

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT PREPARATION AND
MANAGEMENT IN THE UPPER WEST REGION.**

By

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BA (Hons) Integrated Development Studies

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of Planning,

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology Kumasi,

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the degree

of

MASTERS OF SCIENCE,

Faculty of Planning and Land Economy

College of Architecture and Planning

October, 2010

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work towards the MSc and that to the best of my knowledge it contains neither materials previously by another person or materials that have been accepted for the award of any other degree by the university or any other university except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to God almighty for what he has done for me and my family.

ABSTRACT

Over the last two decades Ghana and many other Sub-Saharan countries have undergone several economic restructuring through the assistance of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and other international bodies. Most of these assistance have come in the form of aids, projects and financial assistance, all aimed at reducing the poverty among its people.

The Upper West Region of Ghana, which is currently the poorest Region with 9 out of every 10 of its people being poor, is no doubt one of the major beneficiaries of donor assistance and government supported projects and the two study areas, Sissala East and Wa municipality, have experienced their fare share of such projects. The six selected communities: Kassanpouri, Sentie, Tumu, Bugubelle, Bamahu and Nakori are active areas of development interventions in the Region as a result of endemic poverty found in these areas.

The study therefore tried to do an analysis of community participation in project preparation and management among these projects in these communities to ascertain the impact of these projects and to determine the level of community involvement in the implementation of the projects under study (EU micro project- donor project, Village Loans and Savings Association- NGO project and Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty- Government project). The categorization of these projects into Government projects, donor projects and NGO projects is to help ascertain among these projects, the one that involves much more community participation in its operations.

Data collected from both secondary and primary source from six purposively selected rural communities in the Upper West Region were analysed and some of the major findings include:

Government Supported Projects, LEAP in Sentie and Kassaripouri

- The study revealed that the government supported projects (LEAP) was totally an initiative government brought down to the beneficiary communities. The communities were only in support of it since they felt it was free money that would bring them some relief.

Donor Supported Project, EU micro project in Tumu and Bugubelle

Relatively the donor supported projects offered more beneficiary involvement in the projects' activities.

- The study revealed that the EU project was conceived and initiated by the government in collaboration with the donors. The projects (a three unit classroom block and a CHPs compound) at the community level were however initiated by the community members themselves through community animations conducted by the Project District Coordinator. It is worth noting that even though the communities did not initiate the projects at the national level, the facilitating agencies (Sissala East District Assembly and project coordinator), through participatory methods were able to facilitate the communities into accepting and owning the projects.

NGO Supported Projects, Village Loans and Savings Association (VLSA) in Bamahu and Sentie

- The study revealed that the project was an initiative of Plan Ghana and Care International with support from Barclays UK with the aim of inculcating in people the habit of savings culture. The communities were in support of it since they knew it was for their own benefit.

Re-Orientation of the Governmental Implementing Agencies, the need for a policy dialogue between donors and recipient governments on the need for beneficiary participation at all stages of the project cycle and the involvement of beneficiary communities in procurement processes to ensure transparency are among some of the recommendations proposed in the study. It is anticipated that the implementation of the proposed recommendations in this study would help ensure adequate community participation in project preparation and management.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I first and foremost wish to thank the almighty God for my life and the things he has done in my life and continues to do. My sincere gratitude also goes to Prof. Dr. Romanus D. Dinye my supervisor (Dean, Institute of Human Settlement) for his fatherly guidance and scrutiny which has seen the successful completion of this work. I also wish to thank members and staff of the Department of Planning for their assistance since I gained admission into the University most especially the late Mr. Benjamin Annor Anim (Former Director, Depp Programme). God bless you wherever you are.

To my parents Mr and Mrs Aalangdong, I thank you for your support and prayers. Also to my siblings, Patrick and Rosemond, I thank you all for being there for me. I also wish to thank all my friends and classmates for their support and prayers.

Much gratitude goes to Miss Ethel Duorinaa for your prayers, love and support all these years, God blesses you.

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GLOSSARY

B o Qs	Bill of Quantities
CBRDP	Community Based Rural Development Projects
CHPS	Community Health Planning System
CIC	Community Implementation Committee
CLIC	Community LEAP Implementation Committee
CPR	Common Pool Resource
DFID	Danish Fund for International Development
DWAP	District Wide Assistant Project
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GES	Ghana Education Service
GHS	Ghana Health Service
G o G	Government of Ghana
GPRS II	Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy
GTZ	Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Country
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
MFI s	Micro Finance Institutions
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MPMU	Micro Project Management Unit
MPP	Micro Project Programme
NGLA	Non-Governmental local Authorities

NGOs	Non Governmental Organization
OE	Office of Evaluation
PE&F	Policy Formulation and Implementation
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
RD	Rural Development
RPCU	Regional Planning Coordinating Unit
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Authority
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Scientist
UK	United Kingdom
UNCHS	United Nations Center for Human Settlement
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
USAID	United States Aid
UWADEP	Upper West Agricultural Development Project
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
YARO	Youth Action for Reproductive Order

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