heller, 2015). The conceptualisation of the developmental state underscores a government that is on top of its task to improve state machinery and objectives. The next section introduces monitoring and evaluation as a framework of the developmental state that is reimaged through the lens of development theories and the ideological lens of participatory democracy.

The Development Frameworks of Monitoring and Evaluation

The study argues that monitoring and evaluation; and development theories are foundational concepts for the developmental state. In tabling this argument, it is the role of the private sector to provide a profitable margin, and the public service is arguable as value-for-money environment to enhance the quality of life for citizens through service delivery and facilitation and promotion of progressive policy regimes (Markiewicz & Patrick, 2015). On the other hand, the origins of monitoring and evaluation were only adopted in the era of New Public Management in response to neoliberal systems of public service's formation (Denhardt & Denhardt, 2015), as reflected earlier in the study. It is in this context that traditional public administration in the 80s was transformed into public service, which adopted the frameworks that come with age in the private sector (Pollitt & Bouckaert, 2017). The private sector's profit motive aligns policy, plans, resources, and organizational capacity, which are then evaluated against profit outcomes to ascertain the profit model's sustainability (Lund & Nielsen, 2018). Therefore, it is that monitoring and evaluations is a metaphor for a particular business model that enhances state capacity in the dawn of discovering the need for establishing a developmental local government that builds into the developmental state in time.

It has become evident that one of the key challenges of monitoring and evaluation is the modelling and formulas, particularly when

performing evaluation in the summative report format (Mahshanian, Shoghi & Bahrami, 2019). Applying various formulas of monitoring and evaluation requires constant critical analysis as they are reimaged through the lens of theoretical underpinning and therefore both are not static but evolving (Matt, Dietenberger & Weise, 2020). The study is convinced that monitoring and evaluation constitute a science through which theories of development are scientific in nature to philosophically outline the future. Additionally, the study posits that monitoring and evaluation are science in enabling development theories to scientifically inform the future trajectory of the developmental state. The earlier reminds us of the post-modernisation argument that administration and management are not science but instruments that support science such as sociology and political science (Astley, 2019). Additionally, the earlier was proven to be a myth based on the context of public administration and this study adds that the philosophical underpinning of the developmental state is a result of the theoretical lens and scientific analysis of the future modernised society. In that modernised society, tools for shaping such a developmental state for sustainability such as monitoring and evaluation are found to be an embodiment of such a state. The next section tests how performance management connects to these paradoxes.

The Performance Management as an Embodiment of Monitoring & Evaluation

Arguably, performance management is part of the monitoring and evaluation process. In the study of Sebake and Mukonza (2021), it is revealed that for the organisational performance to be determined, such must be tallied with individual performance management to close the missing parcel. This arrangement reestablishes clusters of state institutions to provide shared services and accurate data for the use of performance management as well as monitoring and evaluation. Additionally, performance management has evolved as an evidence-outcome in institutions of the state and often created consistent conflicting ratings between line managers and ordinary employees (Coles & Li, 2020). It is impressive in the global scheme that both China and Russia are applying relationship-oriented methods to carry out performance management, and this is argued as a fair culture that demonstrates results and output and is opposed to hierarchy (Xing & Li, 2019). In this context, performance management, despite being part of monitoring and evaluation, appears to lack a symbiotic relationship due to its historically polarized application. It is argued that the class

proposition of Karl Marx has been more applicable given that some of the conflicts are more symbiotic to class contradictions given that the crux of the conflicts is the incentives. Essentially, performance management, monitoring, and evaluation are strategic instruments that shape a developmental state and reveal its development outcomes (Lin, Werner, Witter, Alluhidan, Alghaith, Hamza, Herbst & Alazemi, 2022). This area still requires more in-depth reflection on what is the demise to connect and complete the cycle of instruments without conflicts that polarise the environment. The next section intends to present the area of the policy regime of the developmental state, in line with transformation and societal social context. This is reimagined through policy regime and impact to accelerate the developmental state and its improvements to the lives of ordinary citizens.

The Assessment of Policy Impact of a Developmental State

According to the World Bank (2017), the rule of law defines and regulates the fundamentals of a conceptualised state of development in which systematic procedures assert the development agenda of the state. In this regard, the policy frameworks direct technocrats and political office bearers of the aspiration of a developmental state and how to achieve such desired objectives. From a global perspective, the Republic of China made service delivery part of the industrial value chain to provide a decent life for its citizens based on harnessing self-reliance (Savino, 2021). The practical aspect of policy implementation shapes the developmental state through the interests of citizens who are part of the theory of citizenship (Hudson, Hunter & Peckham, 2019). In this context, the implementation of the policy is often confronted by systematic challenges that are part of the structural establishment that requires a theoretical regime to facilitate social change (Munzhedzi, 2020). The study premises policy as an important driver of a developmental state espoused from theories of development to influence the trajectories for developmental state which inculcates a sustainable development agenda. The policy unites the interests of the affairs of citizens and nurtures the communal front to the best unifiable as possible in establishing a harmonious life (Pow, 2018). Additionally, monitoring and evaluation have strengthened the developmental state by facilitating policy reviews that curb bureaucratic obstacles to service delivery.

The nexus of policy existence in the developmental state is an epitome of the formalisation of democratic institutions that are inspired by the rule of law and democratic participation in servicing the ordinary

citizens (Ciccio & Lombardo, 2019). On the other hand, policy maps the programme of action for government and regulates substantive outcomes of developmental government at all levels with a deliberation to interrupt the non-responsive areas of policy outcomes (Eckhard & Parizek, 2022). It is in this view that policy assessment is a cornerstone of a developmental state and without monitoring and evaluation as an integrated tool, it is blurry for a developmental state to reflect on its strengths and weaknesses. The next section intends to uncover service delivery and governance as basic components of a developmental state, particularly on how these concepts function in the monitoring and evaluation as an instrument of a developmental state.

The Systematic Coordination of Service Delivery and Governance

The existence of service delivery contributes to the theory of establishing citizenship from a social context and democratic participation connects institutions of democracy and ordinary citizens (Sebake, 2020). The notion of citizen participation is theorised based on building the people's government which the wishes of such people are prioritised from all material times to strengthen governance of the developmental state. It is therefore arguable that all these are based on the developmental theories that influence the thinking behind establishing the state and its machinery to serve the people (Locke & Latham, 2019). It is in this context that governance is a pillar of strength for developmental state given its ability to foreground the applied theory of citizenship and ensure the citizen's ownership of their government. In this regard, a developmental state's cohesion is partly dependent on governance that embraces its citizens.

In the concepts of service delivery and governance, it is simply that monitoring and evaluation is found to be embedded given its application of consultation by the developmental state to the citizens (Nuraeni & Irawan, 2021). In this context, yet another epistemological relation is discovered in the quest to deepen the developmental state in which the theory of citizenship is strengthened. It is additionally undoubted that service delivery and governance are also the result of development theories that wish to socially impact the citizens and establish solidarity and cohesion (Sebola, 2023). Accordingly, service delivery is a product of governance as it is espoused through the integrated development planning process and other avenues created to serve citizens (Bester, 2024). The developmental state exists to accelerate service delivery as established through theoretical frameworks such as IDP and assessed

through monitoring and evaluation to strengthen democratic institutions of government. The next section focuses on the future study that emerged interesting espoused out of this current study.

Area of Future Study: Developmental State and Theories

The future of the scholarship depends on its ability to evolve new topical interest that requires deepening knowledge of the nature of such emerging thematic trail (Maserumule, 2019). The future study is interesting in the combination of theory and application to determine the art of emerging knowledge (Dator & Dator, 2019). Additionally, due to the constant evolution of development, new ideas continuously emerge, requiring critical analysis to foster a dynamic voice in the knowledge society (Rappleye & Komatsu, 2020). It is in this context that the new context of future study would be the failure of developmental local government towards the advancing service delivery and if this is a symbolic failure of theories conceptualisations or implementation. This future study intends to reconstruct a new system for developmental local government after diagnosing what constitutes a challenge.

Conclusion

The study of developmental theories, and monitoring and evaluation were presented to test the theoretical lens and practical avenue through which conceptual relations are established. This journey of scholarship traced the establishment of the developmental state and all its instruments being the imagination of developmental theories. For instance, the theory of citizenship was found to be relevant to advance democratic participation, which is a component of monitoring and evaluation, and ultimately, developmental state. It is in this nature that the developmental state and all its instruments are epitomised by various theoretical frameworks that shape its affairs.

On the other hand, the role of the developmental state is to implement its policy framework and assess its impact on the diverse interests of citizens, this policy seems to be a founding expression in service delivery and democratic participation that shapes the governance of the developmental state. It is in this regard that policy was presented as a heartbeat of a developmental state as it facilitates a blueprint of what is expected of the developmental state to achieve. This narrative is conclusive that policy and service delivery assessment is conducted

through monitoring and evaluation to improve the performance of the developmental state.

Recommendation

Grounded in its theoretical lens and validity, the study argues that M&E and development theories are integrated philosophical concepts of service delivery. It is important to explore the deeper conceptual connectivity of the developmental state and M&E. In this context, the below is a recommendation to explore.

- Exploring complexity theory and failures of service delivery in the interest of advancing developmental local government.

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