

Role of Industrialization in Socio-Economic Transformation and Achieving SDGs by Adan Guyo Shibia

Industrialization inevitably plays central role in development agenda as it drives export growth and employment in developing countries. Despite the importance of industrialization; the performance of manufacturing sector in East African economies have remained low as demonstrated by its share in gross domestic products. The paper creates insights on the case for manufacturing based on two complementary views: First, at low levels of development manufacturing accelerates economic growth. Second, countries exporting high value goods gain more from international trade relative to commodity exporting countries. The paper contextualizes role of manufacturing in SDG targets by taking comparative historical views of East African countries including Kenya and Tanzania with those of newly industrialized countries in East Asia. The insights of the paper are based on review of literature and policies, enriched by available secondary data. The paper concludes that resuscitation of manufacturing sector is imperative to accelerate economic development and progress towards SDGs in East Africa.