

Books and Graduation Research Projects Reviews

(1)

Title: Mechanized Agriculture in the Gedaref District
Student: El-Sayed El- Bushra
Year: 1959
Type: Bachelor Research Dissertation
Degree: B. A. (*Honours*)
Contents: Eight chapters (Introduction, Physical Geography, Agricultural Geography, Gum production, Communications, Gedaref as a Marketing Centre, Social Geography, Future of the Mechanized Agriculture and Conclusion)
Graphics: figures, tables, photos and appendices.
Manuscript: Handwritten
Maps: Hand-drawn

The dissertation falls into nine chapters including the introduction and conclusion. In addition, detailed information is provided in appendices together with maps. Altogether the dissertation covered 85 handwritten pages in good English with hand-drawn maps. Each chapter ends up with source material of which field observations are outstanding. The dissertation takes the shape of a regional geography study starting with the physical background and ending with the future prospects. At The time when The fieldwork was conducted, full mechanization of agricultural processes was not achieved, but the writer predicted full mechanization would be achieved shortly. However, that did not happen till now (2017). Full mechanization was recommenced to overcome the problem of shortage in manual laborers in the Gedaref District. It was anticipated by the writer that the Gedaref rainlands would not only be important in producing the staple food of the Sudanese *dura* but also in producing sesame , cotton and gum Arabic.

Actually, the development of the Gedaref rainlands formed one of the pillars of the Sudanese economy. Other crops which will be profitable to introduce, as anticipated by the writer, included maize and Sunflower .Intensification of mechanization, would thereby improve both the economy of individuals and the economy at large .Altogether, the assessment of the writer about the Gedaref Scheme was positive with hopes of achieving full mechanization, increasing the land under cultivation, using more scientific methods including i.e. using fertilizers to boost Crop output productivity. Finally, it took the writer more than two months in the field to complete the Survey by adopting field visits and interviews.

Reviewed by:
El Sayed El Bushra
Professor of Urban Geography
Editor: Sudan Geographical Journal
January 2017

(2)

Title: Jebel Gurgel Area Darfur
Student: Ibrahim Osman Alam El-DIN*
Type: Bachelor Research Dissertation
Year: 1959-1960
Degree: B. A. (*H M*)
Contents: Eight chapters (introduction, Physical Background, Agriculture, Grazing, Economic Geography, Water Supply Problem, Settlements and Conclusion).
Graphics: Figures, tables, photos and Appendices.
Manuscript: Handwritten
Maps: Hand-drawn

Jebel Gurgel is located in Dar Fur Province in Kutum District to the north- east of Kebkabiya and to the south- West of Kutum town. The area was ruled by Sultan Ali Dinar and his Viceroy Sultan Musa Um Rudus. The Condominium (Anglo-Egyptian) Rule governed the area after the conquest of Sultan Ali Dinar in 1916. The Study area and the surroundings were considered

backward compared with other areas in Darfur. The study area was isolated during the condominium rule. There was no policy for education and raising the standard of living. In 1955 the Government of Sudan opened a motor road and started an elementary school. The entire area (referred to as *the Qoz*) was rather isolated because of many physical surroundings and other political implications (particularly the reign of Sultan Ali Dinar). Though, people from neighbouring tribes attended a weekly market, the people in the area did not like to be in contact with strangers. At least a map of the Survey Department at a scale of 1: 250.000 and an air photograph were available to help with exploring the study area. The isolation imposed by relief is reflected in People's life as barter as a means of exchange was still in use in the markets. Although the area is rich in soil and rainfall, there was no evidence of in – migration from other areas. Because of its physical isolation and backwardness, the settlements were generally small in size. Crops grown include *Dukhun*, Sesame, Cotton and Tomatoes. During March, April and May, the land is cleared and the terraces are put in order and when the rains start in June cultivation begins. Late in July and early August weeding starts. By December the crops are ready for consumption. Animal rearing is carried side by side with agriculture. The animal population included sheep, cattle, donkey and camels. Those who keep a small herd stay in the area, while most having a large herd move out in search of water and pasture. Generally, the animal population was decreasing because of water shortage. The economy can be described as both agrarian and pastoral. The economic development of the area is hampered by backward transport and agricultural

methods. Water for man and beast depend solely on underground. There were no studies of settlements except the observations made by the writer which might pave the way for future studies. Once again, because of the harsh relief and the backwardness of the people and their primitive customs, it will take the study area a long time to develop like other parts of Darfur and the Sudan .

Reviewed by:

El Sayed El Bushra

Editor: Sudan Geographical Journal
University of Khartoum
January 2017

* (The Late) Professor Ibrahim Osman Alam El-DIN (Ph D from the USA) was a professor of Geography Geomorphology, at the University of Khartoum , Um Al Qura KSA and Al Nilein University Sudan.