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**MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, DESIGN, ART AND TECHNOLOGY**

**SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING**

**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**

**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY (TEC 1201)**

**NAME: KAYEMBA CHARLES**

**COURSE: BELE**

**REG NO: 17/U/4924/PS**

**PERSONAL NO. 217008732**

**A society** is a relatively large group of people who share a common heritage. In a rural society there is a low ratio of inhabitants to open land and the most important economic activities are the production of foodstuffs, fibres and raw materials.

A **setback** is an event that delays one’s progress or reverses some of the progress one is making. A setback as referred in execution of projects of engineers is anything that causes delay or progress of the project. So, some of the setbacks the rural societies may provide to the execution of the projects of engineers may include;

**Cultural beliefs**. Most of the people in the rural societies have cultural beliefs which they take to be true and also respect for example there are some societies in Uganda which do not believe in the usage of electricity in their homes so for such people, they will fight against the extension of electricity in their societies.

**Hostility of the people in the rural societies** may delay the execution of projects for example most societies in the northern Uganda are harsh and cruel to foreigners so the engineers on the projects won’t be welcomed very well in the society thus they won’t cooperate with the people in those societies for the progress of the project.

**Unwillingness of the people in the rural societies to participate**. If the people in that society in which that project is to be setup are unwilling to work in the development of the project for example providing manual labour, the project won’t be able progress very well since there will be lack of enough labour.

**Language barrier**. Since the engineers are just new in those rural societies therefore most probably the engineers won’t be able to understand the language spoken by the natives thus there will be a problem in the communication between the natives and the engineers thus the project won’t run at a pace it would have run if there wasn’t that problem of language barrier.

**Ignorance about project benefits**. The people in the rural area may be not be provided with no information about the project and benefits therefore the people will start opposing the project. Therefore, the engineers will have to first give the people the benefits of the project to their society for them to continue working on their project. Thus, causing delay in the progress of the project.

**Land conservation in the rural societies**. Since the people in the rural societies are basically farmers, they cannot give out their land to the engineers to carry out their projects from there. Also, for example there could be a forest on the land onto which the project is to be set therefore the people in the society won’t allow their forest to be cut for the project to be setup.

**Political instability in the rural areas**. The project by the engineers cannot run smoothly due to the fear they could be having due to the attacks from the rebels. For example, most parts of northern Uganda are political unstable due to rebels who set up their camp bases there e.g. LRA (Lord Resistance Army) in Gulu.

**Theft of materials**. Most of the people in the rural societies are broke since they do not have jobs. So if such projects are being setup in their societies, the people will use that chance to start stealing the building materials so as to sell them in order to earn themselves some money to sustain their lives. For example, the marble stones which are usually used in the construction of roads are usually stolen by the people in those societies.

**Religious beliefs**. Most of the people in the in the rural societies of Uganda are strong believers in their religions. Some of the religious beliefs may be against the setup of certain projects in the society. For example, the African Traditional Religion always opposes the progress of technology since it’s this technology which makes the people to start adapting the western life of living. So, the engineers will face a lot of problems to convince such people who believe in such religions to accept their projects.

**Corruption among leaders in the rural societies**. Some leaders in rural societies are corrupt they can forexample be given money by the government to pay for peoples property which is going to be destroyed and end up embezzling it .This causes the citizens to rebel against engineers who want to go on with making projects there.

**Lack of enough skilled labour**. Most of the people in the rural areas are uneducated so very few people could have some little knowledge on what could be taking place concerning the project. If some people had some knowledge about the engineering works, they would have been employed in the project rather than bring people from far distant places thus increasing expenses of the project.

**Poor infrastuctures in the rural societies**. The rural societies in Uganda are known for having poor social services and majorly transport service. The transport service is a very useful service to engineering projects. The engineers use this service to transport their construction materials to the sites where the project is being set. So, if this service is poor, there will be a delay in the arrival of the construction materials thus the project won’t proceed the way it would have been if there was an improved transport service in that society.

**Poor standards of living in rural areas**. The rural societies in Uganda are known for having poor utilities for example water and shelter. The water in those societies is unsafe for drinking and also, it’s not enough to support the engineering projects. So, the water which will be used in the engineering works will be got from distant places. Also, the engineers working on those projects will be living in poor conditions since there are also no improved hotels for them to stay in.

**Attack fromdangerourous wild animals**. Engineers always face a problem of wild animals while they are working on those projects in the rural societies. Since the rural societies in Uganda are sparsely populated and also, they have thick forests, they have a lot of wild animals, so if the project which the engineers are working on is near such a thick forest, the wild animals will be attacking the engineers on the project and thus loosing g their lives. Therefore, the execution of the project will be very slow.

**Long distances**. Its most likely that the headquarter of the engineers executing the project is in towns and the project which the engineers are working on is in the rural areas and therefore it could be quite a long distance to move from the urban areas to the rural areas to execute the project thus the distance being very tiring and also costly to move the construction materials from the urban areas to rural societies.