

Chapter 2

Research methodology

2 Introduction

In the Human Sciences, researches are conducted typically to study problems, ascertain validity, create new knowledge that has relevance and ultimately impact the lives of people and their societies in the short and long term. Indeed, social scientists are drawn to the study of a particular social phenomenon for their social implications as well as scientific significance. The nature, context, and the scope of a research problem and concept as object of study and the motivation to undertake such studies are inextricably value-laden in research studies. Research methodology, according to Neuman, 'is what makes social science scientific' (Neuman, 2000:63).

Methodology of social research is a procedure employed in research studies to arrive at critical valid findings for such studies. Methodology for social research refers to the adaptation of research procedures and techniques to track the object of study for valid knowledge.

Scientific research consists of specific elements:

- Curiosity to know about the unknown.
- The search for data to explain the unknown.
- Satisfying the curiosity: finding an answer pertaining to the unknown.
- Determining the truth of the answer.
- The practical use of the answer.

(Botes, 1995:2), quoted in Brynard & Hanekom (1997:2).

It could also be argued that it involves the practical use of knowledge power to engage the methodological procedure that proves relevant to the object of study. Methodology therefore presupposes what orderly method of procedure is being utilized to gather, collect, and receive data and information relevant to the object of study. This approach lends such studies a scientific dimension. Leedy and Ormrod have postulated that, 'research methodology is used to extract meaning from the data collected' (Leedy & Ormrod, 2001:100).

Methodological procedure is a critical element in every research project. It entails reading critically and assessing evidence and available data constructively in order to be able to relate the substance to observation of the variable under research. Goldenberg has argued that, 'it is the role of methodology to provide ... a set of guidelines or procedures or conventions that will allow ... to satisfactorily address the criticisms of the skeptic and force him or her to acknowledge, however grudgingly that he or she can think of no reason not to credit ... claim' (Goldenberg, 1992:18–19). Hendrick *et al* (1993) maintains that, 'methodology is simply a possible data collection approach to research study. It deals with data collection issues, sources of data available, the form in which the data are available and whether the data fit the parameters of the research design'.

According to Brynard and Hanekom (1997:28), 'research methodology, or methods of collecting data, necessitates a reflection on the planning, structuring and execution of the research in order to comply with the demands of truth, objectivity and validity. Hence, research methodology focuses on the process of research and the decisions, which the researcher has to take to execute the research project'. Methodology for research is a process model adopted to collect data and or information relevant to the research problem or question, that is, the adoption of research procedures and techniques to track the object of study for new and valid knowledge.

2. 1 Dimensions of Research

There are several types of research but the emphasis is usually placed on the object of study or the research problem, which determines what research method or procedure is to be deployed in conducting research investigations. Bless & Higson-Smith (1995) have categorised social research into the following groups:

- Exploratory
- Descriptive
- Correlational
- Explanatory

According to Bless and Hugson-Smith, ‘the characteristics of the problem, the initial level of knowledge, the properties of the variables, as well as the purpose of the investigation, will determine whether the research is descriptive, correlational or explanatory’ (Bless & Hugson-Smith, 1995:41). To be able to search for an explanation related to modes and characteristics of the object of study a collection of certain kind background information must be made. In such a case the type of research will be exploratory, which is a particular type of “descriptive study“. (Ibid.:41).

In other cases, they argue that ‘enough background knowledge is available to permit a fairly precise area of investigation. When a researcher is able to state a hypothesis, expressing the relationship between at least two variables, the result obtained will provide more than just a description of reality. In some cases the relationship between variables cannot be determined precisely, therefore it is expected that co-variation takes place. In other words, the researcher wishes to show that two variables change simultaneously, either in the same or opposite directions. This is called “correlational research“. It does not give an explanation about why one variable varies when another also does’. (Ibid.:41). On the contrary, as soon as the cause-effect relationship between variables can be stated, an explanation can be found for the variation of at least one variable,

namely the dependent one. When an explanation is sought for the relationship between variables, one is dealing with “explanatory research”. (Ibid.:42).

By using an explanatory research method more new knowledge is acquired than using, either, correlational or descriptive studies. But, it should be made clear that the choice of the type of research, whether descriptive, correlational or explanatory, cannot be arbitrary. It depends on the following: the object of research; the aims of the research and the nature of the data to be collected. (Ibid.:42).

The two authors explain that these types of research are not free from differences, strengths, and weaknesses and their inherent approaches in the conduct of research studies, given their respective objects and focus. They argue that, ‘exploratory and descriptive researches differ in many respects. They have different aims, arise from different levels of understanding of the area of interest and require different degrees of precision in the data. Both, however, rely on particular forms of data collection’. (Ibid.:43). Neuman (2000:20-23) has also differentiated research into “exploration”, “description”, “correlational”, and “explanation”.

Researches pursue purely the intellectual point of view, which aims in assisting in resolutions of empirical problems. Social researches are focused on the creation of new knowledge from social realities, to deepen understanding, and not just about the study of old ideas and concepts.

2.1. 1 The Use of Research

Neuman has argued that, social research has two fundamental usages. ‘... some focus on using research to advance general knowledge, whereas others use it to solve specific problems. Those who seek an understanding of the fundamental nature of social reality are engaged in basic research (also called academic

research or pure research). Applied researchers, by contrast, primarily want to apply and tailor knowledge to address a specific practical issue. They want to answer a policy question or solve a pressing social problem' (Neuman, 2000:23).

For this study applied research is relevant. The object of study focuses on Nepad as a development policy and specifically targeting the contingencies that inherently constitute implementation complexities. The aim is to apply scientific knowledge to address the particular problems that will ultimately enhance the process of implementation of the policy goals of Nepad.

2.2 Types of Research Approaches

There are two basic kinds of research approaches or methods employed during social scientific research activities. They share fundamental principles of science and vary significantly in context from one object of study to the other. But the principles of adopting any type of research methods remain the same, that is, the creation of new and valid knowledge.

Methodological preferences have relevance in the manner through which investigations are carried out in real life occurrence. They differ in specific fields of academic endeavours, that is, each academic discipline or subject engages which methodological procedure that is useful and valid for application in the particular subject field under investigation.

The major task of engaging any type of methods in research projects is to find answer to a research question or research problem. Hendrick *et al* (1993:68), have argued that, 'in considering data collection approaches, the researcher is seeking to find an economical but accurate way to obtain data to fit the conceptual framework underlying the study'. Selecting a method or communality of methods is informed by the kind of information that is being sought, from

whom, from what source, under what circumstances, and the specific type of research problem which it aims to generate certain contributions.

The preferences for one research method over another are entirely dependent on the concept, context, type of research, and the object of study. Lindegger has written that, ‘... research involves the full spectrum of quantitative research methods (especially survey methods, correlational, experimental, and quasi-experimental designs), as well as a broad range of qualitative methods and designs’ (Lindegger, 1999:291).

There are two types of research methodologies - *qualitative* and *quantitative*. Methodological approaches adopted for research projects could either be quantitative or qualitative or a communality of both depending on the characterization of the research problem and the type of contribution the research hopes to bring to the fore. Each approach has its strengths and weaknesses, which are merely passive in the context of the study. The qualitative method of research is the type of process or procedure that is not based on numerical analysis but analytical; while quantitative method deals largely with numerical data gathering, analysis, and the interpretation of the data in a numerical context.

Qualitative method uses ‘observation and interview as process methods to collect the relevant information some of which may be relevant and some may be irrelevant. It also uses primary and secondary information techniques. It denotes analysis of any written material that contains information about the phenomenon being researched’ (Strydom & Delpont, 2002:21). Brynard and Hanekom have in pursuant of the argument on typologies of research methods or approaches explained that, ‘in human sciences two basic methodological research methods or methodologies can be distinguished: qualitative and quantitative methodology or methodological models’ (Brynard & Hanekom, 1997:29).

Research methods have also been distinguished by Leedy and Ormrod (2001) into two main areas – ‘*qualitative* and *quantitative* approaches. The quantitative research method is used to answer questions about relationships among measured variables with the purpose of explaining, predicting, and controlling phenomena. It is sometimes called the traditional, experimental, or positivist approach’ (Leedy & Ormrod, 2001:101).

Conversely, qualitative research is typically used to answer questions about the complex nature of phenomena, often with the purpose of describing and understanding the phenomena from the participants’ point of view. This approach is sometimes referred to as the interpretive, constructivist, or post positivist approach (Leedy & Ormrod, 2001:101). Both approaches involve similar processes (for example, formation of one or more hypothesis, review of the relevant literature, collection and analysis of data). Yet these processes are often combined and carried out in different ways, leading to distinctly different research methods (Ibid.:102).

Similarly, Neuman has explained that, ‘quantitative researchers describe the technical research procedures they use (for example, a systematic random sample of 300 drawn from a telephone directory; Likert Scaling). The procedures are shared explicit methods. Qualitative approach relies on the informal wisdom that has developed from the experiences of the researchers’ (Neuman, 2000:123).

Accordingly, Neuman has argued that, ‘quantitative method of research has certain characteristics such as – measure objective facts; focus on variables; reliability is key; value free; independent of context; many cases’ subjects; statistical analysis; and research is detached. At the same time qualitative method construct social reality, cultural meaning; focus on interactive processes, event; authenticity is key; values are present and explicit; situationally constrained; few cases’ subjects; thematic analysis; researcher is involved. He

argues that 'just as there are differences they are equally complementary'. (Ibid.: 124).

The applicability and usage of the two research procedures in data collection in social research studies have run into teleological and paradigmatic arguments. Purists from both sides of the divide have placed restrictive and limited measures with regard to the suitability of when qualitative and quantitative methods can be applied. De Vos (1990:169–170) has presented the arguments from the both sides. For instance, he has explained that, Mouton and Marais,(1990:169-170), 'support complementarity and convergence of the two by arguing that the phenomenon that is investigated in social science are so enmeshed that a single approach most certainly cannot succeed in encompassing human beings in their full complexity. It would therefore be futile to behave as though one approach should be fully accepted and another entirely rejected. By adopting the point of view of convergence and complementarity we may eventually be in a position to understand more about human nature and social reality' (De Vos, 2002:364), quoted in De Vos (ed); Strydom, *et al.*(2002).

Posavac and Corey (1989:242) also argue that, 'although purists from both camps would object, the best approach is to mix qualitative and quantitative research methods'. De Vos, in the context of the argument, has explained that, 'Mouton and Marais have not proved beyond rhetoric in their espouse as they have failed to substantiate the empirical paradigms. He argues that qualitative methodology is based on the assumption that valid understanding can be gained at first hand by a single researcher. ... the assumptions and methods of qualitative research lead to products (*inter alia*, research reports) that differ markedly from the products of quantitative research' (De Vos, 2002:364).

Authors such as Crosswell (1994:7-8), Rubin & Babbie (1993:357-403), Grinnel (1994a:53–78) have maintained that 'researchers should use clearly distinctive approach or single research approach for the overall design study', quoted in De

Vos (2002:364). Given both sides of the argument on the apt applicability of either of the two methods or even a single approach, this study argues that in compelling circumstances, say for instance, a multivariate analysis in research studies, commonality of the two approaches could prove indispensably useful. This is because in some research instances it is when data collection has been conducted that the main focus of the study begins to shape up. Social Sciences research subjects with accompanying influencing factors bear some dynamics i.e. they do not remain constant. If anything, they are not absolute neither could they be comprehensively controlled, that is to say events are relational with implicit dynamics of society and so are the foci and purposes.

2. 3 Methodology for the Study

Social researches are conducted for a variety of reasons. 'Some want to do it to change society; some want to answer practical questions while some want to make informed decisions. Those in the scientific community seek to build basic knowledge about society'. (Neuman, 2000:18).

Hendrick *et al* (1993) have argued that, several questions arise at the start of considering data collection approaches (research methodology), such as:

- What are the likely sources of the data?
- In what form are the data?
- Will there be a sufficient amount of data?
- How accurate and reliable are the data?
- How well do the data fit the potential study?

(Hendrick *et al.*,1993:68).

Research methods and techniques are chosen on the basis of the formulation of the questions or research problem that most directly serve the needs of the object of study. In conducting this research and given the conceptualization and the contextualization of the object of study, the qualitative approach has been

utilized. 'Qualitative method used in collection of data is always straightforward. It has the quality of undeniability, which lends verisimilitude to reports' (Smith, 1975), quoted in Robson, (1993:370).

The relevant materials for this study are obtained through purely published works. The techniques through which data have been collected are primary and secondary techniques of qualitative research methodology. What informed the choice of the typology of research methodology is the fact that the data are in relevance to the research problem. They already exist in structured forms - documents, books, journals, news magazines, monographs and stored database materials that are useful for research purposes. There are therefore ample opportunities for flexibility and maneuvering in the collection of data. The choice of selection of information materials is not restrictive, but confining.

2. 3.1 Primary and Secondary Sources

Within the context of methodology for social science research study, there are typologies of methods on offer. According to Strydom and Deport authors such as 'Baily, (1994:294), Baker (1988:270), Cilliers (1973:40), Mouton et al (1987:21-22) and Neuman (2000:395) classify qualitative method source into primary and secondary sources', Strydom and Delpport, (2002:322) quoted in De Vos, *et al.* (2000:322).

These methodologists have explained that, 'primary sources are seen as the original written materials of the author's experiences and observations, while secondary sources consist of the material that are derived from someone else as the original source'. (Ibid.:323). This corroborates the views expressed by Bless and Hugson-Smith, that if a researcher collects his/her own data for study it is known as a 'primary' source. Should they use data collected by other researchers concerning other research problems, such data is referred to as a Secondary source, quoted in Ijeoma, (2002:9), unpublished Ph.D thesis.

The methodology used for this study is the qualitative research method, with primary and secondary techniques. The primary sources are from direct personal knowledge gained from my career background, experience, and observation of the activities and trends of events surrounding Nepad since its inception; and the relational paradigms of international trends in regional development policy programmes and initiatives that have been institutionalized. African studies relevant to African development are intellectually fascinating and therefore events and scholarships on Africa's development have been closely monitored over the years. The effort is in itself a primary source of data for this study.

The secondary sources are the relevant textbooks, journal articles, web based sources, official Nepad documents, published reports, newspapers, news magazines, articles and monographs. In addition, to instill confidence, objectivity, coherence and enhance the study, unstructured interviews were held with selected officials at Nepad Secretariat and other top officials of allied institutions, with the depth of experience and breadth of knowledge not only on Nepad but also in public policy and policy implementation. This implies a one-on-one dialogue situation to obtain detailed responses that are not pre-determined and structured.

The primary reason why this study utilizes primary and secondary techniques of the methodological procedure is that the phenomenon of Nepad has become the new object of various perceptions, studies, and interpretations, which are unquantifiable numerically. Nepad means different things to different people of different orientations and persuasions. A lot has been written and debates are ongoing. The information sought in the research process has a primary and secondary relevance derivable from literature sources. This study is concerned particularly with targeting some emerging conditions *vis-à-vis* the implementation process.

The contextualization of this study also permits the usage of primary and secondary techniques of literature investigations. It gives ample focus on the extent of independent initiative in relation to the activities of Nepad and its overarching objectives. It offers an apt measure to probe further into the action plans of Nepad *vis-à-vis* its implementation process. It affords a more valid method for data collection and analyses to demarcate the truth-value of the study; to obtain relevant background knowledge and offers empirical verification of facts. Ehlers has aptly described it as ‘a content validity approach ... to qualify the degree of commonality of discernible sagacity regarding the appropriateness and validity of certain information, data, procedures, models, and format for the sake of generalization’ Ehlers, (2002:21), unpublished Ph.D thesis.

Welman and Kruger (2001) have explained that, ‘secondary data are used for three research purposes. First, is that they fill the specific reference on some point. They may be used to seek a reference benchmark against which to test other findings. Second, the use of secondary data is as an integral part of the larger research study. Research procedures typically call for some early exploration to learn if the past can contribute to the present study. In essence, the researcher tries to keep from reinventing the wheel’ (Welman & Kruger, 2001:240-241). Data from secondary sources help decide what further research needs to be done and can be a rich source of hypotheses. Lastly, secondary data may be used as the sole basis for a research study. Retrospective research often requires the use of past-published data. In many research situations, one cannot conduct primary research because of physical, legal, or cost limitations. (Ibid.:240).

2. 4 The Purpose of the Study

Nepad has been conceptualized as a programme through which the political (good governance) and the socioeconomic (equal trading conditions, debt cancellation, foreign direct investment, annual economic growth rate of seven percent, eradication of poverty and endemic diseases, develop human capital capacity, build and maintain infrastructure) development of the continent are to be addressed. Nepad has widely been described as the modern touchstone for Africa's development. It has generated considerable debate not only as a concept, but as a genuine African development template and an interventionist approach, given its operational capacities.

Various studies have been conducted on the concept, most of which offer differing views, opinions, and emphases. This study has viewed them as limited analyses, especially on empirical evaluation of the implementation process that sufficiently target the implicit impact factors that underlie the process. This view is aptly captured by the apprehension expressed by Rupiah, amongst others, as he recaps that, 'the complexity of Nepad and the challenges of translating implementation into regional projects has created mixed feelings on its prospects' (Rupiah, 2002:5).

Some arguments have been presented that Nepad be accepted with measured optimism for several reasons, among which are:

- That the policy programme will in time diminish following the way of pre-existing regional development policies in Africa.
- Absence of political will among African leaders to exercise meaningful commitment.
- Inadequate resources.
- Institutional incapacity.
- The patchy policy environment of the continent and

- Political crises, the pervasive feature in the African polity. (source: compile by the author).

From the literature investigations conducted, there are both intellectual and simplistic paradigmatic arguments. Nepad has been perceived as a non-viable programme without prospects to meaningfully and significantly address the African development imperatives. In other words, it is hugely constrained for marginal success and therefore foreboding. It has been branded a kneepad and its interlocutors suffer crisis of confidence and thus needed to solicit funding from the G8 for implementation. The implementation process of Nepad needs to be based on pragmatism devoid of political dogma and symbolism.

The issue here is not the moral desirability of Nepad, but rather, it is a systematic analysis of the implementation process to identify probable contingencies in order to determine their limitation effects and prospects for the implementation process in a long term, given the palpable substance-process dichotomy. In light of the policy goals of Nepad, this requires a broader analysis through research to establish and construct criteria variables for a virtual implementation process as an attempt to bridge the missing link.

Similarly, most of the debate has left out some critical theoretical frameworks of policy implementation in pursuit of their arguments. They have paid less attention to a systematic study to critically scrutinize the process, which remains fundamental to the actualization of the policy goals of Nepad. The focus of this study, therefore, anchors on the following conceptualizations:

- Comparative analyses drawn from the trends of regional development initiatives around five regions of the world.
- Nepad is a regional public policy programme, an institutional framework and a long-term development catalyst.
- To relate policy implementation analysis and implementation theoretical frameworks from the orthodox application on national, institutional, and

organizational environments to a higher policy realm of a supranational policy programme, particularly regional development policy scale of reference.

- To offer critical analysis of the impact factors conjecturally with propositions that are critically fundamental as the multiple gravitating forces towards viable implementation of the Nepad's policy objectives to arrive at the substance of the policy goals.

Others include:

- To recommend that the articulation and integration of the impact factors in time may invigorate the process.
- To provide a window for further academic inquiry into the Nepad initiative.

However, this study is not intended as a critique of the implementation process of Nepad. It is rather a study that seeks a greater catholic approach to the implementation process. This is a choice dictated by the requirements of the unique adaptation of policy implementation analysis to a higher policy realm so as to yield positive outcome. In other words, the purpose of this study is to engage the policy implementation analysis principles and to holistically examine the implementation process of Nepad with a view to prognosticate implicit factors to stem exogenous shocks with disruptive tendencies on the one hand, and to explore the nature of the relationship between the impact factors and the process in order not to strengthen the implementation process to attain sustainably the objectives of Nepad on the other. At this stage, policy implementation riddles need to be overcome in order for Nepad to grow in strength and scope so as to be able to meet the challenges *vis-a-vis* Africa's development imperatives in the new millennium.

2. 5 Objectives of the Study

How Nepad envisages the means to the attainment of its policy goals yet remains illusory. Most of the concerned and interested parties remain essentially unenlightened. Can Nepad do better than the previous development initiatives? The answer would be a qualified yes, only if the operators seek sweeping anticipation, forecasting, articulation, and integration of the impact factors with disruptive tendencies and if they adopt ‘targeting methodological approach’ (Kuye, 2003:2) for implementation. In order words, it should seek spatial linkages with the emerging conditions for implementation.

The objectives of this study are therefore as follows:

- To stimulate and generate a deeper understanding of the essence of Nepad for Africa’s development.
- To seek a proactive implementation approach rather than a response-focused or reactive implementation approach to Nepad.
- To seek to premise the weaknesses in the conceptualization of the current implementation process approach.
- To offer prognostic proposals as recommendations to strengthen the implementation process.
- To establish adaptability of implementation analysis to a regional development programme in Africa.
- To enrich scholarship in policy implementation analysis in perceiving cause to effect in public policy domain, particularly in the gradation of Nepad’s implementation process.

The study deals with the broad issues of Nepad, such as Africa’s development, regional economic integration, partnership, and the general perception of Nepad both within and beyond Africa but not exclusive of the implementation process. The overriding objective is to analyze the implementation process and to identify possible impact factors that are likely to exert negatively greater pressure on implementation process of Nepad in the short, medium, and long terms.

2. 6 Problem Statement of the Study

It has been argued that there is nothing new in Nepad and that it is a rebound or a replication of the episodic pre-existing development programmes adopted to address the enduring development imperatives on the continent. In light of the development dilemma of the continent, Nepad was inaugurated as a central organizing template within which the imperatives of Africa's development and renewal would broadly be streamlined and addressed towards sustainable development. It is also a countervailing concept to the failed initiatives. Nepad's policy goals and its *modus operandi* have roundly been perceived as rather ambitious and unwieldy whose implementation is suspect. Presently the action plan of Nepad is seemingly running far afield with a fore-taste of impact factors. This is contingent upon the dynamics of implicit variables that underlie the Nepad programme.

The high point of any policy inclusive of Nepad, is the implementation process. The guide to derive the positive impact of Nepad is through an effective and efficient implementation process. This is dependent on the systematic analysis of the implementation process, which has received marginal or no analysis. Given this context, the implementation process of Nepad has been placed under a spotlight by this study.

Consequently, the challenges that have arisen in the pursuit of the attainment of the development tasks continent-wide are essentially fundamental but not insurmountable. To do one thing and leave out the other in the context of Nepad is apparently inviting limited success at best and at worse a failure. Thus far, how the implementation process would be conducted remains essentially less defined, ambiguous, and even complex, which opens doors to mix analyses and interpretations. These themes have laid significant background inputs and context for this research study. However, the implementation process and the

implementation complexities underlying the process have constituted the problem for study.

2.7 Research Question

The implementation of the policy goals, therefore, requires a broader, incisive, and all-inclusive implementation analysis framework, given that policy implementation problems have always been overlooked directly and indirectly, on the one hand, and the preponderant development imperatives on the continent, on the other. This implies that fewer and fewer policy considerations have been given to research studies as scanty analyses appeared to have been carried out in investigating the implementation process to identify implicit contingences. Presently, the action plan of Nepad is seemingly devoid of analytical basis of the implementation process to establish critical impact factors. Consequently, the research question in contention is: *'To what extent can Nepad positioned itself to address the fundamental implicit conditions underlying the implementation process, as envisaged from the political, socio-economic, and leadership paradigm'?*

2.8 Significance of the Study

The meaning of Africa's under-development has been perceived in varied context and the conditions that perpetuate the situation even more so. In a given interventionist programme for development, the process of implementation becomes a leading principle in the translation process from idealistic policy goals to realistic variables. The concept of sustainable development concept has become dominant in the contemporary national, regional and international policy discourses. In Africa, the Nepad concept has increasingly enjoyed heated debates at various levels, given what has been widely regarded as its ambiguity, complexities, expansive, and convoluted policy goals. At the same time, the

concept of Nepad as an Africa's Marshall Plan logic and a vehicle for economic re-engineering of Africa's development appears promising and inspiring.

The literature investigations have revealed that the policy programme focuses widely and pays more attention to 'substance' rather than the 'process'. This has created a 'divergence' rather than a 'convergence' of truly systemic approach for the Nepad's implementation.

Given the polarized argumentative turns which have been advanced on the prospects or otherwise of the policy programme, the evidence seems to point to the fact that Nepad is not as given and therefore the implementation process is not on offer. The significance of the study to the body of knowledge in the field of policy analysis and policy development with regard to African and international development studies could be drawn from the following:

- To highlight the necessity of an investigation into the implementation process of Nepad, given the global outlook and over-arching context of its policy goals in the complex African political and socio-economic environments.
- To highlight the fact that unique impact factors underlie the supra-nationalistic policy programme – Nepad.
- To target the probable impact factors, which the study has conceptualized as 'emerging conditions', through the analysis of the implementation process, analyze the impact character of these conditions on the process *vis-à-vis* the attainment of the policy objectives of Nepad in the long-term.
- To seek to offer critical conjectural perspectives that would assist in the strengthening of the implementation process in the quest to deliver and cause dividends and for Nepad to save itself from diminishing its potential.
- To initiate thoughts for consideration by policy makers and operators of Nepad *vis-à-vis* the management and administration of the implementation process.
- To open a debate on extension of policy and implementation analyses in theories and principles to a regional development policy programme through

which certain idiosyncrasies of policy implementation analysis are applicable. This attempt is rather prospective towards an assumption of a more critical juncture of impact factors, that is, the potential realities of the impact of the emerging conditions in the short, medium, long-terms on the implementation process have been presumed. To premise consistency and coherency in the synchronization of policy implementation analysis to probe higher and supra-nationalistic policy programmes.

The study seeks to argue patently and tendentiously on a paradigm shift that is capable of altering individual and institutional behaviour and re-orientates the operators towards a performance-oriented implementation process. It stresses the need for a coalition or an holistic approach to the implementation process in order to render Nepad institutionally effective rather than suffer attenuation. This study is based on the appreciation of the increasing misrepresentations, misperceptions and dim vision of the conflicting problem areas in relation to the operational guiding beliefs of Nepad. It intends to move beyond the simplistic and provide a different framework of analysis for achieving goals and strengthening the prospects of Nepad. This study in that way becomes significant.

2. 9 The Need for the Study

Multiple views have been expressed in the on-going debate on Nepad. It has been argued that Nepad is not a viable and a *fait accompli* development template for Africa, because it does not have the capacity and the potential to transform the continent in a short, medium, and long terms against the background of, not only, the development imperatives of the continent but the high expectations it seeks to portend. For instance, de Waal has argued that, 'there are major constraints on Nepad's prospects of success, but the process of constructing the initiative holds out the hope that these may be minimized. Nepad is properly oriented but has become too ambitious' (De Waal, 2002: 463).

Similarly, Olivier has posited that, ‘the question of whether a policy with the broad sweep as envisaged ... could succeed equally everywhere in a vast, diverse, and problematic continent such as Africa. If it does it may take a long time, too long to bring any relief to the suffering masses of the continent’ (Olivier, 2001:43). He furthers the argument by stating that, ‘doubt about Nepad being a *deus ex machine* or a once-and-for-all panacea also arises from the apparently blind faith of its architects in the mechanisms of central planning, top-down bureaucratic process and what looks like socio-political engineering. Lessons of history, empirical evidence and development theory are largely ignored, and development and modernization are projected as parallel streams in a deliberate and linear process in which “all the good things will go together”. It ignores the fact that certain goals of development (growth, equity, democracy, stability and autonomy), as Samuel P. Huntington has posited, may indeed be conflictual, that the choice of these goals must affect a sequential strategy, and that unique cultural determinants make the whole process difficult to manage and predict’ (Olivier, 2003).

Bala, Rand, Eliades, and Fourie have at the same time and in the same context argued that, ‘Nepad, however, is not infallible. Its objectives and priority sector proposals can be problematic, and are unrealistic, in the long-term. These problem areas, if not addressed, could, and probably would cause Nepad to lose international and local support and to ultimately fail’ (Bala, Du Rand, Eliades, & Fourie, 2003). Rupiah has observed that, mixed feelings are being expressed on ‘... the complexity of Nepad and the challenges of translating implementation into regional projects’ (Rupiah, 2002:5).

Given the rather ambitious and over-arching policy goals of Nepad and the large-scale uneven development of the continent, this study seeks to present argumentation in favour of a paradigmatic shift for the implementation process of Nepad. There are enormous challenges facing Nepad in translating the policy

goals from the idealistic to the realistic. The causal reasons for and the briefs of the study are premised essentially on two main strands:

- The general lack of investigation of the implementation process to locate some fundamental contingencies and their dynamics as a strategic approach to the implementation process, that is, targeting as a methodological approach to address development. ... and a means for implementing policies (Kuye, 2003).
- To draw from the analysis the implications and prospects of the emerging conditions in weakening and/or strengthening the process at the medium and long terms.

In the context of this study ‘targeting’ relates to targeting the contingencies impacting on the implementation process in order to improve the prospects of implementing the policy goals. This is due to the fact that the gravity and scale of development imperatives on the continent underscore the paramount importance of a critical systematic study. ‘Targeting’ is therefore a methodological approach to safeguard the implementation process. The implication of the outcome of this study is to consciously draw the attention of the implementers of Nepad closer and closer to the relevance and utility effect of the potential impact factors on the implementation process. What seems to appear on the horizon is that the promoters and the implementers of Nepad seemingly anticipate a free course of implementation devoid of incidences. The role of, or rather, the constitutive impact and the dynamics of exogenous variables are critical and remain fundamental to an effective operationalization and outcome-based implementation process.

2. 10 Limitations of the Study

It has been consistently argued that Nepad is foreboding, both, in context and concept. It has seemingly prescribed its own operational guiding beliefs at the face of the generic implementation problems. Since the evolution of the concept, it has grown quite spectacular, given the attention and exhortatory it has attracted and received worldwide.

Yet, studies that have been conducted on Nepad forego critical examination of the implementation process that is apparently criss-crossed with impact factors. If anything, studies are essentially ambivalent on the critical analysis of the implementation process. This is perhaps due to the obvious complexities and ambiguities surrounding the concept that may deny a purposive and balance research.

This study attempts to situate critical standpoints on the implementation aspect of the programme and to articulate some conjectural and prognostic propositions as bases for a paradigm shift for the process. However, some important limitations were experienced and they are as follows:

- The utilitarian versions of Nepad, which seem to serve as the backdrop of the concept, leaves nothing as to whether or not it could practically be regarded as the genuine logic of Africa's Marshall Plan or an adjunct to the AU agenda.
- Nepad, being a new phenomenon, renders the object of study futuristic, prospective, and conjectural in scope, context and concept.
- The time frame (between 2001 and 2004), which the object of study focuses for analysis, places huge limitation for the study.
- Inadequate availability of empirical data to assist in the evaluation of the study, that is, the lack of sufficient literature on supra-nationalistic policy implementation analysis especially for development policy programmes in Africa, has limited value on the study.

- The ambiguity surrounding the concept – whether or not it represents a supra-nationalistic policy programme or an intergovernmental arrangement or both.
- Financial sponsorship to effectively carry out a broad-spectrum research for doctoral studies is a critical component for a fulfilled research project. In this instance, this study has been a self-funded project and this has imposed obvious limitations on the scope of the study.

2. 11 Structure of the Study

The structure of any study has to do with the systematic and cohesive account of how the materials collected and the logic articulation of the study are organized and presented to accomplish the task of a constructive scientific study. This study has been divided into six chapters. Each chapter contains sequential sub-topics that are within the textual extrapolations for consistency and coherence.

Chapter one provides the general background of the study. It deals with the antecedent of events, which culminated in the evolution of several development initiatives in the pre and post-colonial; and post 2000 Africa. It has placed, in context how these incidents culminated ultimately in Nepad. It presents the logical sequence with regard to the rationale, aims and objectives of the study. The multi-layered institutional mechanisms to begin the effective implementation process have been discussed. The problem statement of the study, the research question, the significance of the study, the limitations of the study, the structure of the study have been elucidated. The purpose, objectives and the need for the study given the background of Nepad with the implementation process of the policy goals have equally been extrapolated. Chapter one introduces the basic focus of the object of study.

Chapter Two deals specifically with the basic research groundings that guide social scientific inquiry. The chapter addresses the methodology for scientific research, the typologies of research approaches including those that the study has adopted. Definitions of concepts have been dealt with in the chapter. The chapter addresses the conceptual frameworks for the study. These orientations have direct bearings and have given a framework of a scientific study approach and analysis for the study.

Chapter Three deals with the background of the broad theoretical frameworks of policy implementation that are relevant to the object of study and the reviews of the relevant literature with independent critiques. A comparative approach is reflected on the variety of regional development initiatives *vis-a-vis* Nepad. This is with the view to examining the politics of evolution, to draw areas of similarity, rationales, and militating factors of the implementation process of regional policy programmes *vis-à-vis* Nepad. The old and the new paradigms of Africa's regional integration efforts from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) through to the African Union (AU) have also been addressed. A reflection of Public Administration and Policy models, governance and the leadership imperatives of Nepad *vis-à-vis* Africa's development have been made. The determinants and indicators of leadership, governance, public policy and Nepad have been synchronized in the chapter. The imperatives of governance and leadership with the determinants and indicators of leadership for development, governance, public policy in relation to the concept and implications for Nepad have been addressed. This is with the view to deepening understanding of their implications on Nepad as a policy programme.

Chapter Four deals with some critical contextual discourse of Africa's development imperatives and their direct implications for the under-development of the continent. The analysis has sought to situate how these factors have wedged against the continent's development efforts to this day. These have offered the critical highlights of the basis of Africa's continued failed efforts

directed at addressing the underdevelopment problems, which spurred the concept of Nepad and underpin its objectives. It addresses the programmatic frameworks of Nepad's action plans. The purpose is to crystallize the presumptions with the views of both the critics and the proponents that have characterized the concept of Nepad within the context of its viability and suitability. It strives to bring about coherence of analysis and logical specificities to the research problem.

In chapter Five, the focus of analysis begins with the synergies between the programmatic frameworks and policy implementation analysis as unit of analysis to the implementation process of Nepad. This is with a view to identify impact factors and their extensive causative impacts. Africa's development imperatives have been presented. This has broadened understanding on the need for a cautious path to implementation as well as urge a refocus on the critical importance of the impact factors confronting Nepad. The need for synergies between the 'substance' and 'process' as the implementation of Nepad begins to evolve has been pushed forth.

Chapter Six, the concluding chapter focuses on the prognostical implications of the 'emerging conditions' on the process. Propositional frameworks as recommendations have equally been attempted as the basis of justification of the research question.

2. 12 Clarification of Terms

The one noticeable problem of defining social concepts including public policy and development is that they represent different things to different people, at different period of time, occurrences, and environments. In every scientific study, particularly in the social sciences, there is no grand and consensual definition of concepts. Clarification guides a deeper grasp and understanding of concepts and their relevance that underpins coherence and consistency in research studies.

The role and the need to present study-specific clarifications of key concepts in research studies cannot be over emphasized. Therefore, reconfiguration of some key concepts as the operational definitions for the study has been attempted.

(Note: Italicized headings indicate personal definitions of selected concepts throughout this sub-section).

2. 12. 1 *Emerging Conditions*

These could be defined as the new dynamics with inherent multiple determinant variables of high-impact tendencies that may weigh against, or enhance the implementation process of Nepad in the short, medium, and long terms. The concept of *Emerging Conditions* is a derivative of the centripetal factors of both, the internal African political, socioeconomic, and leadership environments, and the external dynamics in relation to Nepad.

2. 12. 2 *New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad)*

In broad terms, this could be defined as a regional public policy initiative, native to Africa and Africans, largely oriented from an international partnership characterization for the political, socio-economic development and regional economic integration of the continent in the twenty-first century.

2. 12. 3 *Implementation Process of Nepad*

This could be defined as the mechanics or a series of actions to operationalize or put into effect a plan, a decision and a system to achieve particular goals or a set of goals of Nepad.

2. 13 Concluding Reflections

In this chapter, the research methodologies, the use and typologies of social research procedures employed by investigators for researches and particularly in this study have been highlighted. Their values and the dichotomies have equally been addressed. The research methodology chosen for the study anchors on the empirical reality of the implementation process of Nepad so as to arrive at comprehensible and valid conjectural propositions. To enhance the role of research in policy processes particularly the process of implementation, an approach could be engaged to present findings in a succinctly coherent manner.

Definitions of the key concepts in the study have been attempted and some have been reconfigured to suitably capture the relevance of the object of study, the objective and purpose of the study. The aim of this chapter is critical in rendering the study the scientific dimension of a systematic, objective, valid and reliable research. This chapter offers a prelude to the theoretical frameworks of policy implementation that are relevant in social science research studies.