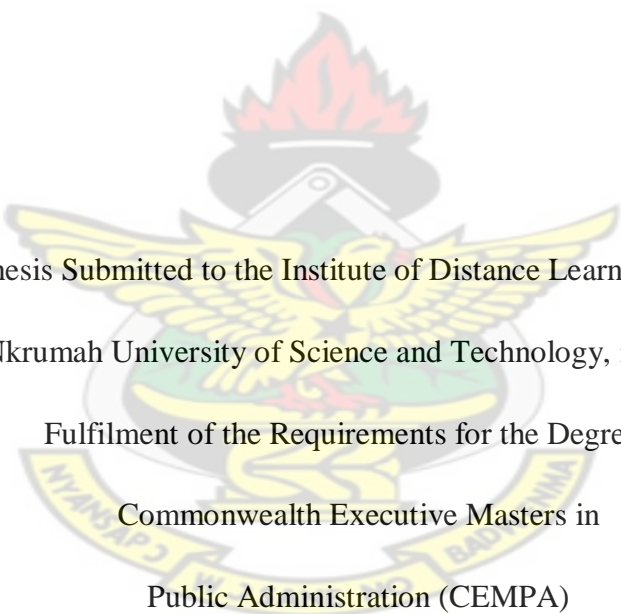


THE ROLE OF MMDAs IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION
A CASE STUDY OF AMANSIE CENTRAL DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

BY:

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Public Administration (CEMPA)

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work towards the award of Commonwealth Executive Masters in Public Administration (CEMPA) and that, to the best of my knowledge, it contains no material previously published by another person nor material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree of the University or elsewhere except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

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ABSTRACT

Poverty alleviation is a major problem in developing countries. Poverty simply means complete lack of or reduced access to material, economic, social, political or cultural resources needed to satisfy the basic human needs. The concept of poverty has multiples of definitions depending on the situation one finds himself. Factors such as unemployment, lack of basic social human needs like food, clothing, housing, potable water, quality health care services and acquisition of income to meet these basic necessities of life are the causes of poverty. Several strategies have been adopted to combat this unpleasant and unfortunate situation in the District and in the country as a whole, notwithstanding poverty still exist. Therefore this study seeks to find out the role the MMDAs are playing to alleviate poverty in the study area. The study was guided by the following objectives: determine causes and effects of poverty, assess the nature and practice of decentralization as a policy to alleviate poverty, identify strategies of alleviating poverty and analyse the linkage of decentralization and poverty reduction. The researcher adopted a case study method base on Amansie Central District. Respondents were selected through judgmental sampling technique to collect data and structured questionnaires were administered to the respondents who were judgmentally selected from the communities, District Assembly management staff, Assembly members and CSOs including NGOs. The study revealed that the Assembly pays more attention to the provision of social and economic infrastructure. Little attention was paid to programmes that alleviate poverty such as job creation, human capacity building, engaging in skills training and development and micro credit scheme. Recommendations were made in order to help combat the problems of poverty at the District level.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis which aimed at fighting poverty to my mother; The Late Madam Akua Tabuaa who selflessly supported me throughout my education.

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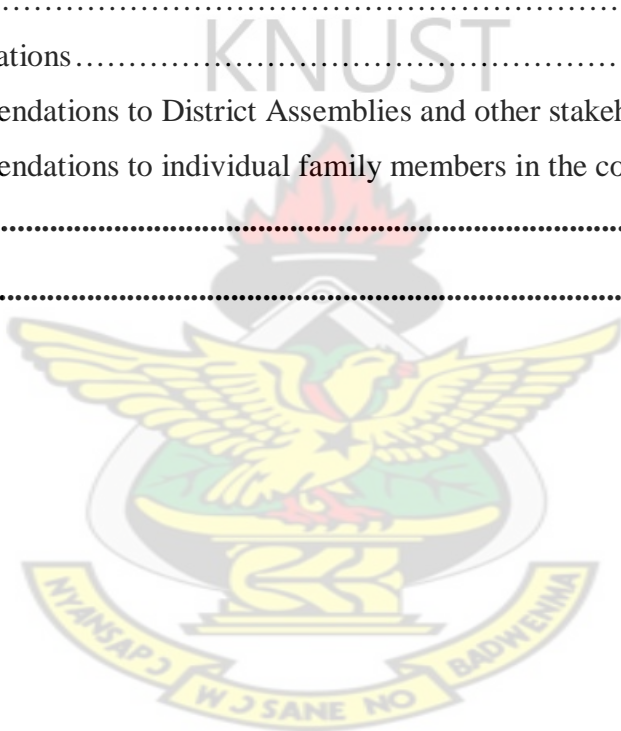
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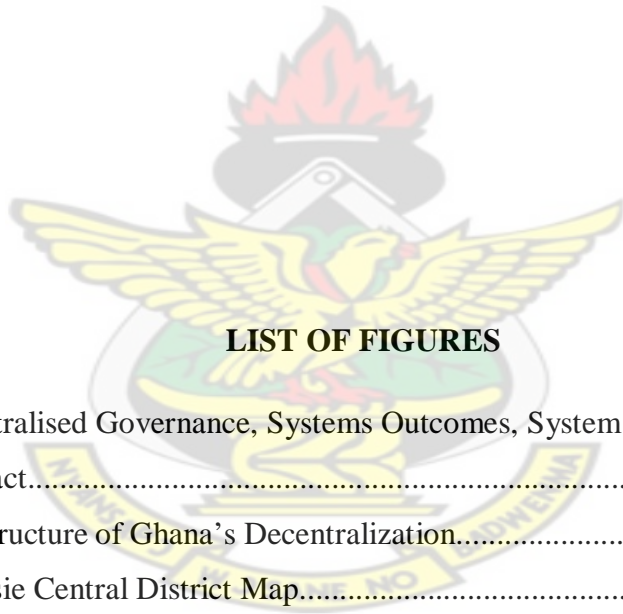


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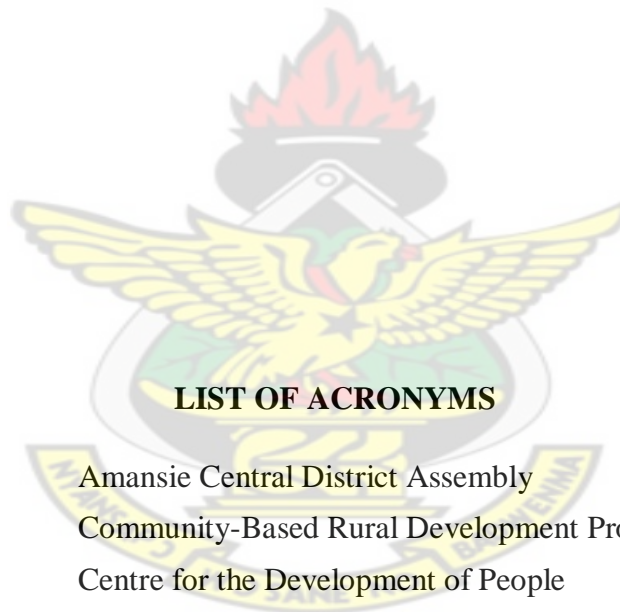


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ACDA	Amansie Central District Assembly
CBRDP	Community-Based Rural Development Project
CEDEP	Centre for the Development of People
CHPS	Community Health-based Planning Service
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CWSA	Community Water and Sanitation Agency
DACF	District Assemblies Common Fund
DCD	District Coordinating Director
DCE	District Chiefs Executive
ERPs	Economic Recovery Programmes
GSGDA	Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda
GLSS	Ghana Living Standard Survey

GPRS I	Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy
GPRS II	Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Country
IGF	Internally Generated Fund
IMF	International Monetary Fund
L1	Legislative Instrument
LCD	Local Economic Development
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDRIFs	Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative Funds
MLG&RD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
NYEP	National Youth Employment Programme
PAMSCAD	Programme of Actions to Mitigate the Social Costs of Adjustment
PNDC	Provincial National Defence Council
RWSP	Rural Water Supply Programme
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programme
SME	Small and Medium Scale Enterprise
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientist
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background to the Study

There is a perception that poor countries are poor because they do not practice effective and efficient decentralisation. There is also international and local acceptance that decentralised governance reduces poverty and enhances development in poor countries. The UN and its agencies such as UNDP and World Bank fully support this idea about poverty reduction and decentralisation and sometimes go to the extent of making the

practice of decentralisation a condition for attracting loans, grants and technical aid as a condition for development.

The UNDP view poverty as revealed by Rakodi (1995) as a situation of people deprived of those opportunities and choices that are essential to human development, for a long healthy creative life, a reasonable standard of living, freedom, dignity, self respect and respect from others. This is referred to as the life situation approach to poverty.

In Africa there are signs of poverty everywhere to the extent that three hundred and forty (340) million people or half the population of Africa lives on less than \$1.00 per day. The mortality rate of children under five (5) years of age is 140 per 1,000 and life expectancy at birth is only fifty-four (54) years. Only 58% of the population has access to safe water. The rate of illiteracy for people over 15 years is 41% (New Partnership for Africa's Development Report, 2001).

Moreover, many hundreds of millions of people in the poorer countries are preoccupied solely with survival and elementary needs. For them, work is frequently not available or when it is, pay is low and conditions often barely tolerable. Homes are constructed of impermanent materials and have neither piped water nor sanitation. Electricity is a luxury. Health services are thinly spread and in rural areas only rarely within walking distance. Primary schools, where they exist, may be free and not too far away, but children are needed for work and cannot be easily spared for schooling. Permanent insecurity is the condition of the poor.

There are no public systems of social security in the event of unemployment, sickness or death of a wage earner in the family. Flood, drought or disease affecting people or livestock can destroy livelihoods without hope of compensation. The combination of malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, high birth rates, underemployment and low income closes off the avenues of escape (Brandt Commission, 1980).

The situation in Ghana is not different, the incidence of poverty as was reported by Ghana Living Standard Survey (GLSS 1998/99) was 40% as the national average, Northern Ghana was worst affected with Upper East 88%, Upper West 84%, and Northern Region 69%. Also, Central Region recorded 44%.

Although there has been a substantial overall decline in the incidence of poverty in Ghana, poverty still has a firm grip on rural areas, especially in the north. The poorest parts of Ghana are the savannah regions of the north (the Northern, Upper East and Upper West regions) where chronic food insecurity is widespread and livelihoods are more vulnerable. Poor rural people have limited access to basic social services, safe water, roads that are accessible year round, electricity and telephone services. Poverty is most severe among food crop farmers. About six in ten small-scale farmers are poor, and many are women (International Food for Agriculture Development (2007).

Decentralisation has become a global phenomenon and it is associated with development. Most of the developing countries practice decentralization as a strategy for reducing poverty and for effective delivery of basic services to the poor.

The Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) have the most appropriate framework for implementing poverty reduction and sustainable human development strategies. The developmental role of MMDAs has become important, given the socio-economic challenges confronting the people at the local level.

Ghana's decentralization derives took a bold step in December, 1988 when the then Provincial National Defence Council (PNDC) government adopted a new policy on decentralization (MLG&RD, 2005).

The 1992 Constitution of Ghana and the Local Government Act, Act 462 (1993) have given credence to decentralization to enhance governance at the door steps of Ghanaians. Also good local governance has been promoted where people are empowered and given the resources and capacity to perform the function of developing their localities.

According to Nederveen (2001), the World Bank and IMF now accept development from below and participation of stakeholders as necessary requirement for development and poverty reduction. In Ghana, the practice of decentralisation is growing from strength to strength.

1.1 Problem Statement

The problem is that the nature of decentralisation in its concept and orientation does not allow people to participate effectively in economic production to earn enough for consumption, savings and investment. It does not allow them to participate fully in the political process to eradicate poverty and achieve development goals.

The World Bank estimated in 1995 that 5.8% per annum GDP growth was required to restore Ghanaian living standards to their 1965 level by the year 2000. On this basis, it would take 10 years for the average poor Ghanaian to escape poverty, and 40 years for the poorest of the poor. Subsequent economic growth has been below the assumed level, averaging 4.3% per annum in the 1990s. The proportion of the population defined as poor decreased from 52 percent in 1991/92 to 39.5 percent in 1998/99, based on an expenditure definition of poverty. Poverty among Ghanaians is overwhelmingly a rural phenomenon with 80 percent of the people classified as poor, residing in the rural areas.

The major areas of concentration in the zone are Central and Eastern Regions. In the rural savanna and rural forest, more than 40 percent of their populations were classified as poor in 1999. Within these areas, the Upper East, Northern and Central regions experienced increase in poverty and extreme poverty in the 1990s. The high incidence of extreme poverty implying inability to meet basic nutritional requirements even if the entire budget is devoted to food is reflected in malnutrition, indicating that 30 percent of under five year olds are stunted, 26 percent are underweight (Botchie, 1997).

According to Ribot (2001), decentralisation reforms do not appear to be structured in ways likely to deliver the presumed benefits. Thus the preliminary findings concerning the limits to democratic decentralisation in Ghana suggest that the constraints on political decentralisation have negative implications for pro-poor outcomes. The 2000 World Development Report further extended the concept of poverty to include the dimensions of vulnerability, voicelessness, and powerlessness.

Asenso (1993) reckons that poverty levels have assumed dramatic proportions in certain urban and rural areas during this period. Data available from Ghana Statistical Service (2000) corroborates this view by indicating that the number of district poverty has been on the increase in recent times. Amansie Central District is no exception, poverty levels are high and the researcher seeks to investigate the Assembly's role to reduce poverty in the district.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are classified into general and specific. The general objective of this study is to examine the role of MMDAs in poverty alleviation in Ghana.

The specific objectives are to:

- a) determine the causes and effects of poverty at the Amansie Central District
- b) assess the nature and practice of decentralization as policy intended to alleviate poverty
- c) identify ways of alleviating or at least reducing poverty in the Amansie Central District to enhance development;
- d) examine the linkages between decentralization and poverty alleviation.

1.3 Research Questions

The study seeks to answer the following questions;

- a. what are the causes and effects of poverty in Amansie Central District?

- b. how relevant are the policies and programmes that have been implemented to alleviate rural poverty in Amansie Central District?
- c. what can be done by Amansie Central District Assembly to alleviate or at least reduce poverty in its area of jurisdiction?
- d. what are the linkages between decentralization and poverty alleviation?

1.4 Justification of the Research

The study is an assessment of what MMDAs can do to alleviate or at least reduce poverty and also provide socio-economic infrastructure. The significance of the study stems from the fact that the concept of decentralization has in times past received and is receiving serious attention in the fight against poverty and thereby promote development.

In addition to the above, the research is an important scholarly and intends to add to the continually growing body of knowledge in the area of good governance, local governance, local economic development and poverty reduction.

This is particularly so in terms of how these relate to the macro policy framework and programmes in Ghana and the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals.

Finally, the findings and conclusions of the study may serve as a basis for further research on the subject in the future.

1.5 Scope of the Research

The geographical scope of the research covers the entire Amansie Central District of Ashanti Region of Ghana. Even though there are many issues that can be studied in the

District the study dwells on the role of Amansie Central District Assembly in reducing poverty in the District because poverty is quite endemic in the district and needs to be alleviated or at least reduced.

The research covers the entire District Assembly and its Area Councils with the view to assess the extent to which local governance has impacted on poverty reduction, participation and development. The study focuses on the policies, programmes and activities undertaken by various departments of the Assembly, civil society organisation and Assembly in reducing poverty. It also focuses on poverty, increase participation and development within the decentralised structures as these structures play their respective legal and regulatory framework on the roles in poverty reduction.

The study also examines the socio-economic characteristics of communities and the level of participation of the people in local governance, community development and the economy, access to social services like education, health, water and sanitation.

1.6 Limitations of the Study

The Amansie Central District was chosen for the research because of the increasing rate of poverty, low effort by the central government in development programmes and projects, the fact that there is the need for the Assembly to correct development imbalance among people, towns and villages.

The researcher had chosen Amansie Central District Assembly against the background of financial, logistical and time constraints. This is because covering many districts will

involve high expenditure and transportation cost. The reason for chosen this area was that the district was created eight years ago and is relatively new and deprived.

High cost of data collection was also one of the limitations because the district is very large with two hundred and six (206) communities and seven (7) Area Councils. This means that the researcher would spend a lot of money and time to cover the entire study area.

Some individuals and officers of the Assembly were suspicious of the purpose of the study and therefore were unwilling to co-operate and disclose information on households and poverty issues.

Also institutional survey was a difficult task to embark upon. The sampled officers from the assembly and decentralised departments found it difficult to provide the information on time due to poor record keeping, analysis and storage. However, the outcome of the study could not be affected negatively by the limitations.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This research has been organized into five chapters. The first chapter deals with the background information to the study, and then identifies the key problem under investigation addressed by the study. The objectives of the study and the relevant questions are set as well. It identifies the scope and gives a justification for the study followed by the limitations of the research and the organization of the study.

The second chapter presents a review of the relevant literature on decentralisation. The review focuses on the concepts of poverty, the causes and effects, the various poverty reduction strategies, the framework of poverty reduction and decentralisation and the role of MMDAs in poverty reduction.

Chapter three discusses the methodology adopted for the study. This chapter covers, population, sample and sampling techniques, source of data, data collection instruments and data analysis procedure. This chapter provides a guide as to the conduct of the field survey.

Chapter four focuses on data presentation and analysis. In this chapter data collected from the field was analysed with respect to causes, effects and poverty reduction strategies, decentralisation and the link between decentralization and poverty reduction. This chapter is a very important in the research because it provides answers to the research questions and forms the basis for the recommendations made for the role MMDAs in poverty alleviation.

The fifth chapter provides the key findings, conclusion and recommendations on the role of MMDAs in alleviating poverty.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the review the relevant literature on the concepts, definitions and theories of poverty, poverty reduction strategy and how decentralization contributes to poverty alleviation in poor countries of Africa.

3.3 Defining Poverty and the Poor

The development literature is plagued with various definitions, measurements and causes of poverty. As a dynamic concept, its meaning and how it is perceived have undergone several changes with time. Therefore there is no universally accepted definition of it.

However, certain salient features appear to characterise most of the existing definitions, measurements and causes. Some of them, especially those which have been found to be very insightful and relevant for this discussion is reviewed below.

According to Townsend (1974) poverty consists of subsistence, inequality and externality. He explained that subsistence is concerned with the minimum provision needed to maintain health and working capacity while inequality represents the relative position of income groups to each other, indicating further that poverty is concerned with how the bottom layers fare in relation to the rest of the society.

The externality is the social consequences of poverty for the rest of the society. This implies that poverty is a societal problem. This latter viewpoint however, contrasts sharply with those of Morril, et.al (1973) who have reasoned that poverty is the outcome of the inability of certain sections of the society (at individual levels), to compete successfully in a competitive world.

Chamber's (1983) notion of poverty centers on the dual clusters of political economy and physical ecology. He views the concept in terms of the deprivation of many at the expense of the affluent few on one hand, and the reduced standards of living resulting from population explosion and poor resource management on the other hand.

Expanding on some of these notions, Sen (1984) explained the concept through three major approaches. These are the biological approach, the inequality approach and the relative deprivation approach. Whilst the relative deprivation and inequality approaches are related to the views expounded above by Townsend and Chambers, the third, that is biological approach, provides an additionally useful and expanded insight.

Biological considerations, to him, relate to the requirements of survival or work efficiency. They are nutritionally based and have often been used to define the poverty line. According to him, starvation is clearly the most important aspect of poverty, and malnutrition must have a central place in the conception of poverty.

Some also agree with Rowntree (1901), quoted in Sen (1984) who is said to have described families in poverty as primarily those whose total earnings are insufficient to obtain the minimum necessities for the maintenance of mere physical efficiency. This view is supported by the fact that income is prominent in almost all definitions on the level and extent of poverty.

The concept of poverty and definitions of the poor vary in accordance with the perspective and objective of those doing the defining. In defining poverty in traditional consumption and expenditure terms is insufficient to address the needs of the poor

themselves and it has included human and social welfare indicators in development indices and poverty alleviation programmes.

The Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS) defines poverty using an economic index, characterizing the poor as those subsisting on a per capita income of less than two thirds of the national average. The hard core poverty line is defined as income below one third of the mean. An analysis of the 1998-99 GLSS data found that half of the rural households in Ghana are poor (Ghana Statistical Service, 1999).

According to the GLSS, the majority of the poor are engaged in food crop cultivation as their main economic activity, in contrast to those engaged in private formal and public sector employment who are the wealthiest. Extreme poverty is concentrated in certain rural areas (rural savannah and most parts of forest belts) whereas the wealthiest sector of the population are located in the larger urban centres, particularly in Accra and Kumasi.

The above account gives a fair idea of the divergent notions and interpretations that have been associated with the concept of poverty over the years. In fact, the use of the concept has broadened over the years, away from the narrow considerations on income related indicators, to encompass wider societal economic, social and other concerns, including those on the environment, gender and empowerment.

The consequences of poverty are equally complex as it is often reinforced by the interrelatedness of its causes, thereby exacerbating the problem (World Bank Report, 1992).

The persistence of widespread poverty in developing countries like Ghana has very serious social and economic consequences. The World Bank recognises that the large number of people in poverty implies an inefficient use of resources which increases the risks of social upheavals.

3.4 Symptoms or Signs of Poverty

According to Shinns (2003), the symptoms of poverty include;

- a. low levels of income: Here the income levels of the people are very low and unreliable.
- b. low levels of economic wealth: Economic wealth derives from assets that can generate income, capital gains or liquidity. Assets such as cattle and farm lands play an insurance role in the event of adverse shocks such as drought or the loss of a wage worker or pensioner, helping to smooth consumption in areas where households do not have access to efficient insurance and credit markets (Little, 2002).
- c. low levels of health: High levels of morbidity and infant mortality are often the result of poor nutrition and inadequate health care.
- d. poor standards of housing: Inadequate housing in urban townships and rural settlements. However, it is not only the type of dwelling that is important, but also the density of occupation, what the dwelling is constructed of, and whether or not sanitation is hygienic and water is safe to drink (May, *et al*, 1995) as cited by Shinns (2003).

3.5 Poverty Trends in Ghana

Trends in poverty across Ghana have been measured both through formal survey mechanisms used to calculate household consumption and expenditure levels. Thus establish nutrition-based income measured poverty lines, and also through qualitative consultations, such as the ‘voices of the poor’ exercise.

The establishment of an absolute poverty line by the Ghana Statistical Service (1999) represents a departure from previous quantitative poverty analyses, traditionally based on ratios of mean household consumption per capita. Two poverty lines have been calculated, based on data from the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS, 1998/99). In monetary terms, these two poverty lines translate as GH¢70.00 per adult per year (approximately US\$100) and GH¢90.00 (approximately US\$129) in 1998/99. The lowest or hard core poverty line represents food poverty, meaning that those whose incomes fall below this are unable to meet their calorific requirements. The higher poverty line makes room for some basic non-food items.

In the 1990s, according to the upper poverty line, the percentage of Ghanaians defined as poor (poverty incidence) fell from almost 52% in 1991/1992 to a little under 40% in 1998/1999. During the same period, the lower poverty line records a fall from 37% to 27%. Whilst this is a positive trend, the impact was not uniformly spread across the country.

Whereas Accra and the rural forest ecological zones recorded a substantial decrease in poverty, the rural savannah areas experienced a rise in poverty when measured against the lower poverty line (Ghana Statistical Service, 1999). The pattern of poverty recorded

in GLSS IV (1998/99) revealed sharp differences in poverty levels between geographically adjacent regions. Generally, poverty is lowest in Accra and the urban centres.

3.6 Dimensions of Poverty

The multi-dimensionality of poverty clarified by the Nkum and Gharthey (2000) reflects the broader work carried out by the broader 'Voices of the Poor' exercise across several countries, where poverty was identified as being complex and interwoven, including a material lack and need for shelter, assets, money are often characterised by hunger, pain, discomfort, exhaustion, social exclusion, vulnerability, powerlessness and low self-esteem (Narayan et al, 2000). In this context, and as reflected through other Ghana-specific literature (Batse et al, 1999) poverty is identified as a composite of both personal and community life situations where on the personal level, poverty is reflected in an inability to gain access to basic community services.

Likewise, qualitative assessments of poverty in periurban Kumasi revealed that the poor are characterised both in terms of their occupation and their lack of access to assets and social services (Nunan et al, 2001). According to Nkum and Gharthey et.al, (2000) perceptions of well-being and poverty in Ghana vary between rural and urban areas and between men, women and youth. Whereas the rural poor identify issues such as food insecurity, inability to have children, disability and ownership of property, urban dwellers emphasise lack of employment, the availability and adequacy of social services, skills training, capital and so on as being linked to poverty and well-being levels.

3.7 Causes of Poverty

- i. **Energy Crises:** In Ghana, the increase in the price of crude oil brings down the value of the incomes of the people, while transportation fares, food prices utility bills and even health and educational bills increase. In situation of price upsurge cost of living increases and low income people would be affected most.
- ii. **Unemployment:** Apart from energy crises which also generate poverty, the high rate of unemployment contributes a lot to poverty. Most rural people are unemployed or under-employed. Most of the youth always graduate from school without jobs. Some stay at home so long that they give up on their job hunting process, and concentrate on menial occupations, which may be below their qualification, or outside their profession to earn very little incomes.
- iii. **Corruption:** Corruption often accompanies centralization of power, when leaders are not accountable to those they serve. Most directly, corruption inhibits development when leaders help themselves with money that would otherwise be used for development projects.
- iv. **Social Inequality:** Another source of poverty throughout the world is social inequality that stems from cultural ideas about the relative worth of different genders, races, ethnics groups and social classes. Inequality works by placing individuals in different social categories at birth, often based on religious, ethnic or racial characteristics.

- v. **Structural Adjustment:** The cutbacks in health, education and other vital social services around the world as a result of structural adjustment policies prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank as conditions for loans and repayment bring economic hardship to governments and people. The opening up of the economies of developing nations to compete with more powerful and established industrialized nations leads to poverty.

To attract investment, poor countries enter an increasing race to the bottom to see who can provide lower standards, reduced wages and cheaper resources. This has increased poverty and inequality for most people. It also forms a backbone to what we today call globalization. As a result, it maintains the historic unequal rules of trade.

- vi. **Food Dumping in a form of Aids:** According to Anup (2011), food aid can actually be very destructive on the economy of the recipient nation and contribute to more hunger and poverty in the long term. Free, subsidized, or cheap food, below market prices undercuts local farmers, who cannot compete and are driven out of jobs and into poverty, further slanting the market share of the larger producers such as those from the US and Europe. Many poor nations are dependent on farming, and so such food aid amounts to food dumping. In the past few decades, more powerful nations have used this as a foreign policy tool for dominance rather than for real aid.

3.8 Effects of Poverty

The effects of poverty are numerous. It results in low participation in economic activities, low productivity or output, low income, consumption, investment and creativity. Additionally, poverty has negative effect on food, housing, health and education.

i. On Food and Housing

Almost all people who live in what the World Bank defines as absolute poverty are affected by hunger and starvation. In fact, child malnutrition results in 15 million children deaths across the world every year.

A significant portion of cases of people succumbing to poverty related health conditions every year are traced to the continents of Asia and Africa. As in case of hunger, poverty and homelessness are also associated with each other. The statistics reveal that a significant portion of people below the poverty line cannot afford to have a proper dwelling, and thus have no option but to resort to 'rough sleeping' (Naik, 2010).

ii. On Health

According to Naik (2010) around one-third of the total number of deaths in the world (which roughly amounts to 18 million people every year) are attributed to the diseases of poverty. This and other factor highlights the relationship between poverty and poor health. A newly coined term, the 'diseases of poverty' refers to various diseases which are more likely to affect poor people as compared to their affluent counterparts. It also includes those diseases which can result in poverty for people. Some of the most prominent examples of diseases which are more likely to affect people below the poverty line include AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, measles, pneumonia etc. Most of these diseases

are attributed to lack of basic health care facilities. On the other hand, those diseases which can result in poverty for the individual include a range of mental illnesses which tend to hinder the ability of a person to work.

iii. On Education

The children living in absolute poverty cannot afford basic education those in relative poverty are forced to dropout half way into their elementary or middle schooling. There may be many reasons for dropout, ranging from inability to pay fees for further education to shouldering family responsibilities. The relationship between poverty and education also works the other way round, with lack of education being one of the most important factors in the world. The effects of poverty on child development are also seen in the classroom, (ibid, 2010).

3.9 National Poverty Reduction Strategies and Programmes

The World Bank (2001) defines poverty reduction as designing, implementing and targeting appropriate methods to ensure that scarce resources are allocated to activities that are likely to yield the greatest impact on the poor and to decrease their levels of deprivation and vulnerability. Many governments and international agencies have made many attempts to alleviate poverty because it diminishes development. Some of the measures adopted by both Ghana and international agencies for poverty reduction include:

- i. Programme of Actions to Mitigate the Social Costs of Adjustment (PAMSCAD)
- ii. adoption of Economic Recovery Programmes (ERPs)
- iii. adoption of the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative

- iv. Millennium Development Goals
- v. Ghana poverty Reduction Programmes I & II
- vi. The Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA 2010-2013)

3.9.1 Programme of Actions to Mitigate the Social Costs of Adjustment (PAMSCAD)

To address these issues, the government initiated a number of programmes aimed specifically at redressing the plight of the poor and the disadvantaged groups as an integral part of the economic reform measures.

The first attempt, the Programme of Action to Mitigate the Social Costs of Adjustment (PAMSCAD), was initiated in 1987 with the prime objective of addressing the needs of vulnerable groups who were in uncertain condition due to the effects of SAP and ERP or earlier periods of economic decline. These included small farmers, mainly in the regions of Northern Ghana, whose productivity were very low and who also faced hunger and unemployment during the lean farming season. Others were urban-based unemployed and underemployed, and workers retrenched from the public and private sectors of the economy due to these policy reforms.

Projects implemented under PAMSCAD included a set of community based projects that were to help in the rehabilitation and construction of social and economic infrastructure, thereby generating employment (Asenso, 1993).

However, an evaluation of the programme indicates that it was unsuccessful and inadequately tackling the levels of poverty of the target population.

3.9.2 Economic Recovery Programme

The Government of Ghana initiated an Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) in 1983 as a direct response to an economic decline and poverty that plagued the country during the past decades. With the support of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other bilateral donor agencies, the ERP aimed mainly at macro-economic reforms, fiscal and monetary stability, export growth strategy, trade liberalization, rehabilitation of physical infrastructure, improvement in the investment environment through new private investment legislation, privatization of state-owned enterprises, provision of social infrastructure, investment in human capital and institutional capacity building, (World Bank Annual Report, 1995).

The policy reforms since 1983, succeeded in reversing the decline of the economy and improving the overall economic performance. GDP increased by an average of 5 percent per annum between 1984 and 1992. Specifically, there was significant reduction in the fiscal deficit and inflation; infrastructure services were improved and relative prices and incentives were shifted towards tradable especially towards exports of cocoa, timber and minerals. Government revenues increased from 6 percent of GDP in 1983 to 13 percent in 1986 and to 16 percent in 1991. (ibid, 1995)

3.9.3 The Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC)

The 'Heavily Indebted Poor Country' (HIPC) initiative, launched in 1996 by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), were meant to look for new ways to remove the debt of the poorest countries. Today, HIPC seeks to link debt relief to poverty reduction. Debt relief is considered as an integral part of broader efforts to implement outcome-oriented poverty reduction strategies using all available resources. To benefit from the initiative, debtor countries are required to follow strict procedures. Debt is reduced only when countries reach the completion point. One of the major inputs of the initiative is the principle that the development of a number of countries is severely constrained by debt. Ghana benefitted from this HIPC facility and the proceeds were used to provide so many infrastructural projects (Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy 2003-2005).

3.9.4 Millennium Development Goals

Alarmed at growing poverty in the midst of plenty, the international community, on September 8, 2000 made what is now referred to as the Millennium compact which was aimed at reducing poverty by one half within fifteen (15) years, ending 2015. The compact involves the attainment of specified poverty reduction objectives through the combined efforts of rich and poor countries within a specified time period. Several global commitments had been made in the past with limited results. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) included poverty reduction targets for employment, maternal and child health, education, water and sanitation, gender and aid. Africa remains the only continent in which most of these targets are predicted to be unattainable by 2015.

One report estimates that only 10 African countries would meet the MDGs targets, (Dele, 2006).

3.9.5 Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS I) 2003-2005

GPRS I is also a poverty reduction which started from 2003 to 2005. It outlined the five pillars on which the government has based its strategy for reducing poverty:

- i. ensure sound economic management for accelerated growth
- ii. increase production and promoting sustainable livelihoods
- iii. direct support for human development and the provision of basic services
- iv. provide special programmes in support of the vulnerable and excluded
- v. ensure good governance and increased capacity of the public sector.

Ghana government prepared the document through an extensive consultative process with civil society and other stakeholders. It includes a poverty diagnosis, an analysis of past policies and their shortcomings, an outline of the various elements of the strategy, a policy matrix, selected indicators for the monitoring and evaluating of the strategy and a set of programmes for 2003 - 2005. The strategy builds on creating favorable conditions for private-sector-led growth, improving the delivery of basic social services, and raising the efficiency of the public sector (Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy 2003-2005).

3.9.6 Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II) 2006-2009

The Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II) succeeded the GPRS I with the emphasis on macro-economic stability and poverty reduction programmes and projects. The National Medium Term Development Policy Framework of Ghana from 2006 to 2009 was also guided by the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II) with the overall goal of emphasizing on growth-inducing policies and programmes as a means for wealth creation and sustained poverty reduction. The GPRS II was based on the following thematic areas:

- (i) private sector competitiveness
- (ii) human resource development
- (iii) good governance and civic responsibility

(Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II 2006-2009)).

3.9.7 The Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA 2010-2013)

As the implementation of the GPRS II ended in December, 2009, its successor the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA 2010-2013) was prepared by the National Development Planning Commission.

3.9.8 The basic goal of the GSGDA is to address the economic imbalances, re-stabilising the economy, placing it on a path of sustained accelerated growth and poverty reduction towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and middle income status. The Medium Term Development Plan for 2010-2013 aims at reducing poverty in Ghana (The Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA 2010-2013)).

3.10 Government Funds on Poverty Reduction Activities in Assemblies

In Ghana central government spending on poverty reduction is targeted at the under-privileged. This is seen in the transfer of resources for the provision of the basic necessities of life. Reduction of poverty requires the infusion of resources not to the broad sectors of the economy but giving priority to specific targeted areas to benefit the poor. Programmes and projects implemented under this central government expenditure are mostly in the social and economic sectors.

Central government spending on poverty has come from three main sources;

- (a) discretionary government spending
- (b) HIPC funds
- (c) Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative Funds (MDRIFs).

Total central government poverty spending in 2006 exceeded planned budget by 3.24%. It constituted about 34.86% of total government spending in 2006 which swelled actual expenditures by 34.47% for 2005. Poverty related expenditures were made in such sectors as basic education, primary health care, agriculture, rural water, feeder roads and rural electrification, (Annual Progress Report of Ghana, 2007).

3.11 Poverty Reduction Strategies and Poverty Levels (District Level)

Government of Ghana's policy objective is to ensure that MMDAs allocate up to 15% of their respective yearly shares of the DACF to create a line of credit in each district for poverty reduction & wealth creation. The objectives of the credit scheme are to:

- (i) enhance productivity
- (ii) create employment and improve incomes of the population,
- (iii) remove the obstacle of lack of access to credit for the informal sector, the self-employed
- (iv) develop micro, small and medium scale enterprises.

(Guideline for the preparation of District Assembly Supplementary Budget, 2008)

2.9.2 Types of Credit and Eligible Enterprise

The target group among the poor who qualify for credits for their enterprises are;

- (i) women in the informal sector and unemployed youth who have completed various kinds of training;
- (ii) subsistence and small peasant producers in agriculture;
- (iii) vulnerable groups in urban poor areas and rural communities;
- (iv) disabled persons (Guidelines for the Preparation of MMDAs' Budget, 2008).

According to the (2008) guideline for the preparation of Assemblies' budget, credit and loans should be made available to enterprises for use as working or start-up capital and seasonal cash advances. They are granted to the following sectors:

- (i) agriculture: with respect to farming and fishing activities
- (ii) cottage industries in agro-processing
- (iii) trading in farm produce (indigenous agro-processed products)
- (iv) procurement and repair of machinery, vehicles and equipment
- (v) private sector initiatives to provide services in health, tourism and education,
- (vi) ICT and housing.

The District Assembly uses part of its share of the common fund to sponsor the needy but brilliant students in the district. It also provides financial support to the girl-child, awards scholarships to students; support the elimination of child labour in cocoa growing areas, mass cocoa spraying exercise and National Youth Employment Programmes (NPEP).

The Amansie Central District Assembly in collaboration with Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) had trained and equip some youth as Area Mechanics to repair broken down boreholes and Latrine Artisans to construct household Latrines for the people in the District for a fee.

According to Srinivasan, (1989) poverty alleviation has mostly remained at the rhetoric level. Public policies and expenditure that have been explicitly poor-oriented or have been justified on their poverty allocation impacts have been modest in scale and very ineffective as well as costly in their execution.

3.12 Decentralisation

According to (Riot 2001), decentralisation is defined as any act in which a central government formally cedes powers to actors and institutions at lower levels in a political administrative and territorial hierarchy.

Decentralization refers to as the processes by which people and their institutions are empowered throughout an entire societal system be it national, regional, local or household level. The greater the people participate in decision-making, planning, management and service delivery at all levels, the greater the potential for effective, sustainable and equitable development.

3.13 The Objectives of Decentralisation

The 1992 Constitution, various legislations on decentralization and government publications and donor reports have articulated the objectives of decentralization. In Chapter 6, “Directive Principles of State Policy”, of the Constitution, for instance, the government of the day is enjoined to make democracy a reality by decentralising the administrative and financial machinery of government to the regions and districts and by affording all possible opportunities to the people to participate in decision-making at every level in national life and in government (Government of Ghana: 1992 Constitution).

The objectives of decentralization include participation, empowerment, accountability, decongestion of the national capital, effectiveness and checking the rural-urban drift. Specifically, the decentralization programme has been designed to:

- i. devolve political and state power in order to promote participatory democracy through local-level institutions;
- ii. deconcentrated and devolve administration, development planning, and implementation to the district assemblies;
- iii. introduce an effective system of fiscal decentralization that gives the district assemblies control over a substantial portion of their revenues;
- iv. establish a national development planning system to integrate and coordinate development planning at all levels and in all sectors;

- v. incorporate economic, social, spatial, and environmental issues into the development planning process on an integrated and comprehensive basis (Aryee, 1994; 2004).

In addition to these objectives, the individual Establishing Acts (Legislative Instruments) for each of the (MMDAs) working through District Assemblies, which supplement the Local Government Act, Act 462 (1993), include a list of 86 specific responsibilities.

According to Aryee (2004) some of the objectives of the decentralization programme seem, however, incompatible. For instance, popular participation has been regarded as militating against local revenue generation and mobilization on the one hand, and/or demands for increased expenditures on the other hand.

3.14 Decentralisation in Ghana: the Legal Basis for Its implementation

In 1988, the PNDC government introduced a major piece of legislation, the Local Government Law 1988; (PNDC Law 207). This law created 110 districts within Ghana's 10 regions with non-partisan District Assemblies. The purpose of this law was to promote popular participation and ownership of the machinery of government by devolving power, competence, and resource at the district level. The law was to shift the process of governance from command to consultative processes and to promote coordination of development activity (Constitutional Review Commission Document, 2011).

Chapter twenty, Article 240 clause 2 of 1992 Constitution gave legal backing for the current local government Act 1993, Act 462 and the functions it plays in decentralised governance. In this aspect of the constitution, the local government authorities have

capacity to plan, initiate, co-ordinate, manage and execute policies in respect of all matters that affect the local people in an area, (Government of Ghana: 1992 Constitution).

3.15 Types of Decentralisation

The four major implementation strategies for Ghana's decentralisation policy dwell on the following thematic areas; administrative, decentralisation, political decentralisation, fiscal decentralisation and decentralised planning and decision-making. It was noted that effective implementation of the four strategies of decentralisation policy has direct link on poverty reduction in Ghana.

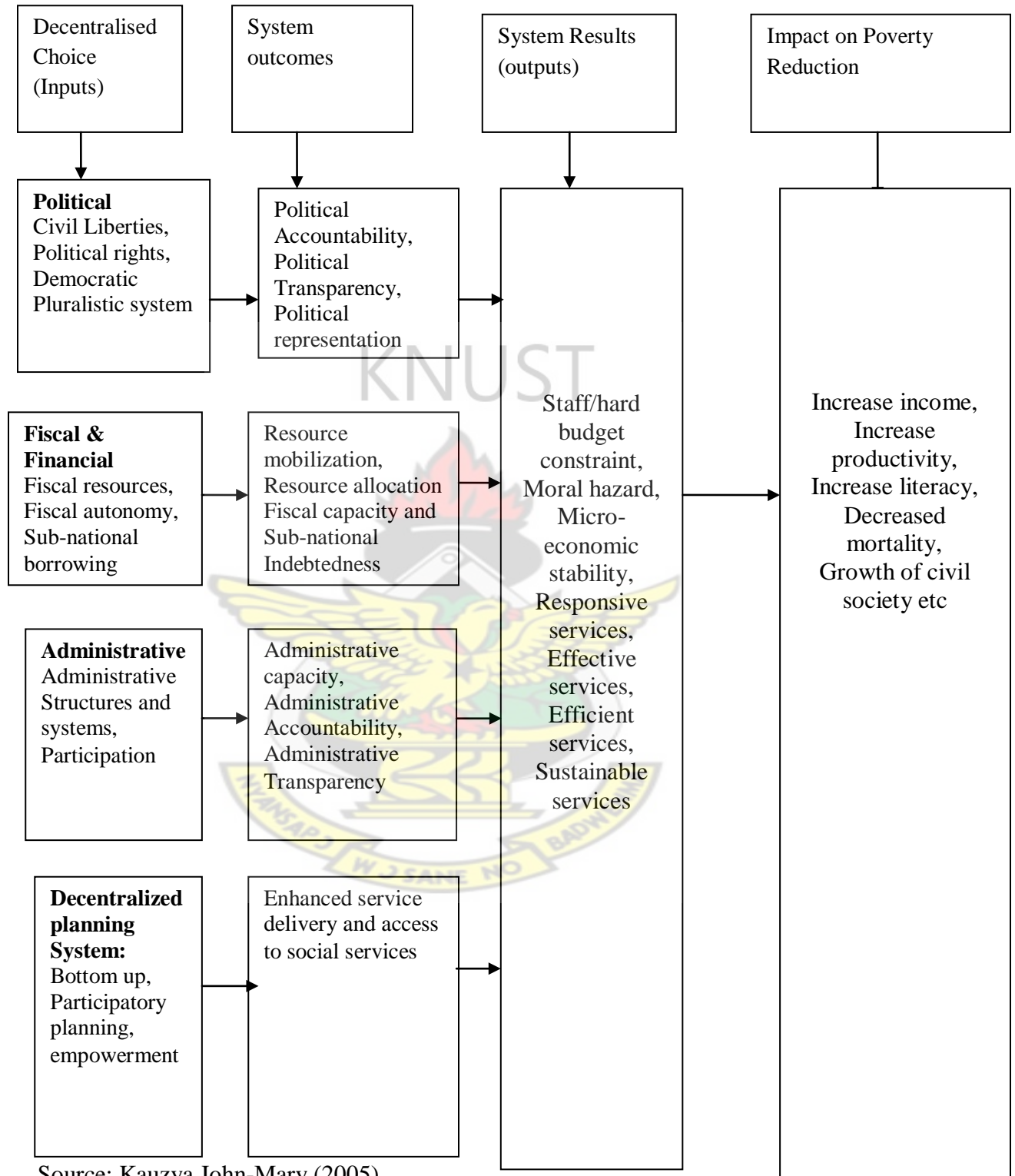
- i. Administrative Decentralisation:* by which 22 central government agencies are decentralised to the MMDA level. Thus the local level officials of the sectors and departments served their parent ministries or departments vertically and for the purposes of day-to-day administration, discipline, performance appraisal, technical guidance, transfers, training and promotion, the district actors or officers came directly under the supervision of the local government.
- ii. Fiscal Decentralisation:* this involves empowerment of MMDAs fiscal autonomy and fiscal decision-making as well as sub-national borrowing. By this form of decentralisation MMDAs draw their annual budgets, impose taxes, fines, levies etc to enable them mobilize IGFs to supplement DACF receipts for development.
- iii. Political Decentralisation:* which involves the creation of Metropolitan/Municipal/District Assemblies (MMDAs) and sub-district structures such as Urban/Town/Area

Councils and Unit Committees This type of decentralisation provides a forum at the local level for the people to deliberate, legislate and execute actions necessary for development of their areas.

iv. Decentralised development planning which allows MMDAs to identify their development priorities. It provides for bottom-up participatory planning and budgeting. It requires active involvement of communities and service providers in determination of development needs, priorities and the implementation of development programmes to enhance efficient service delivery and access to services.

Kauzya (2005) provides a structure which depicts decentralised governance in which he portrays the governance systems, outcomes, outputs and impacts. In his discussion paper, he highlights the political inputs, outputs, outcomes and the impact especially where these are aimed at poverty reduction at least and poverty alleviation at best. In the structure, Kauzya shows the roles of the central government, local authorities, communities and other civil society organisations such as NGOs, the churches, benevolent societies as well as individuals in poverty reduction in the first instance followed by poverty alleviation.

Figure 1: Decentralised Governance, Systems Outcomes, System Output and Impact



Source: Kauzya John-Mary (2005)

3.16 The Relevance of Decentralisation in Poverty Reduction

According to Alderman (1998), decentralization has shown that local government officials are likely to be well informed about the plight of members of their community and are therefore able to recognise and organise those who are genuinely poor.

Moreover, because poverty in one community may be characterised by different indicators than poverty in another community, a decentralized system may also increase efficiency of access to public goods and services by allowing local authorities to determine the local eligibility criteria. Thus, decentralising the responsibility to access the needs of communities to local administrators should be more accurate and cost effective than a central government agency.

New local government system has greatly enhanced popular participation in local governance, and included greater numbers of previously excluded groups. However, (Crook and Sverrisson, 2001) mention that the responsiveness of the local authorities to popular development needs and to those of the poor in particular has not been good. The authorities argue that currently, capital expenditure overrides recurrent expenditure in all local authorities that responsive to the needs of the communities.

The regional breakdown of local government expenditure in 1999 shows that Greater Accra, the richest region, spent 56.0 percent of their local government expenditure on recurrent items and 44.0 percent on capital items. However, Upper West Region, one of the poorest regions in Ghana, spent 77.2 percent of the local government expenditure on capital expenditure and 22.8 percent on recurrent expenditure, (Ministry Local Government and Rural Development Report on MMDAs' Expenditures, 1999).

The framework which is consistent with decentralization and poverty reduction used in this study was developed from Asante, (2003). According to Asante (2003) effective poverty reduction requires, among other things, increasing the poor's access to basic public and collective services such as health, education, water, sanitation and transport to enhance human capital, increase labour productivity and foster access to economic opportunities. That is, to improve the livelihood of the poor.

In the view of Ellis, 1998, livelihood encompasses income, both in cash, as well as the social institutions (such as family and relatives), gender relations, and property rights required to support and to sustain a given standard of living. A livelihood also includes access to and benefits derived from social and public services provided by the state such as education, health services, road and water supplies (Blackwood and Lynch, 1994). The conceptual framework is shown in figure 2.

The conceptual framework (figure 2) below indicates how decentralization affects livelihood at the district.

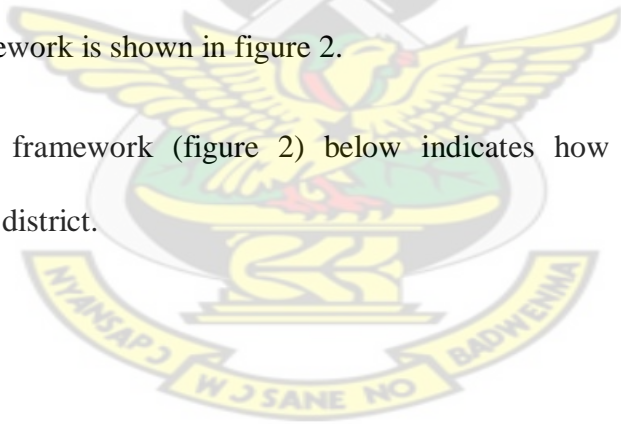
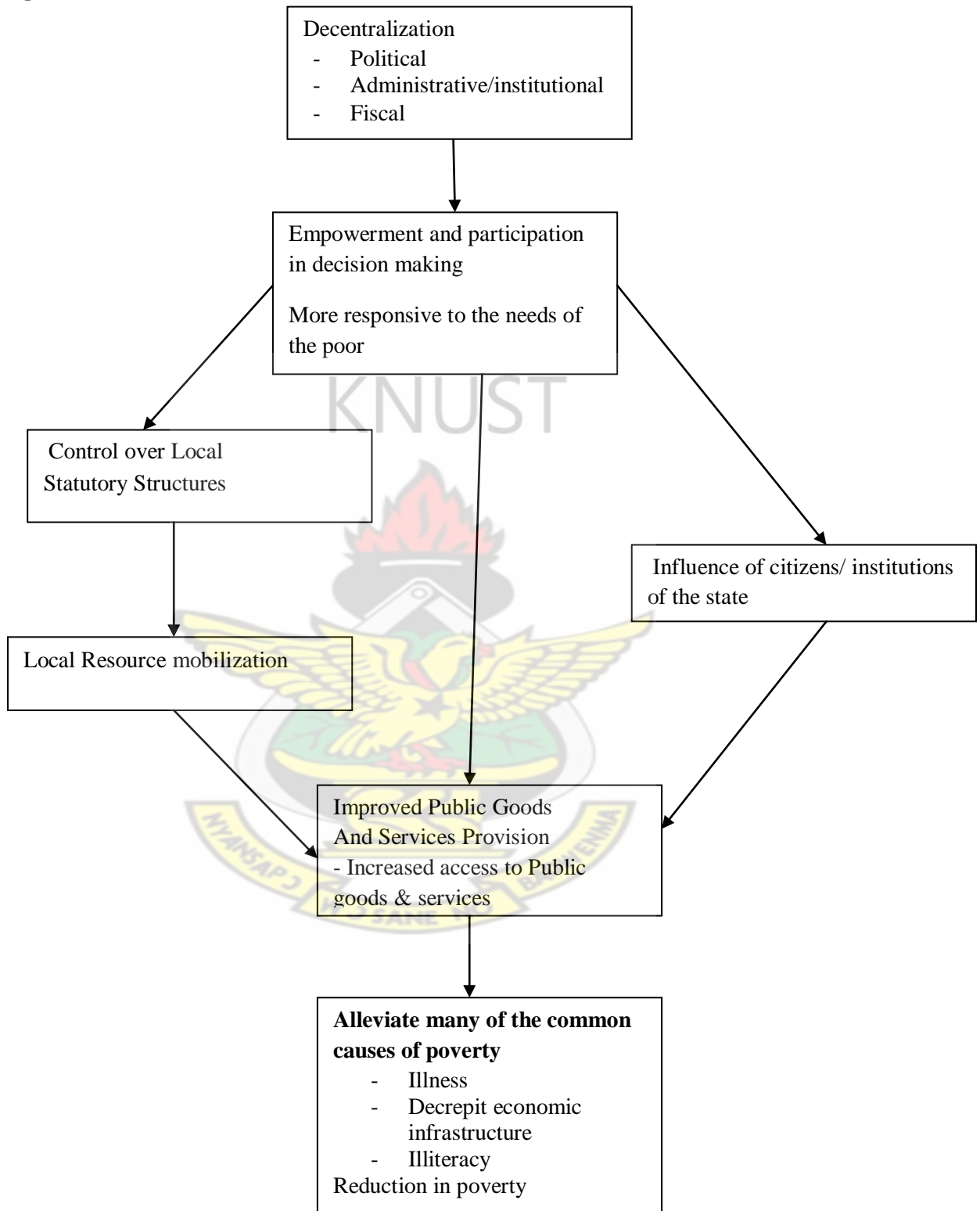


Figure 2: The Structure of Ghana's Decentralisation



Source: Asante, (2003)

3.17 The Linkage Between Decentralization and Poverty Alleviation

Decentralization is seen by donors, governments and academics as one of the most important and appropriate strategies that will help reduce the levels of deprivation and vulnerability of the poor. There are three ways in which decentralization is linked to poverty reduction (Bird, et. al., 1995).

First, as with many other public services, effective implementation of poverty reduction strategies often requires detailed and specific local knowledge which may be most readily obtainable through a decentralized and locally accountable system of governance. The right kind of decentralization will therefore enable local government units to have sufficient technical and financial capacity to carry out their assigned functions. On the assumption that people should get what they want rather than what someone else wants them to want, Aryee (1995) states that poverty reduction programmes in Ghana like other programmes, should reflect local and regional variations in preferences where appropriate.

Second, the design and implementation of transfer of financial resources is an important influence, for good or for ill, on local spending decision. Efficient assignment of revenue and expenditure responsibility to different levels of government invariably means that local government units as a group will depend upon transfers from the central government.

From this perspective, decentralization does not mean that the central government plays no role in poverty reduction. What it means is rather that considerable thought, effort; experimentation will be needed to develop a workable transfer system. Such a transfer

should simultaneously accomplish the difficult objectives of providing localities sufficient resources to do what they want to do while ensuring that what they do is broadly in accordance with national priorities. The interaction between decentralization and poverty reduction emphasises the importance of transfer design and the desirability of providing for periodic evaluation of that design (Ayee, et al 1996).

Third, the relationship between decentralization and poverty reduction depends on the targeting of poverty-reducing public investment by local government units. Local government units implement the national poverty reduction policy, narrowly or broadly defined. A narrowly defined poverty policy uses transfers of income, in money or kind, to the poor.

A broadly defined poverty reduction policy also encompasses policies intended to increase the productivity of the poor through the formation and maintenance of human capital that is health, education, improved access to markets and productive resources in general.

Given the heterogeneity of resources, capacities, needs and preferences that characterize most countries, some local government units will need much more financial and technical support than others will. If such disparities continue, the greater the direct access of local government units to their own fiscal resources, the more tax base they can have and the more revenue they can mobilize. Those which do not have more tax base do mobilize less revenue. Decentralise poverty reduction strategy requires some degree of equalisation. (Bird & Rodriguez, et al. 1999)

3.18 Functions of the Amansie Central District Assembly

To enhance accountability, transparency development and poverty reduction, the following functions have been clearly stated in the Local Government Act of 1993 Act 462 (10) and the Legislative Instrument 1774 of 2004, which established Amansie Central District.

These local government statutes in Ghana impress upon all the Assembly to:

- i. be responsible for the overall development of the district and ensure the preparation and submission of development plans and budget to the relevant central government agency/ministry through the Regional Co-ordinating Council.
- ii. formulate and execute plans, programmes and strategies for the effective mobilization of the resources necessary for the overall development of the district.
- iii. promote and support productive activity and social development in the district and remove any obstacle to initiative and development.
- iv. initiate programmes for the development of basic infrastructure and provide municipal works and services in the district.
- v. be responsible for the development, improvement and management of human settlements and the environment in the district
- vi. in co-operation with the appropriate national and local security agencies, be responsible for the maintenance of security and public safety in the district.
- vii. ready access to courts in the district ensure for the promotion of justice.

- viii. initiate, sponsor and carry out such studies as may be necessary for the discharge of any of the functions conferred by Act 462 or any other enactment.
- ix. perform such other functions as may be provided under any other enactment.

3.18.1 The roles of the District Assembly in poverty alleviation or reduction

The roles of the District Assembly in poverty reduction include the following;

- i. Job creation ,income generation activities to overcome unemployment
- ii. Provision of socio- economic infrastructure (roads, markets, school)
- iii. Investment in people/human resource capital.
- iv. Investments in other economic activities.
- v. Collaboration with donors CSOs, NGOs International agencies, the Central government

3.19 Conclusion

Decentralisation enhances poverty reduction, improves services delivery, increased transparency, participatory planning and development. It brings about local ownership and improves social accountability. The various programmes help to provide social amenities and create jobs for the local people. Decentralization has empowered local people, increased awareness creation and has promoted citizens involvement in local development programmes.

CHAPTER THREE

THE PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents profile of the study area and methodology employed in data collection and analysis. Under the research methodology are; the design, the sampling techniques and sample size determination, the method of data collection as well as data processing and analysis.

4.1 The Profile of Amansie Central District

The Amansie Central District Assembly is one of the twenty seven (27) administrative districts in the Ashanti Region. It was carved out of the erstwhile Amansie East District Assembly in 2004 by Legislative Instrument (L1) 1774, 2004. It has about 206 settlements with Jacobu as the Administrative Capital.

The District shares common boundaries with Amansie East to the north east, Amansie West to the west, Obuasi Municipal Assembly to the south east, Adansi North to the east, Adansi South to the south and Upper Denkyira in the Central Region to the south.

The Amansie Central District can be found within Latitude $6^{\circ}00'N$ and $6^{\circ}30'N$ and Longitudes $1^{\circ}00'W$ and $2^{\circ}00'W$. It covers a total surface area of about 710 square kilometers (275.4 sq miles) and forms about 2.5 percent of the total area of the Ashanti Region. (Amansie Central District Medium Term Development Plan, 2006-2009).

4.1.1 Population Size and Density

According to the 2000 Population and Housing Census, the population of the district is 81,871. This is about 2.3% of the total population of the Ashanti Region. The current growth rate of the district is 3%. Based on this the projected population of the District for 2011 is 113,875. Table 1 depicts the population size and growth of the District and Ashanti Region. The current population growth rate of 3% is less as compared to the region's population growth rate of 3.4% but higher than the nation's population growth of 2.7%. In terms of physical development the growth rate can be considered to be on the high side. This implies that vigorous family planning education should be mounted to increase the rate of contraceptive use and as well as reproductive education to reduce early births.

Table 1: Population Size and Growth Rates

Area	2000	2011 (Projected)	Projected Growth Rate
Amansie Central District	81,871	113,875	3.0
Ashanti Region	3,612,950	5,251,353	3.4

Source: Amansie Central District Medium Term Development Plan, 2006-2009

Females represent the dominant sex in the district, constituting 57.4% of the population whilst males make up 42.6%. The age structure for the district shows a relatively large proportion of younger people (0-14 and 15-64years) and a small proportion of older people (65years and above). The young population forms about 47.1% of the population and those in the youthful age group forms 47.6% with only 5.3% within the old age

group. This follows the normal population pyramid that characterizes developing countries with most of the people falling within the working or active age cohorts. The large percentage of people within the younger ages is an indication that the population is experiencing a rapid growth (Population and Housing Census Reports for 2000 and 2010).

The predominant type of housing in the 206 communities within the district can be described as compound houses. However, there are few self-contained houses mostly in the big settlements. About 80% of the houses are built with mud. The housing environment in the district is characterized by poor drains. About 73.7% of houses have structural defects. The average household size of the district is 7.1 which is higher than the national average of 5.2 persons and room occupancy of 5.0 persons. Most of the houses in the district lack facilities such as water, electricity, telephone and toilets.

The drainage system is generally poor in all communities of the district. The nature of drains in the district is mostly trenches which are found behind houses and u-shape drains of which most of them are choked. This has resulted in excessive erosion and exposed foundations of houses. The situation is more pronounced in areas like Jacobu, Tweapease, Fiankoma and Abuakwa.

4.1.2 Economic Activities

According to the Ghana Population and Housing Census (2000), the district has an economically active population of 47.6% and an economically inactive population of 52.4%.

Out of the economically active population, those who are employed constitute about 32.3% of the population. Out of those who are employed about 80% are engaged in agriculture, 0.5% in industry and 19.5% in the service sector. Farmers are mainly peasant cultivating food and cash crops. Farmers produce very little to feed themselves and their families and only a few have access to the market (Population and Housing Census Reports for 2000).

The district also has a major problem with employment opportunities. Most of the people are engaged in peasant farming. The youth have limited employment opportunities. Those who are not in agriculture are engaged in small-scale mining of gold. The unavailability of employment opportunities makes it difficult for parents to give their wards good education and that is why increasing number of people are engaged in peasant farming. (Amansie Central District Medium Term Development Plan, 2006-2009).

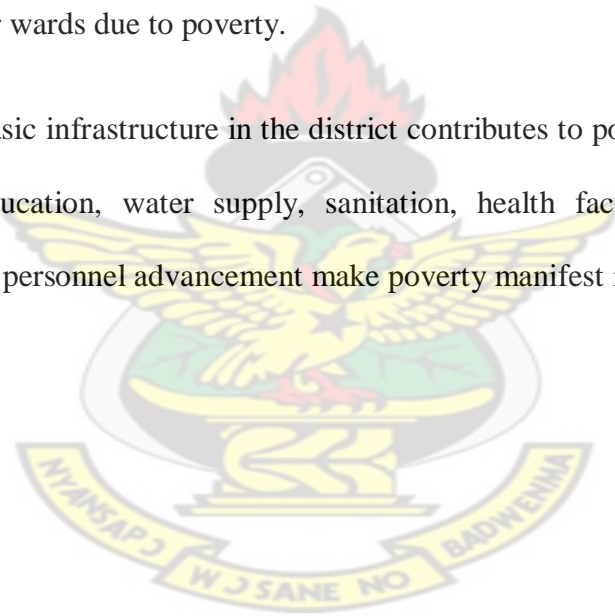
4.1.3 Socio-economic Infrastructural Development

On infrastructural development in the district, most parts of the district lack tarred roads. About 95 percent of the roads are untarred and are in very poor state with some other roads networks not accessible. The road densities are low and do not connect many communities. This sparseness of the roads contributes to poor distribution of food and other farm produce, such as cocoa, cassava, and timber from production centres. The roads are in deplorable conditions and usually become unmotorable in the rainy seasons and lock up agricultural produce, leading to high post harvest losses.

The district has only one hospital located at the district capital, Jacobu and 7 clinics located at Tweapease, Mile 14, Numereso, Abuakwa, Fenaso, Hia No.1 and Atobiase. There are 5 Community Health-based Planning Service (CHPS compounds) which complement the services of the hospital. Access to health services is low within the district.

The District also has 84 Pre-school, 79 Primary schools, 34 Junior High Schools and one Senior High School. Accessibility to the Senior High School is very limited due to the absence of boarding facilities in the School. Most parents are unable to assess boarding facilities for their wards due to poverty.

Inadequacy of basic infrastructure in the district contributes to poverty. Basic community services like education, water supply, sanitation, health facilities, good roads and opportunities for personnel advancement make poverty manifest itself district wide.



AMANSIE CENTRAL DISTRICT



4.2 Research Methodology

4.2.1 Research Design

The research methodology used for the study is a case study. According to Kumekpor (2002) a case study is a systematic way of in-depth collection of information or investigating the circumstances of a person, a group, a community, an institution or an incident.

According to Nachmias C.F. (1992) case study is very useful in investigating a contemporary phenomenon and that source of the study should be on real life situation.

The case study adopts an exploratory method which makes it easy to ask and seek answers for the necessary 'how', 'when' and 'why' questions associated with the research. According to David and Sutton, (2004) the intimacy of fieldwork relationships associated with case studies can be the greatest advantage

A cross-sectional research design was used to determine the role of MMDAs in poverty alleviation. To satisfy the principles of cross-sectional designs, all the seven Area Council centres such as Numereso, Tweapease, Hia, Mile 14, Fiankoma, Jacobu and Afoako of the district were selected for the study. The researcher employed field study to gather the necessary data and the data were analyzed.

4.2.2 Population of the Research

This looks at all the categories and the total number of people for the study. The categories of people considered in the study are politicians, policy makers and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), NGOs management members of the Assembly such as

DCE and other Heads of Decentralised Departments, small and medium scale enterprise operators, farmers, traders, artisans etc. However, the total population for each category could not be captured by the survey due to busy schedule of some of them and difficulty of determining the actual population size of some categories and hence sampling was used.

4.2.3 Sampling Methods

The researcher adopted judgmental sampling technique because the procedure does not provide any basis for estimating actual number that each segment of the population possesses to be included in the sample. Then again the population was not homogeneous.

Judgmental sampling method was used to select respondents from politicians, policy makers, Civil Society Organisations, management of the Assembly consisting of the District Chiefs Executive (DCE), District Coordinating Director (DCD) and Heads of Departments, Presiding Member and other Assembly members.

The selection of sample size and respondent is based on the researcher's judgment and experience. It is also directly related to the development of the district, poverty reduction and issues on decentralisation. In the researcher's view, respondents selected through judgmental sampling was representative of the population.

Judgmental sampling would also be used for the collection of information from farmers, traders, artisans and Small and Medium Scale Enterprise (SME) operators in the district. Indeed the respondents were selected at the convenience of the researcher.

4.2.4 Data Sources

Both primary and secondary source were used to collect data for the study. The field survey was such that questionnaires were administered to communities judgmentally for the study. Secondary data were sourced from the Amansie Central District Assembly, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Reports, Journals, Bulletins, Law Reports and other library books.

4.2.5 Classification of Respondents and Sample size

Judgmental sampling method was used to select respondents and sample size. In all a total of 130 respondents were selected for administration of questionnaires.

Eighty-two (82) of the respondents were individual community members consisting of farmers, traders, artisans, chiefs and opinion leaders who expressed their views on the roles of Assembly in poverty alleviation. Twelve (12) of the respondents were management staff and heads of decentralised departments .Twenty- six (26) respondents from the CSOs including NGOs and 10 Assembly members who are engaged in poverty alleviation programmes gave their responses.

Table 2 shows categories of respondents and the sample size.

Table 2: Classes of Respondents and Sample size

Category of Respondents	Number Selected
CSOs including NGOs	26
Assembly Members	10
Management Staff of District Assembly and Heads of Decentralised Department	12
Community members	82
Total	130

Source: Author's Field Survey April, (2011)

4.2.6 The Research Instrument

The research was conducted using questionnaires, observations and discussions as research instruments.

Two sets of structured questionnaires were prepared in the form of close and open-ended questions. The first set of questionnaires was administered to community members and Assembly members. The second set of questionnaires was also administered to Management of the District Assembly and CSOs including NGOs operating in the District. The first set of questionnaires was divided into six parts covering demographic characteristics and other variables:

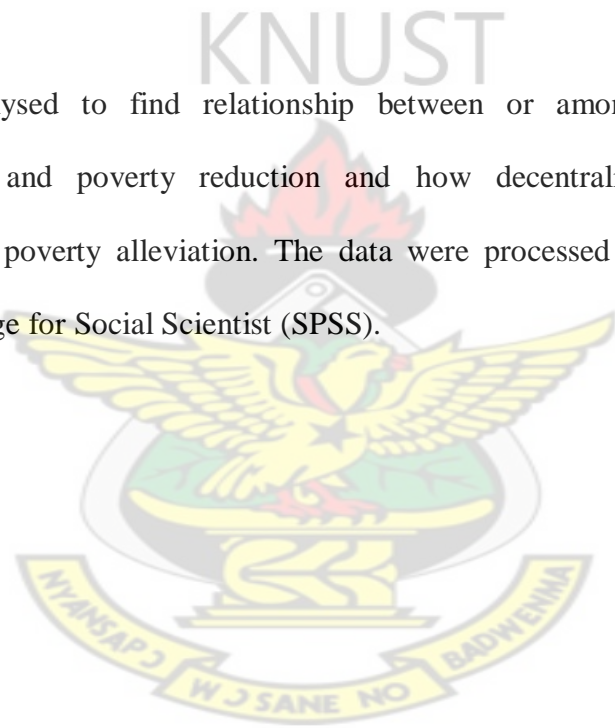
- i. personal data with respect to age, gender and education, etc.
- ii. occupation and income of respondents
- iii. District Assembly support to poverty alleviation

- iv. infrastructural development in the District
- v. causes and effects of poverty
- vi. strategies to alleviate poverty in the district.

4.3 Data Processing and Analysis

Frequency distributions, pie and bar charts tables and figures were used to highlight the socio-demographic characteristics and responses of the respondents.

Data were analysed to find relationship between or among variables especially decentralisation and poverty reduction and how decentralization makes positive contributions to poverty alleviation. The data were processed and analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Scientist (SPSS).



CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

6.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the analysis of data collected. The data are presented on frequency tables, bar and pie charts before making analysis and interpretations. The chapter deals with background information of the respondents and subject matter of the study.

The issues presented and analysed include income and occupation of the respondents, issues of poverty to poverty alleviation, causes of poverty, effects of poverty, strategies adopted by the Assembly to alleviate poverty and challenges confronting the Assembly in alleviating poverty in the study area.

6.1 Background Information about Respondents

It is important to understand the background of the individuals whom the questionnaires were administered to and interviewed during the field survey. This helped to build a relation between their personality and responses such that appropriate inferences are made in the data analysis.

Two different types of questionnaires were designed for the purpose of the study. One of the questionnaires was designed for the individual community members and the Assembly members whilst the other one was administered to the CSOs including NGOs and management staff.

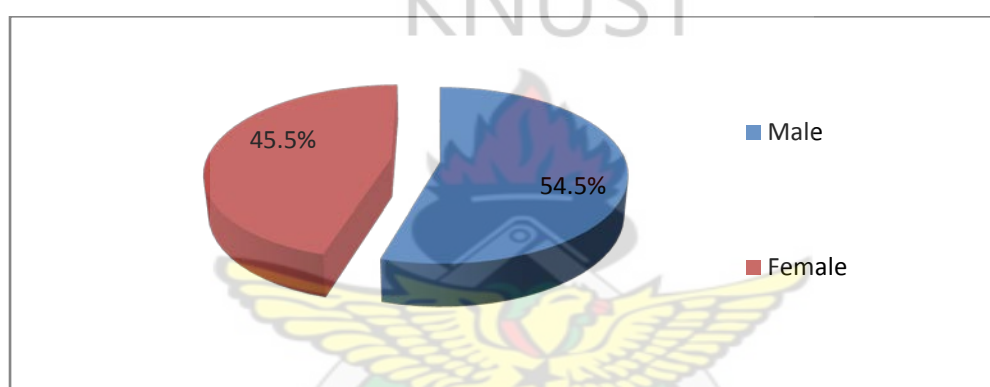
In all, a total of 130 questionnaires were administered but 125 were returned. Of the number returned, 5 of them were rejected by the researcher remaining 120 which represented 92.3 percent. In all 80 Community members, 9 Assembly members, 11

management staff and heads of decentralised department and 20 CSOs including NGOs provided responses that were useful to the study.

6.1.1 Sex Distribution of Respondents

Figure 4 presents the sex distribution of the respondents which shows that males form 54.4 percent whilst females constitute 45.5 percent of the sampled population. This shows that male population of the respondents in the study out numbers that of the females.

Figure 4: Sex Distribution of respondents



Source: Author's Field Survey, April, 2010

4.1.3 Age Distribution of Respondents

The respondents sampled were people above 18 years. Respondents within the ages of 18 to 24 forms 11 percent and those aged 25 to 34 represent 18 percent of the sampled population. Forty two (42) percent of the respondents also fell within the ages of 35 to 44. Respondents within the ages of 45 to 54 and above 55 were 22 percent and 7 percent respectively. It could therefore be said that majority of the respondents are in the economic active age group and have high knowledge of poverty and its implications. Table 3 below shows the age classification of the respondents.

Table 3: Age Distribution of Respondents

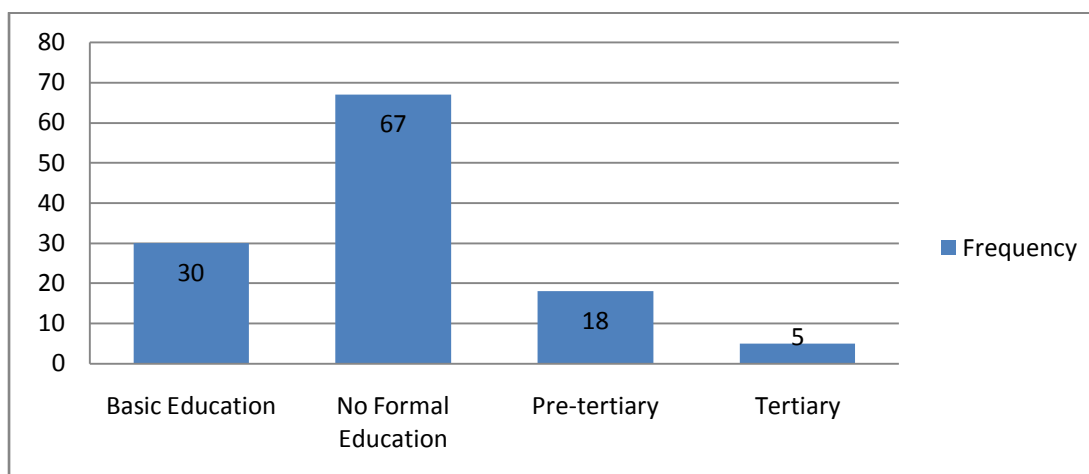
Age	Frequency	Percent (%)
18-24	13	11.0
25-34	22	18.0
35-44	50	42.0
45-54	26	22.0
55+	8	7.0
Total	120	100.0

Source: Author's Field Survey, April 2011

4.15.3 Educational Level

The survey showed different patterns of educational status in the district. Most of the respondents are basic school leavers. As many as sixty-seven (67) of the respondents have never received formal education, 18 of them have education up to the Senior High School or Vocational level and 5 of the respondents have also completed various tertiary institutions and 30 have received basic education. It can be seen that the aggregate number of respondents with at least basic education is lower than those with no education. The number of respondents with no formal educational background can partly explain the high level of unemployment and poverty in the District.

Figure 5: Educational Level of Respondents



Source: Author's Field Survey, April, 2010

4.15.4 Occupation and Income

The research sought to find the occupation and income levels of respondents knowing the results will be representative of the entire population of the district.

Table 4: Occupations and Average Income of Respondents

Respondents	Number of respondents	Percent (%)	Annual income GH¢
Farmers	85	70.8	200 - 400
Traders	6	5	400 – 500
Artisans	8	6.6	500 - 600
Public servants/ Administrators	13	11	700 - 1,200
Self-employed business persons	5	4.1	600 - 700
Local Politicians and consultants	3	2.5	600 – 1,200
Total	120	100	

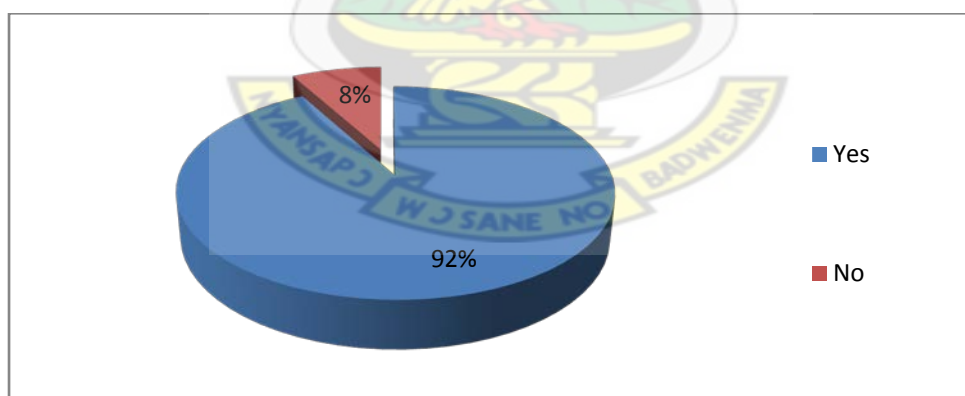
Source: Authors Field Survey, 2011

Table 4 shows that about 82.4 percent of respondents are small-scale self-employed people in farming, trading, commerce and other petty vocations. Such people earn as low as between GH¢ 200.00 and GH¢600.00 per annum. About 11 percent are public servants such as teachers, nurses, agricultural extension officers and employees at the District Assembly and its decentralised departments. Such employees earn between GH¢700.00 and GH¢1,200.00. Also, (4.1) percent of the people are self-employed business persons who earn between GH¢ 600.00 and GH¢700.00. Lastly 2.5 percent constitute local politicians and consultants who also earn between GH¢600.00 and 1,200.

4.16 Existence of Poverty in the District and its Symptoms

Figure 6 shows the views of respondents on whether poverty exists in the District or not.

Figure 6: Existence of Poverty in the District



Source: Field Survey April, 2011.

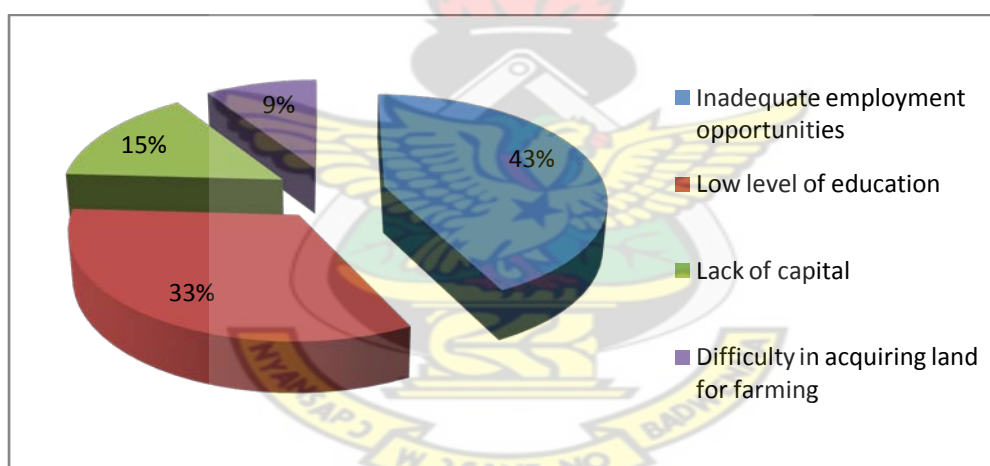
As many as 92 percent of the respondents said poverty exists in the district, however, 8 percent of the people responded otherwise. The 92 percent of respondents who

indicated that poverty exist in the district went further to give the following as symptoms of poverty in the district:

- i. cannot afford two meals a day;
- ii. cannot pay children's school fees and other family expenses;
- iii. live in over-crowded households;
- iv. earn between GH¢200.00 and GH¢600.00 per annum;
- v. have quite low standard of living;

Forty (40) percent of these respondents cited unemployment as the major cause of poverty. The number of people who are unemployed gave the following reasons as shown in figure 7 for their statuses.

Figure 7: Reasons why People are Unemployed



Source: Authors Field Survey, April 2011

From Figure 7, as many as 43 percent of the respondents attribute the reasons for their unemployment to lack of employment opportunities and 33 percent stated low level of education. Respondents said people who said lack of capital and difficulty in acquiring land for farming form about 15 percent and 9 percent respectively. The reasons given by the respondents indicate that majority of them wanted employment

provided by the Assembly or corporate bodies to relieve them of their present poverty predicaments.

4.17 Reasons why People in the District are Poor

According to the respondents, 40 percent of the people are poor due to unemployment. This is followed by 21 percent who said the people are poor because they are under employed whilst 10 percent are poor as a result of the large family sizes. Lack of financial support for investment and unreliable income accounted for 15 percent and 10 percent respectively of the reasons why people are poor. However, people's unwillingness to find gainful employment account for 4 percent. This means that such people have chosen to be poor. Table 5 below shows the respondents view on why people in the district are poor.

Table 5: Reasons why People in the District are Poor

Responses	Frequency	Percent
People having large families	12	10
Unemployment	48	40
Under employment	25	21
Income is unreliable	12	10
Lack of financial support for investment	18	15
Unwillingness to work	5	4
Total	120	100

Source: Authors Field Survey, April 2011

4.18 Respondents view on how People Earn a Living in the District.

From table 6, four reasons were assigned by the respondents to explain how the people in the District earn a living. They are as follows:

- a. those who are employed as salary workers accounts for 5 percent;
- b. those engage in petty trading accounts for 10 percent;
- c. those who operate a small to medium farm accounts for 77 percent; and
- d. those engaged as artisans account for 8 percent.

Table 6: How People Earn a Living in the District

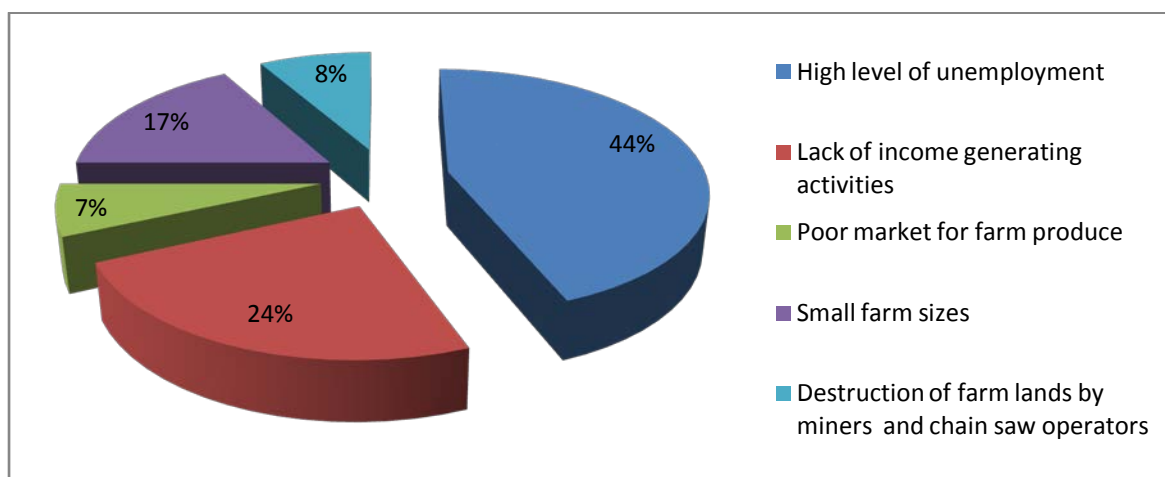
Responses	Frequency	Percent (%)
Employed as a salary worker	6	5
Engages in petty trading	12	10
Operate a small to medium farm	92	77
Engage as an artisan	10	8
Total	120	100

Source: Authors Field Survey, April 2011

4.19 Poverty Status of People in the District

As to the question if the local people consider the district to be poor, 75 percent of the respondents gave an affirmative answer indicating that the district is poor and deprived whilst the remaining 25 percent answered otherwise. Figure 8 below indicates the reasons given by the respondents as to why the district is poor.

Figure 8: Reasons why the District is Poor



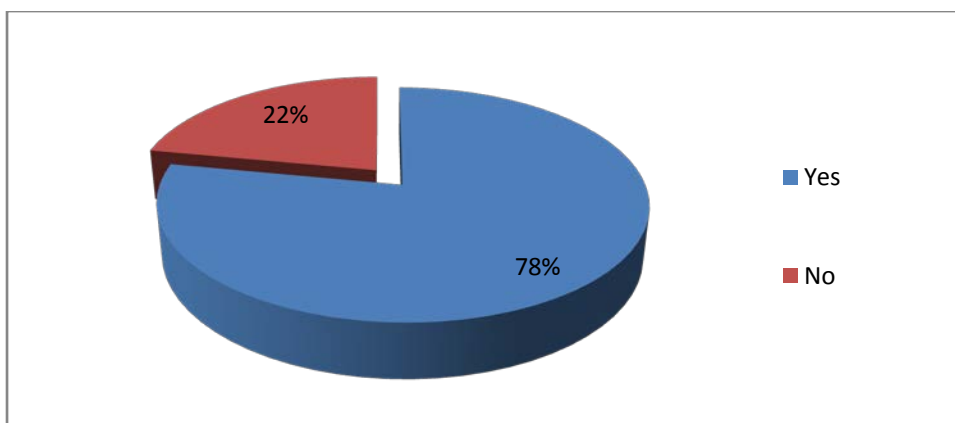
Source: Authors Field Survey, April 2011

Of the reasons assigned, 53 respondents representing 44 percent stated that there is a high level of unemployment and 29 (24 percent) of them said there is lack of income generating activities. Those respondents who said poor market for farm produce and the destruction of farm lands by small scale miners and chain saw operators represent 8 percent and 7 percent respectively. Seventeen (17) percent of respondents attributed the reasons why the district is poor to small farm sizes, low output and less income. The respondents emphasized that unemployment is the major cause of poverty in the district.

4.20 Financial assistance

As to whether Assembly provides financial support to traders, farmers and other small scale business persons, the responses are shown in the pie graph below:

Figure 9: Respondents view on Financial Assistance by the Assembly



Source: Authors Field Survey, April 2011

From figure 9, as many as 94 (78 percent) of the respondents answered in affirmative whilst the remaining 24 (22 percent) answered otherwise. According to the respondents who responded in affirmative, the financial assistance given by the Assembly is not enough and does not come regularly.

Table 7 below depicts beneficiaries of loans released to various individuals and groups in the District to alleviate poverty. The beneficiaries include traders, farmers, artisans and other business persons with their respective allocations. According to the respondents each beneficiary got between GH¢100.00 and GH¢500.00. They went further to say that 100 people benefited from the macro-credit and small scale loan scheme.

The study identified that 59 percent of respondents indicated that assistance is sometimes given to individuals in the community to expand their businesses, farms and skills training. The remaining 41 percent also said the loans were given to groups who were about to enter into income generating ventures.

Table 7: Financial Support given to the Individuals and Groups by the Assembly

Respondents	Amount GH¢
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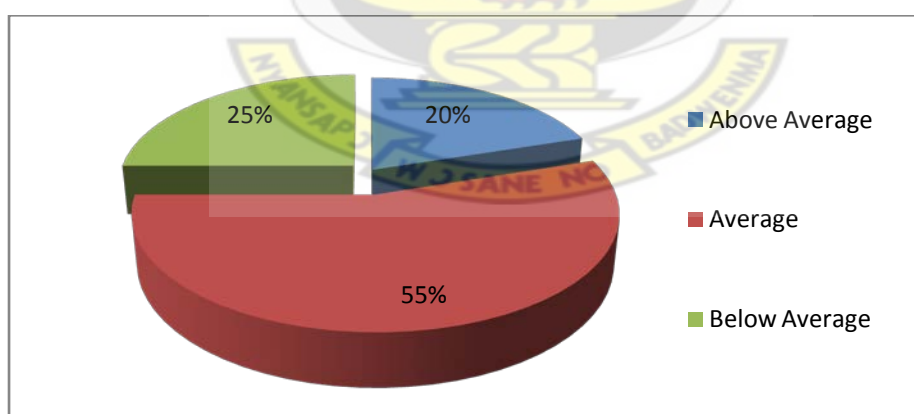
Traders	1,000 00
Farmer	1,500.00
Artisans	750.00
Other business persons	1,150.00
Total	4,400.00

Source: Authors Field Survey, April 2011

4.21 Provision of Infrastructural Projects

The study sought to find the Assembly's performance in the provision of infrastructure for the communities as an effort to improve physical development of the district and therefore alleviate poverty. Responses of respondents describing the performance are shown in figure 10.

Figure 10: Respondents' view on the Assembly's Performance on Provision of Infrastructural Project.



Source: Authors Field Survey, April 2011

In response, 55 percent of respondents said the Assembly has put up average performance in the provision of physical infrastructure for development whilst 25 percent are saying the Assembly has done below average in providing infrastructure.

Twenty (20) percent also said the Assembly's performance in the provision of infrastructure is above average. The study revealed that majority of the respondents acknowledges that the Assembly has done well in infrastructural projects which will go a long way to alleviate poverty. They however, indicated that the Assembly should concentrate on poverty alleviation programmes which will help them to generate more income to enable them meet individual and group daily expenses. Table 8 shows the infrastructural projects provided by the Assembly to various communities as indicated by the respondents.

Table 8: Infrastructural Projects Provided by the Assembly

Communities	Public Toilet facility	Market facility	Classroom blocks	Boreholes/Small town water system	Health facility	Electricity
Afoako	-	1	3	6	1	1
Fiankoma	1	1	2	5	-	1
Mile 14	-	1	2	6	1	1
Tweapease	1	-	2	7	1	1
Hia	-	-	2	5	-	1
Numereso	-	1	1	6	1	1
Jacobi	5	1	4	1	1	1

Source: Authors Field Survey, April 2011

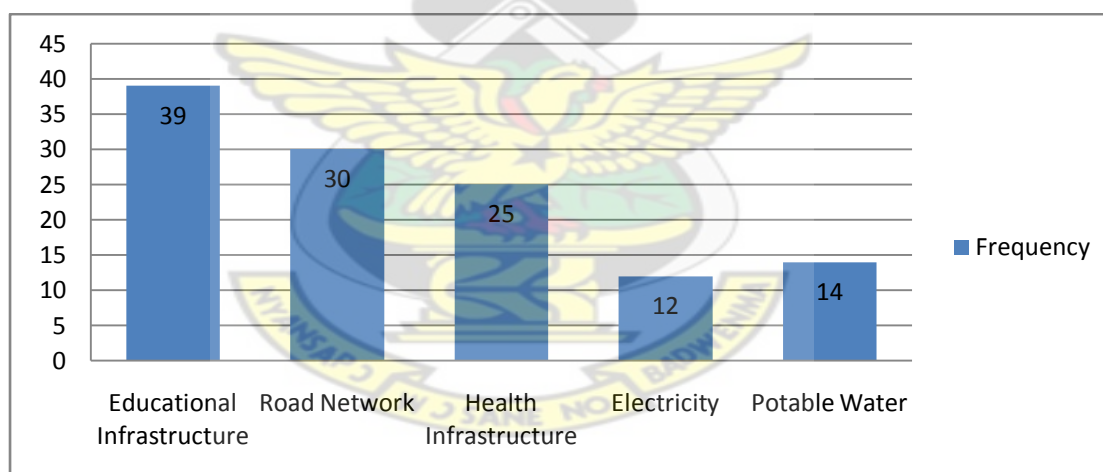
According to the respondents all the 7 communities selected have at least classroom blocks, boreholes and electricity provided by the Assembly and Central Government. They however, stated that only 3 out of the seven communities have public toilet, 5 of the seven communities have small market structures and 5 out of the seven have a

facility of any kind. The respondents went further to say that, the seven communities have majority of these facilities because they are Area Council capitals and to them the situation is different at the smaller communities.

4.22 Infrastructure Projects and Poverty Alleviation

This section seeks to elicit the respondents' views on whether infrastructure alleviates poverty. The study identified that 81 percent of the respondents agrees that provision of infrastructure alleviates poverty whilst 19 percent also stated that provision of infrastructure alone does not alleviate poverty. They rather stated that job creation and skills training must be accompanied with infrastructural development in order to alleviate poverty.

Figure 11: How various Infrastructural Projects Alleviate Poverty



Source: Authors Field Survey, April 2011

According to the majority of the respondents' provision of infrastructure leads to poverty alleviation through the following:

- i. provision of educational infrastructure increases enrolment, improves results and reduces illiteracy;

- ii. construction of roads improves road network, boosts transportation and marketing as well as reduce post harvest losses;
- iii. improvement of health infrastructure like hospitals, clinics, CHPS compounds and hospital equipment improve health status of the people;
- iv. provision of electricity leads to the establishment of agro-based industry and other small-scale industries;
- v. provision of potable water and sanitation equipment which provides good and healthy drinking water and reduces water borne diseases.

4.23 How the People can Overcome Poverty

To overcome poverty, respondents mentioned what people can do themselves to alleviate poverty in their homes and communities as indicated in table 9 below.

Thirty percent (30%) of respondents said people in the district can alleviate poverty among themselves and their families by creating or finding jobs for themselves rather than looking upon the central government or the Assembly for non- existing jobs, 11% said people should be able to access bank credits or credits from friends and other family members. Nineteen (19%) said that farmers in particular should be able to increase their farm sizes, devote more of their time in improving their farms so as to increase their production levels. The reason being that increase in farm sizes and production levels will enable them to increase their income, have money for money for saving and for further investment.

Eighteen (18) percent said parents should avoid unnecessary expenditures at functions such as funerals, weddings and engagements. They should channel such expenses into

improvement of their children's education so as to improve their literacy levels for better future jobs, 12 percent on the other hand mentioned skills training and capacity building for artisans and others in various vocations as well as school drop-outs and the unemployed. Ten (10) percent said that people should enter into small scale agro-processing since that sector has not been explored.

Table 9: Respondents Views on How People Themselves Can Alleviate Poverty

Responses	Frequency	Percent (%)
Create individual jobs	36	30
Access personal credits from banks and other friends	13	11
Increase farm sizes and produce	23	19
Acquire employable skills	14	12
Engage in agro-processing	12	10
Improve literacy rates and levels	22	18
Total	120	100

Source: Authors Field Survey, April 2011

Table 10 shows what the people themselves are doing presently to alleviate poverty in the district.

Table 10: What the People are doing to Alleviate Poverty

Responses	Frequency	Percent (%)
Mining and chain saw operations	14	12
Sand winning	2	2
Engage in peasant farming and agriculture-based	85	71
Petty trading	6	5

Palm oil extraction	5	4
Vocational Skills and other Menial Jobs	8	6
Total	120	100

Source: Field Survey April, 2011.

For the people in the district to be free from poverty and lead independent lives and be able to care for themselves and their families, respondents stated the following; From table 10 as many as 71 percent said people are engaged in peasant farming. Twelve (12) percent of the respondents said the people are operating in illegal mining and chain saw activities to overcome poverty, 6 percent mentioned vocational skills and its associated occupations. According to the responses, 5 percent said the people are into petty trading, 4 percent mentioned palm oil extraction, and as low as 2 percent of the people are into sand winning for their survival. The respondents indicated that even though some of these activities have adverse effect on the environment and the future generation at least they will provide them some income for a living.

4.24 Effects of Poverty on the People in the District

The effects of poverty as identified by the respondents are shown in table 11 below. Forty two (42) percent of the respondents indicated that low standard of living is the major effect of poverty. This is followed by 25 percent of the people engaging in illegal mining and chain-saw operation. The rest of the effects mentioned by respondents are rural-urban drift or out migration which accounts for 12 percent, high school dropout accounting for 11 percent and child labour in cocoa growing areas

accounting for 10 percent. According to the respondents none of the effects of poverty is beneficial to human development

Table 11: Effects of Poverty in the District

Responses	Frequency	Percent (%)
Low standard of living	50	42
High school drop	13	11
Armed robbery and prostitution	30	25
Rural- urban drift- out migration	14	12
Child labour in cocoa growing areas	12	10
Total	120	100

Source: Field Survey April, 2011.

4.25 What other Key Stakeholders are Doing to Alleviate Poverty

In responding to what other key stakeholders such as NGOs, churches and traditional authorities are doing to alleviate poverty in the district, the following responses were given by the respondents;

- i. provision of school uniform, exercise books and bicycles to school pupils;
- ii. support people with disability;
- iii. sensitization and campaign on HIV/AIDS and support to people living with HIV/AIDS;
- iv. mass cocoa spraying and supply of subsidized farm inputs;
- v. provision of boreholes and institutional Latrines in the rural communities.

4.26 Strategies to Reduce Poverty by the Assembly

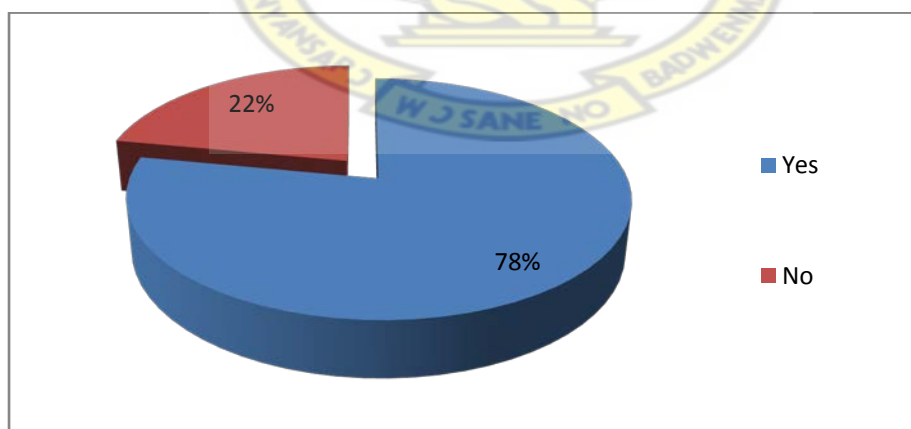
As to the strategies that should be adopted by the Assembly and other stakeholders to alleviate poverty in the District, respondents gave the following responses:

1. scholarships awarded to needy but brilliant children should be expanded;
2. female schoolchildren from very poor homes should be given financial assistance;
3. farm inputs should be supplied at subsidized prices to the farmers.
4. cocoa mass spraying excise should be continued so as to provide employment to many people in the district;
5. in collaboration with NGOs children in cocoa growing communities should be supplied with school uniforms, bags and exercise books.

4.27 The Hope of the People in Alleviating Poverty in the District

As to whether there is hope that poverty can be alleviated or reduced, views of the respondents are shown in the figure 12 below.

Figure 12: Can poverty be alleviated



Source: Field Survey April, 2011.

According to the survey 78 percent of the people said poverty can be reduced if not alleviated. For them the future is promising considering various social interventions from the central government and the Assembly which will bring about job creation. However, the remaining 22 percent said poverty cannot be alleviated in the district because not everybody benefits from the central government social interventions. They went further to say that there is low educational level and limited access to economic resources such as capital and land.

4.28 Constraints to Poverty Alleviation in the District

In responding to the constraints to poverty alleviation in the district, the views of respondents are listed in table 12.

Table 12: Constraints to Poverty Alleviation in the District

Responses	Frequency	Percent (%)
Unemployment and under-employment	31	26
Low income generation	26	22
Assembly's inability to impose and collect revenue due to poverty in the district	22	18
High population growth rate	10	8
Unreliable and inadequate microcredit finance for local investment	14	12
Low human resource capital due to low level of education	11	9

High level of politicisation of poverty and development issues	6	5
Total	120	100

Source: Field Survey April, 2011.

From table 12, 26 percent of the respondents indicated that unemployment and under employment are the major challenges in poverty alleviation. Twenty-two (22) percent of the respondents stated low income generation whilst 18 percent also mentioned the Assembly's inability to impose and collect revenue due to poverty in the district, 8 percent said high population growth, 12 percent indicated unreliable and inadequate microcredit finance for local investments, 9 percent also said low human resource capital due to low level of education and as low as 5 percent also said high level politicisation of poverty and development issues.

4.29 Linkage Between Decentralisation and Poverty Alleviation

As to whether decentralisation has link to poverty alleviation, the following are the views of the respondents.

Ninety five (95) percent of the people said decentralisation has positive relationship to poverty alleviation whilst 5 percent said decentralisation does not have link to poverty reduction. According to the respondents who said decentralisation has positive link to poverty alleviation, the following are their reasons;

- i. poverty alleviation reflects on local needs;
- ii. transfer of financial resource to the local poor;
- iii. investing in poverty-reduction programmes through local government units.

CHAPTER FIVE

FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.0 Introduction

The chapter presents the summary of the main findings obtained from the data collected in relation to the objectives and the research questions of the study as well as conclusion. It provides the appropriate recommendations to address these constraints of poverty alleviation.

7.1 Summary of Findings

The research having looked at the literature, data presentation and analysis as well as the study on the role of Amansie Central District Assembly with regards to poverty alleviation, the following are the findings of the roles of the Assembly in poverty alleviation:

5.1.1 Existence of poverty and poverty reduction strategies

The research has revealed that the people in the District have adequate understanding of poverty and are very convinced that it can be alleviated mainly through job creation. The respondents showed enough knowledge about poverty by distinguishing between communal and individual poverty.

The study indicated that the District Assembly, through effective planning can help alleviate poverty in the rural areas as it obtains financial resources from the District Assembly Common Fund to meet most of its obligations. However, the people are

expecting the Assembly to facilitate the creation of employment, instead of being pre-occupied with the provision of social infrastructures with greater part of its resources.

The research has revealed that the people wanted programmes that target job creation on sustainable basis to enable them come out of their poverty besides infrastructure provision. This means that provision of infrastructure and creation of employment must be intensified in order to alleviate poverty.

The study also revealed that decentralization has not been able to alleviate poverty in the district as intended by the local Government Act, Act 462 (2003).

In order to reduce poverty and transform the social lives of the people, social and economic infrastructures have been provided district wide by the Assembly; these are school blocks, market stores, clinics, reshaping of roads, and boreholes.

It has also been revealed that the Assembly's poverty alleviation programmes have not brought about major significant improvement in the social and economic wellbeing of the rural poor because 75% of the respondents indicated that the Assembly is not doing enough to alleviate poverty in the district because it has not created the needed jobs.

It has been revealed that the Assembly has given scholarships to needy but brilliant students; in collaboration with CWSA the Assembly has trained Latrine Artisans and Area Mechanics to equip them with tools to work within the district to earn an income; small scale mining operators have been registered and permits have been

given to them so as to encourage some of the youth who have been employed in that sector.

5.1.2 Overdependence on DACF and low IGF

The study has revealed that the Assembly does not generate enough revenue.

For the little Internally Generated Fund (IGF) that are generated, greater part goes into recurrent expenditure rather than capital and investment expenditure and the Assembly depends mostly on DACF for capital expenditure.

The DACF inflows are not adequate to meet capital expenditure needs of the district or provide financial support for alleviation of poverty. Apart from the DACF being woefully inadequate, the DACF inflows cannot be predicted and therefore cannot be used to alleviate poverty. The CSOs such as traditional authorities, churches, benevolent societies are not playing any significant role in poverty alleviation.

The research has shown that there are some difficulties in the application and recovery of loans therefore the Assembly found it difficult to provide financial resource to small scale business operators.

5.1.3 Participation at the District Level

On decentralization, the study has shown that there is low participation by the people in decision-making at the district level. This occurs in project initiation, planning, designs and budgeting.

The research has revealed that the educational levels of the people are low; thus, according to the study 56 percent of the people are illiterates and 44 percent have

acquired education above the basic level and this actually has negative effect on their capacity to find jobs, earn incomes and participate in decision making at local level.

It has been revealed that poverty reduction programmes implemented by the Assembly are mainly central government programmes based on the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy GPRS I & II document. These include NYEP, school feeding, free exercise books, free uniform, capitation grant, mass cocoa spraying, National Health Insurance Scheme. However, programmes executed by the Assembly in collaboration with development partners such as Community-Based Rural Development Project (CBRDP), Rural Water Supply Programme (RWSP IV), Centre for the Development of People (CEDEP) and other NGOs is making frantic attempts to alleviate poverty among the people.

7.2 Conclusion

Based on the above findings, the following conclusions are drawn; employment opportunities can be created at the local levels in order to get the unemployed youth and adults within their localities. The plans and the budget of the district Assembly are geared towards pro-poor programmes and are initiated and implemented by the people and the Assembly. In fighting poverty, the Assembly secures the collaborative effort of public and private partnership including CSOs, development partners and other relevant stakeholders in an effort to alleviate poverty;

The linkage between decentralisation and poverty reduction dwells on identifying sectors where people can invest in order to create employment, improve economic and social infrastructure and at the sometime meet the needs of the poor thereby improving their standard of living. Some of the poverty reduction policies and programmes must transfer money or material to the poor and the vulnerable.

There are high hopes among the people and the Assembly that poverty in the District can at least be reduced by about 40% of its current level. This premised on the fact that the Assembly will generate more IGFs and increase its expenditure on capital projects rather than recurrent items.

7.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations have been made to guide the policy makers, District Assembly and other stakeholders at the local level of governance to implement effective and efficient strategies to alleviation poverty;

5.3.1 Recommendations to District Assemblies and other stakeholders

Since it is accepted that poverty is endemic in the District, effort must be made by the management of the Assembly to generate enough revenue for poverty alleviation.

Poverty requires multi-dimensional approach and the Assembly has to design development plans that will bring all stakeholders on board in poverty alleviation.

Since the Assembly has problem of limited internally generated fund due to its deprived nature, innovative ways of mobilizing more internally generated funds should be adopted to reduce poverty.

The Assembly should increase human capacity development especially in skills training and entrepreneurship.

The Assembly should use Local Economic Development (LED) programme to provide financial support to medium and small scale businesses in manufacturing, mining and food processing.

The Assembly should make it a point to create enabling economic environment for the farmers, traders and the unemployed to access credits from the rural banks and other financial institutions; It should provide collateral security guarantees to groups and individuals engaged economic activities.

There should be a change from the over concentration of provision of infrastructure to the provision of small scale machines and equipment to carpenters, masons, artisans and many others to enable them increase their productivity and income.

5.3.2 Recommendations to individual family members in the communities

Family sizes should be reduced; people should maintain family sizes of about four which their income can support. They must also cut down unnecessary expenditures on funerals and birthday parties.

People must find jobs wherever be the case which can earn them economic income; indeed poverty is not natural phenomenon therefore people must be able to find jobs for themselves to earn more money and contribute to IGFs of the Assembly to enable it develop the district.



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APPENDIX I

THE ROLE OF MMDAs IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

(A CASE STUDY OF THE AMANSIE CENTRAL DISTRICT ASSEMBLY)

This questionnaire is to enable me collect necessary information to complete my research on the above topic. All information provided in this study will be treated as confidential and your anonymity is assured.

Community Members and Assembly Members

A. PERSONAL DATA

1. Gender (a) Male [] (b) Female []
2. Age (a) 18-24 [] (b) 25-34 [] (c) 35-44 [] (d) 45-54 [] (e) 55+ []
3. Educational level (a) No formal education [] (b) Basic [] (c) Pre-Tertiary [] (d) Tertiary []
4. Family size (a) 1-3 [] (b) 2-4 [] (c) 7-10 [] (d) 10+ []

B. OCCUPATION AND INCOME

5. Are you employed (a) Yes [] (b) No []
6. If No, then why?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
7. If Yes what work do you do?
.....
8. Do you earn any income? (a) Yes [] (b) No []
9. If you earn an income, state the range?.....
10. Does poverty exist in the district? (a) Yes [] (b) No []
11. If Yes, what are the symptoms?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
12. What are the causes of poverty in this district?

- i.
-
- ii.
-
- iii.
-

13. What are the effects of poverty in this district?

- i.
-
- ii.
-
- iii.
-

14. What are the people in the district doing to alleviate poverty?

- i.
-
- ii.
-
- iii.
-

15. What are the key stakeholders such as NGOs, churches doing to alleviate poverty in the district?

- i.
-
- ii.
-
- iii.
-

16. What is the Assembly doing to alleviate poverty?

- i.
-
- ii.
-

iii.

.....

17. In your view can poverty be alleviated or reduced? (a) Yes [] (b) No []

18. What are the constraints of alleviating poverty in the district by the key stakeholders?

i.

.....

ii.

.....

iii.

.....

KNUST

C. DISTRICT ASSEMBLY SUPPORT

19. Do the poor in your community receive any financial or other assistance?

(a) Yes [] (b) No []

20. If Yes state the form of financial assistance?

i.

ii.

iii.

21. Do you consider the Assembly financially supportive? (a) Yes [] (b) No []

22. If Yes, does the Assembly provide financial support to groups or individuals?

(a) Group [] (b) Individual []

D. INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE DISTRICT

23. Does the Assembly provide infrastructural projects in your community?

(a) Yes [] (b) No []

24. If Yes, how many projects have been provided?

(a) One [] (b) Two [] (c) Three [] (d) More than three []

25. Do you think infrastructural projects constitute development in your community?

(a) Yes [] (b) No []

26. Do you think infrastructural projects will alleviate poverty in your community?

(a) Yes [] (b) No []

27. If Yes, then how?

- i.
.....
- ii.
.....
- iii.
.....

28. Do you think the district is doing well in poverty reduction (a) Yes [] (b) No []

29. If No state the reasons?

- i.
.....
- ii.
.....
- iii.
.....

APPENDIX II

THE ROLE OF MMDAS IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

(A CASE STUDY OF THE AMANSIE CENTRAL DISTRICT ASSEMBLY)

This questionnaire is to enable me collect necessary information to complete my research on the above topic. All information provided in this study will be treated as confidential and your anonymity is assured.

District Assembly Management Staff, CSOs and NGOs

A. PERSONAL DATA

1. Gender (a) Male [] (b) Female []

2. Age (a) 18-24 [] (b) 25-34 [] (c) 35-44 [] (d) 45-54 [] (e) 55+ []

3. Educational level (a) No formal education [] (b) Basic [] (c) Pre-Tertiary [] (d) Tertiary []
4. Family size (a) 1-3 [] (b) 2-4 [] (c) 7-10 [] (d) 10+ []

B. OCCUPATION AND INCOME

5. Are you employed (a) Yes [] (b) No []
6. If No, why?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
7. If Yes, what work do you do?

.....
8. Do you earn any income? (a) Yes [] (b) No []
9. If you earn an income, state the range?
10. Does poverty exist in this district? (a) Yes [] (b) No []
11. If Yes, what are the symptoms?
 - i.
 - ...
 - ii.
 - iii.
12. What are the causes of poverty in this district?
 - i.
 - ...
 - ii.
 - ...
 - iii.
 - ..
13. What are the effects of poverty in this district?
 - i.
 - ...

- ii.
...
- iii.
.....

14. What are the people in the district doing to alleviate poverty?

- i.
...
- ii.
...
- iii.
.....

15. What is the Assembly doing to alleviate poverty?

- i.
...
- ii.
- iii.
.....

16. What are the other key stakeholders in the district doing to alleviate poverty in the district?

- i.
...
- ii.
...
- iii.
.....

17. What are the constraints of alleviating poverty in the district by the key stakeholders?

- i.
- ii.
...
- iii.
.....

18. Do you consider the Assembly financially supportive? (a) Yes [] (b) No []

19. If Yes, does the Assembly provide financial support to groups or individuals?

(a) Group [] (b) Individual []

C. INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE DISTRICT

20. Does the Assembly provide infrastructural projects?

(a) Yes [] (b) No []

21. If Yes, how many projects have been provided in the various communities?

(b) One [] (b) Two [] (c) Three [] (d) More than three []

22. Do you think infrastructural projects constitute development in the district?

(a) Yes [] (b) No []

23. Do you think infrastructural projects will alleviate poverty in the district?

(a) Yes [] (b) No []

24. If Yes, then how?

iv.

.....

v.

.....

vi.

.....

25. Do you think the district is doing well in poverty reduction (a) Yes [] (b) No []

26. If No why?

27. Does Decentralization have links with poverty reduction?

(a) Yes [] (b) No []

28. If Yes, state how?

i.

.....

ii.

.....

iii.

.....