



Integrating National Development Initiatives with Local Needs: The Case of Gibe III Hydro Electric Dam Project in the Omo River Valley, Ethiopia

PhD Researcher: Nigatu Abebe

Supervisors: Dr Sulagna Maitra (UCD) and Dr Alemayehu Adugna (WSU)



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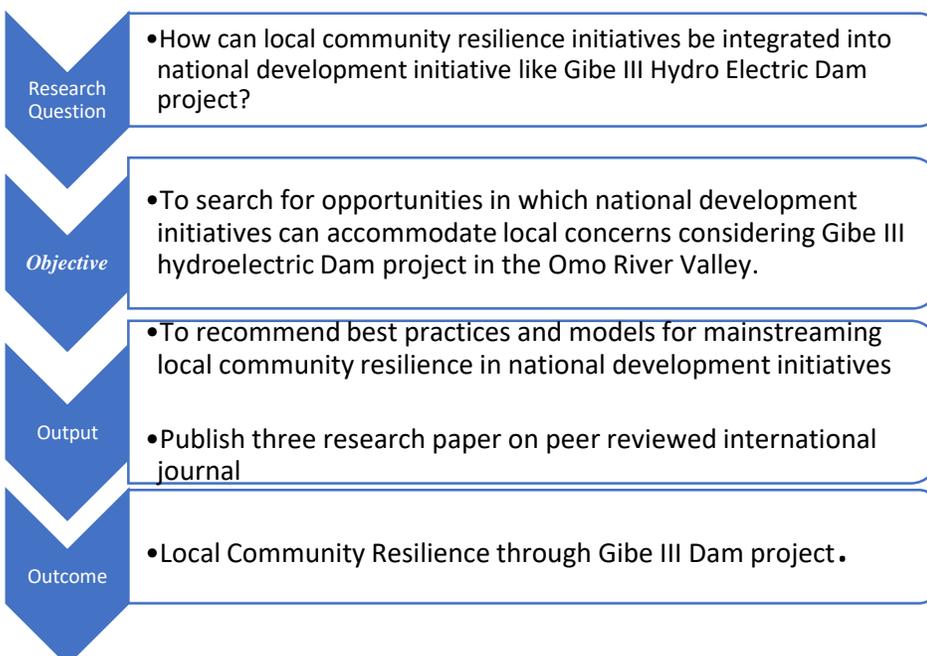
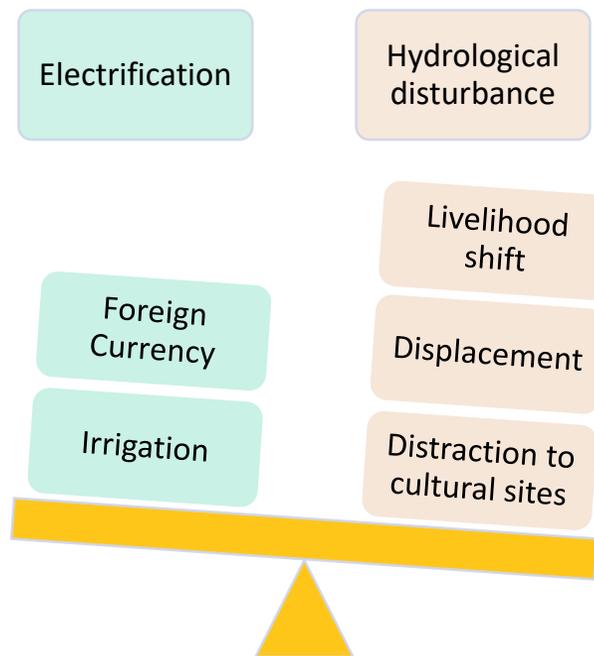
Background

The Omo river valley is one of the areas in Ethiopia that reflect extensive agroecological dynamism with its capacity to host nearly a million people in its courses (Hodbod et al,2019). With the construction of the Gibe III hydroelectric dam across the river, the adverse effects of the project on local communities surrounding the river valley are becoming evident (Turton, 2011; Abbink, 2012) The negative impact offsets some of the economic bonanza at the national level. But given the lack of systematic studies particularly in the post construction period of the project, it is difficult to ascertain that developmental initiative is on its trajectory to improve societal life. This research aims to identify initiatives that can be harnessed to promote inclusive development across the Omo River valley considering the Gibe III project. The ultimate goal is to reconcile local community resilience with national targets. The study contributes to SDGs 1, 2,6,7,9,12,15,16.



Methodology

Epistemologically, the study is framed in Hydro social and Agential power theories to identify possibilities in which the Gibe III hydro Electric Power Project can be harnessed to integrate development at national level with local needs. The study will use a qualitative approach using data collection methods like key informant interviews, FGD & document analysis. It will identify participants using purposeful sampling in 8 districts directly affected by the project.



References

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