

### **Abstract**

Policy makers, scholars, non-governmental organizations, and communities are continuously looking for ways to foster sustainable community development. This study attempts to apply the various theories and methodologies for community development in a specific rural community development initiative in Uganda. The purpose is to assess the effectiveness of each theory and method, and propose a hybrid of models specific to the ADAM (Agali awamu Development Association Mityana) initiative, and which can be replicated in similar rural community development initiatives. The researcher uses participatory methods of information gathering by engaging in the ADAM community development initiative, and applying the well researched theories into the development process for a period of six weeks. The theories applied include behavioral poverty, social capital, self-help, zone of proximal development, one village one product, and community entrepreneurship. The researcher assesses the effectiveness of these theories in a real-life community setting, and finds that no single theory is best suited to help ADAM. She bases on this finding to propose a hybrid model for the ADAM initiative.

The hybrid model proposes that in developing a sustainable self-help community development, agents have to utilize outside resources through technical training. Through entrepreneurial training and scaffold building, also seen as teaching from a person of higher knowledge, a community is then able to reach a new level of knowledge creating a zone of proximal development. As newfound learning is established, the community is then able to make behavioral changes in their daily activities that are seen as poverty carriers. The community is also given access to new networks of people, markets, and information resources. Both behavioral changes, and the access to new networks, contribute to new problem-solving capabilities. By enhancing their capabilities to problem solve without the help of technical support from outside the community, the community is then able sustain their own development through projects enabling them to build on their community assets.