

Lemlem Behailu

Capacity building through scholarships

Capacity building through scholarship can contribute to enhance the capacity developing countries. Though the contribution of individual M.Sc. or PhD students and their pieces of research seems insignificant to enhance the development of their country, those individuals can make a differences as they have opportunities to use their enhanced knowledge and influence their team members, institutions and clients as they get back home as professionals, managers, policy makers and activists. In addition if the scholarship training handled strategically helps to have significant impact in short period of time. The strategy that currently used by most donors like APPEAR, such as train a significant number of students from the same institutions, focus on where there is human resource gaps and target to fill up the knowledge gaps may contribute to observe a rapid positive impact.

The role of the students in development co-operation and networking

From experiences many cooperation development projects are initiated by the former scholarship student as they have better knowledge on the potential areas for cooperation back home and developed countries. They have better awareness to whom to collaborate with and which organizations are in charge of a certain problem back home. Therefore students can serve as a knowledge broker and as source of informal network for the cooperation works between institutions and governments in developed and developing countries.

The benefit of the institutions

From the development cooperation program, institutions from both developing and developed countries are benefited. In fact the level and the extent of the benefit might be differing. In my opinion the developing countries might benefit be more as they have capacity limitations in terms of human capacity, technologies, new knowledge. The cooperation program will definitely support institutions from developing countries to enhance their human resources, knowledge, technological, infrastructure and financial limitations. The developed countries will also have opportunities to expose themselves to the new insights in various scientific and development issues (local knowledge and practices) and problems that could help to handle the global challenges.