

**THE IMPACT OF DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE ON RURAL POVERTY
REDUCTION: THE CASE OF NKORANZA NORTH DISTRICT**

KNUST

APPIAH PAUL CLINSTON

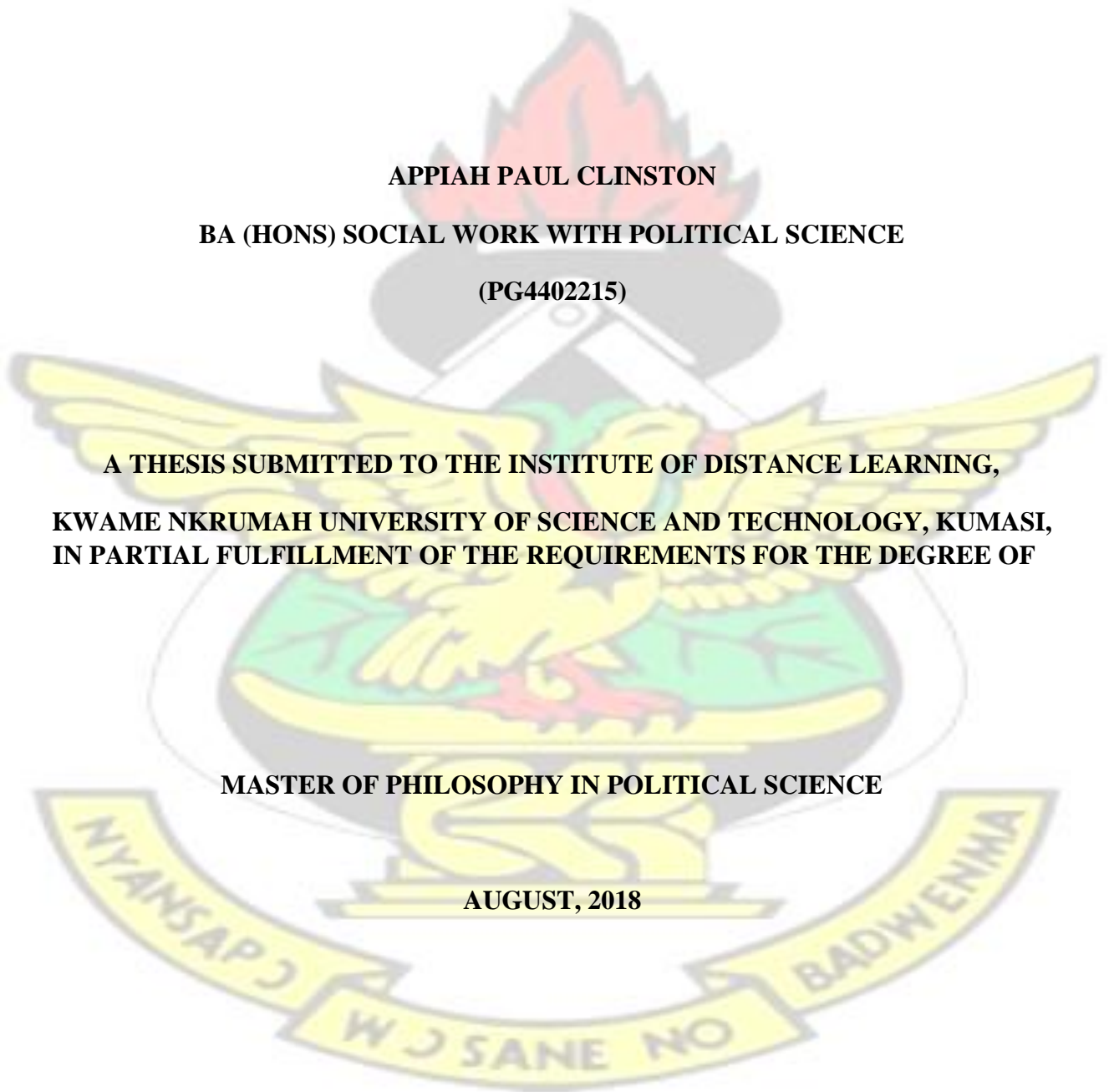
BA (HONS) SOCIAL WORK WITH POLITICAL SCIENCE

(PG4402215)

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE LEARNING,
KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI,
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF**

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

AUGUST, 2018



DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work towards the award of Master of Philosophy in Political Science, 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.

APPIAH PAUL CLINSTON (PG4402215)

STUDENT NAME (ID NUMBER) **SIGNATURE** **DATE**

SUPERVISOR

DR. EDWARD BRENYA

SIGNATURE **DATE**

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

DR. GEORGE M. BOB-MILLIAR

SIGNATURE **DATE**

DEDICATION

To Christiana Owusu Twumwaa and Joseph Appiah-Kumi.

KNUST

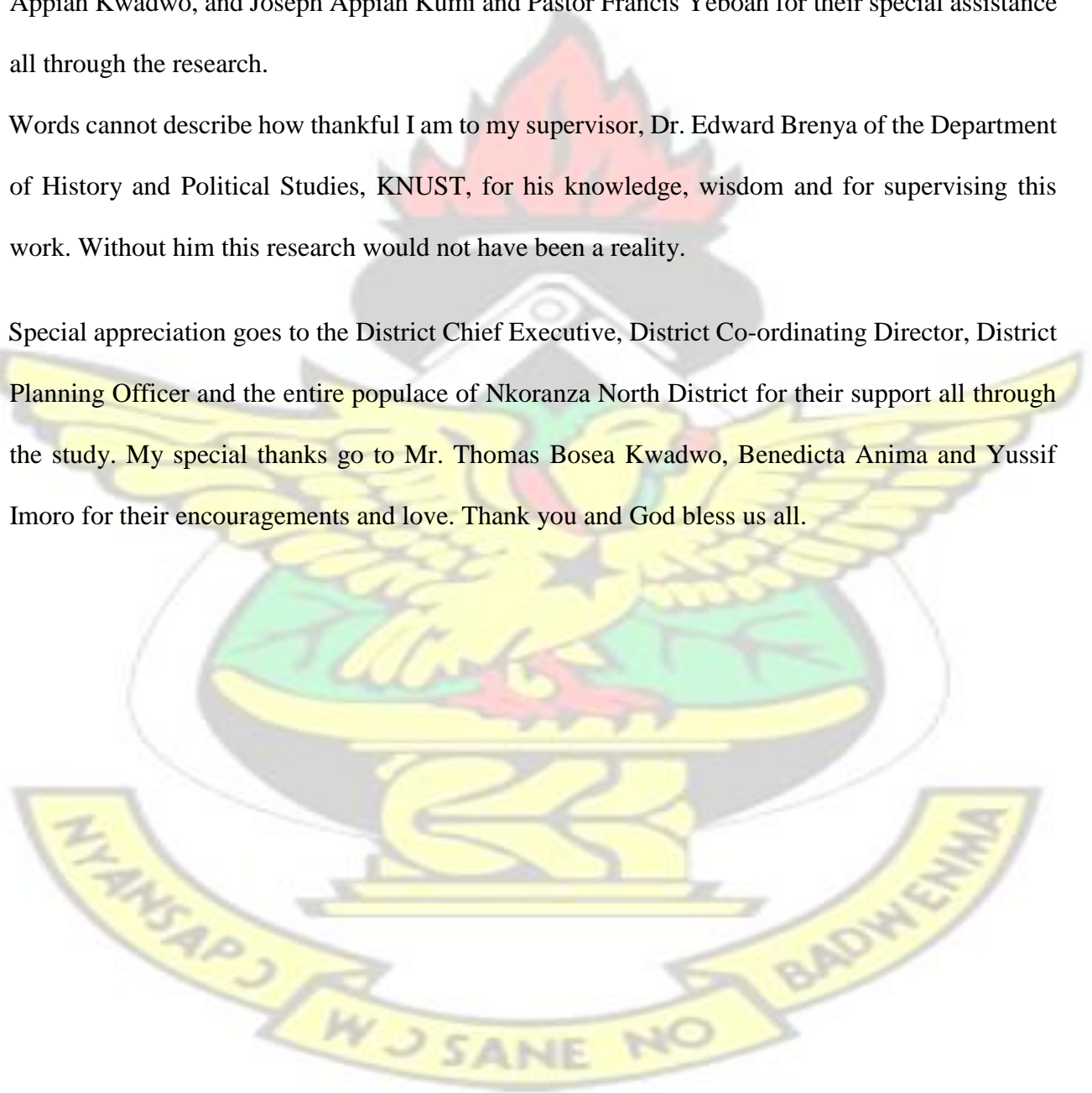


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I give glory to the Almighty God for bringing me this far and for His grace, mercy and His loving-kindness. I am also grateful to my dearest friend, Christiana Owusu Twumwaa, for her encouragement all through the research. My deepest appreciation goes to my brothers, Mr. Eric Appiah Kwadwo, and Joseph Appiah Kumi and Pastor Francis Yeboah for their special assistance all through the research.

Words cannot describe how thankful I am to my supervisor, Dr. Edward Brenya of the Department of History and Political Studies, KNUST, for his knowledge, wisdom and for supervising this work. Without him this research would not have been a reality.

Special appreciation goes to the District Chief Executive, District Co-ordinating Director, District Planning Officer and the entire populace of Nkoranza North District for their support all through the study. My special thanks go to Mr. Thomas Bosea Kwadwo, Benedicta Anima and Yussif Imoro for their encouragements and love. Thank you and God bless us all.



ABSTRACT

Poverty has been and may continue to be one of the main challenges to confront global civilization and continues to plague many developing countries around the globe. Poverty is the lack of capacity to do things, lack of power, exclusion, and deprivation of basic necessities of life such as food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, education, and good drinking water. Poverty is regarded as more predominant in rural areas than urban areas. Rural communities in Ghana including Nkoranza North District are wallowing in the quagmire of poverty. One of the main issues in development debates is how to tackle the issue of rural poverty. Good governance is a critical policy requirement for a successful poverty reduction strategy and is seen as the panacea to poverty as it offers the platform for the participation of the poor in decisions that affect them and empowers them to get their views on the policy agenda. It also promotes and sustains growth, development and socio-economic transformation. The main objective of this study was to examine the role democracy and good governance plays in promoting rural poverty reduction. In order to attain the main objective of the study, the case study approach was employed whilst questionnaires and interview guide were used to elicit data. In all, 150 respondents provided information for the study. The study revealed that, there is poverty in the district in all its dimensions and so efforts are being marshaled to reduce poverty through the effective implementation of national poverty reduction policies and programmes, capacity building, job creation, job-skills training and infrastructural development. However, there are the challenges of delay in the release of statutory funds to facilitate quick execution of programmes in the district and lack of commitment from stakeholders. The study recommends a shift from the over concentration on the provision of social services and infrastructure to employment generation, improving the basic needs of the poor, access to credit facilities, and women empowerment.

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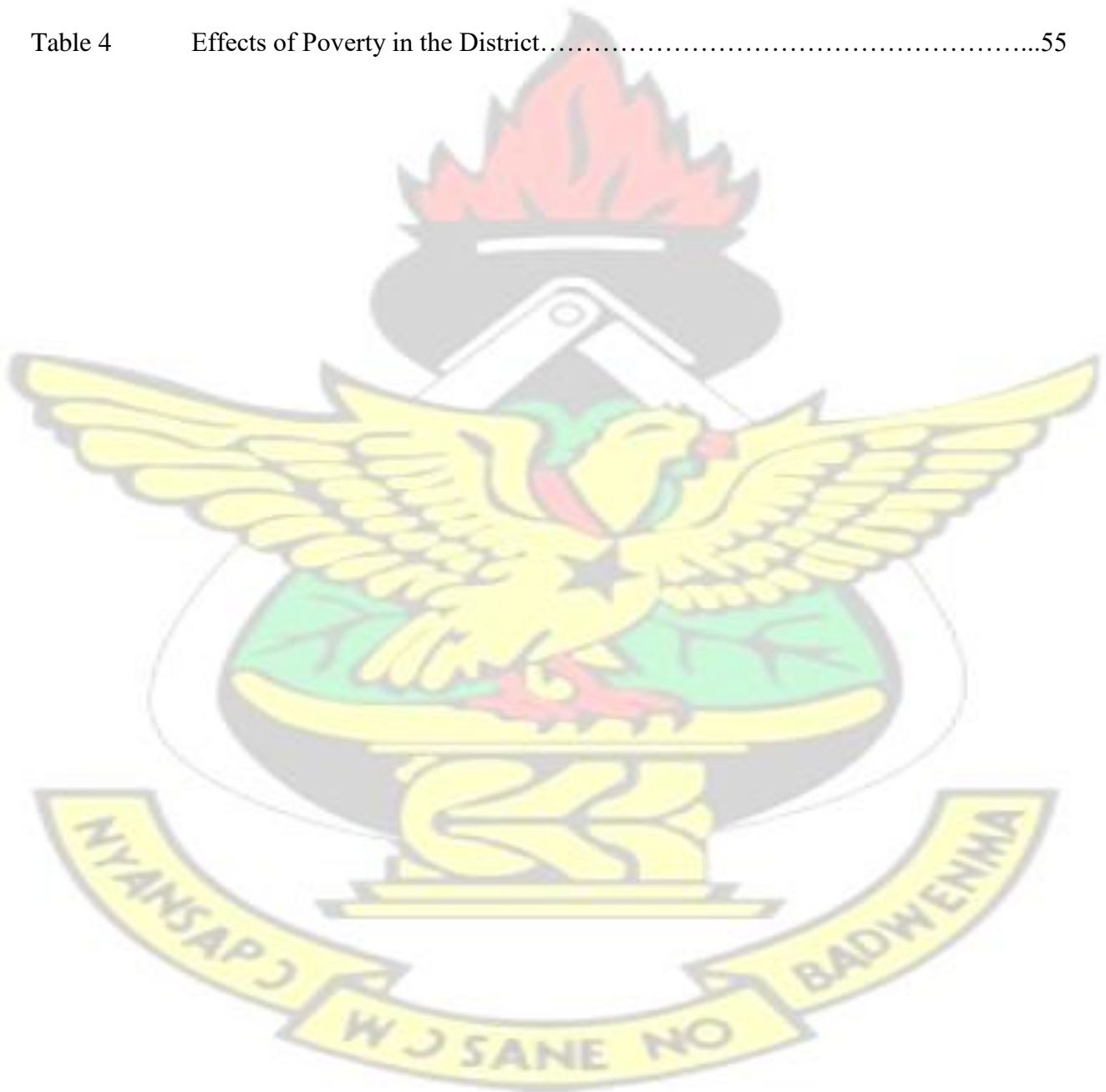
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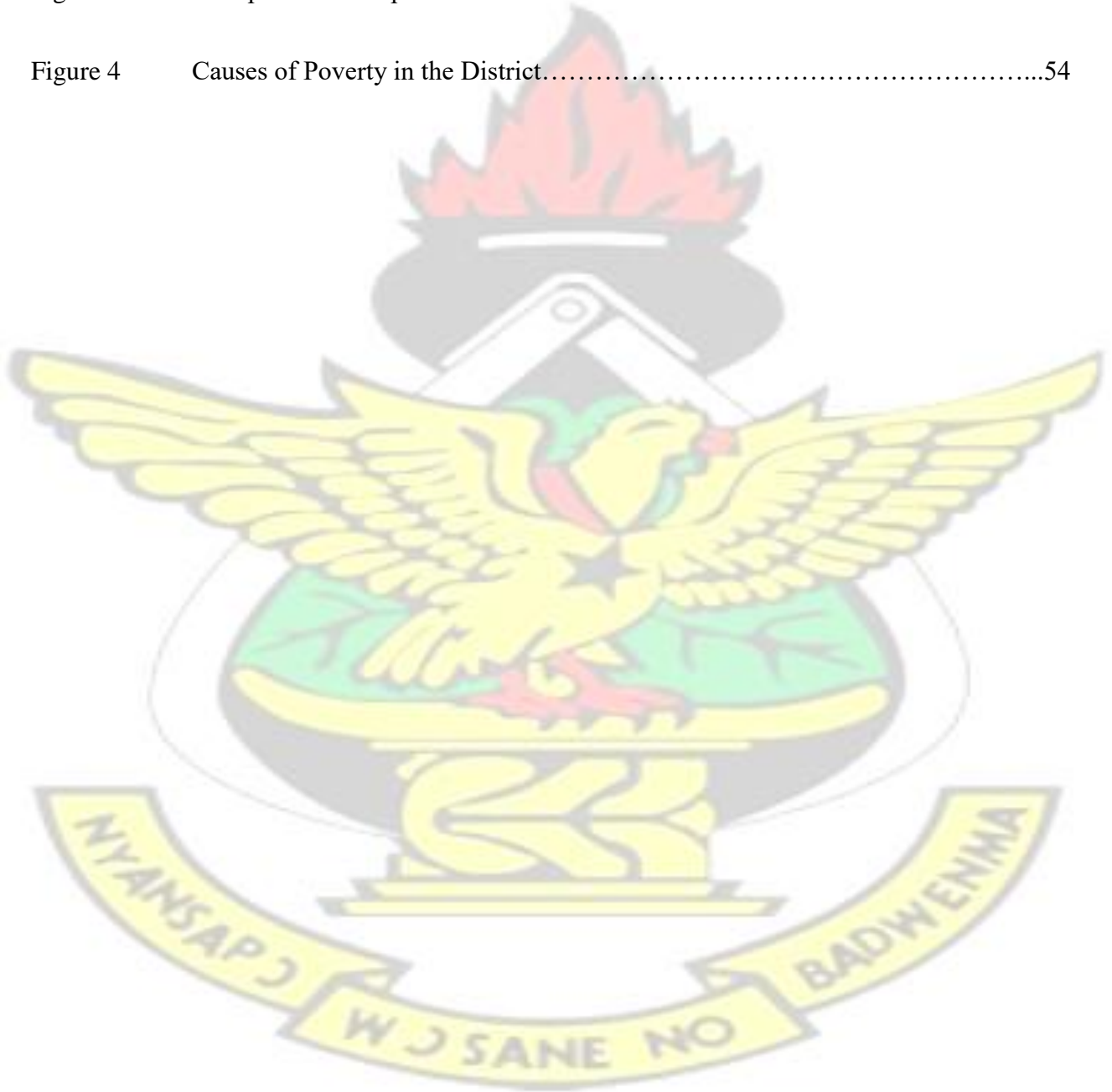
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LIST OF ACRONYMS



| | |
|-------|---|
| AfDB | African Development Bank |
| AIDS | Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome |
| BBC | British Broadcasting Cooperation |
| CHPS | Community-based Health Planning and Service |
| CHRAJ | Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice |
| DACF | District Assembly Common Fund |
| DCD | District Co-ordinating Director |
| DCE | District Chief Executive |
| DMTP | District Medium Term Plan |
| ERP | Economic Recovery Programme |
| FCUBE | Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education |
| GHS | Ghana Health Service |
| GLSS | Ghana Living Standards Survey |
| GOG | Government of Ghana |
| GPRS | Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy |
| GSFP | Ghana School Feeding Programme |

GSGDA Ghana Shared Growth and Development
Agenda

GSOP Ghana Social Opportunity Project

GSS Ghana Statistical Service

HIPC Highly Indebted Poor Country

HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus

IDA International Development Association

IFAD International Fund for African
Development

ILO International Labour Organization

IMF International Monetary Fund

JHS Junior High School

LEAP Livelihood Empowerment Against
Poverty

MASLOC Microfinance and Small Loans Centre

MDGs Millennium Development Goals

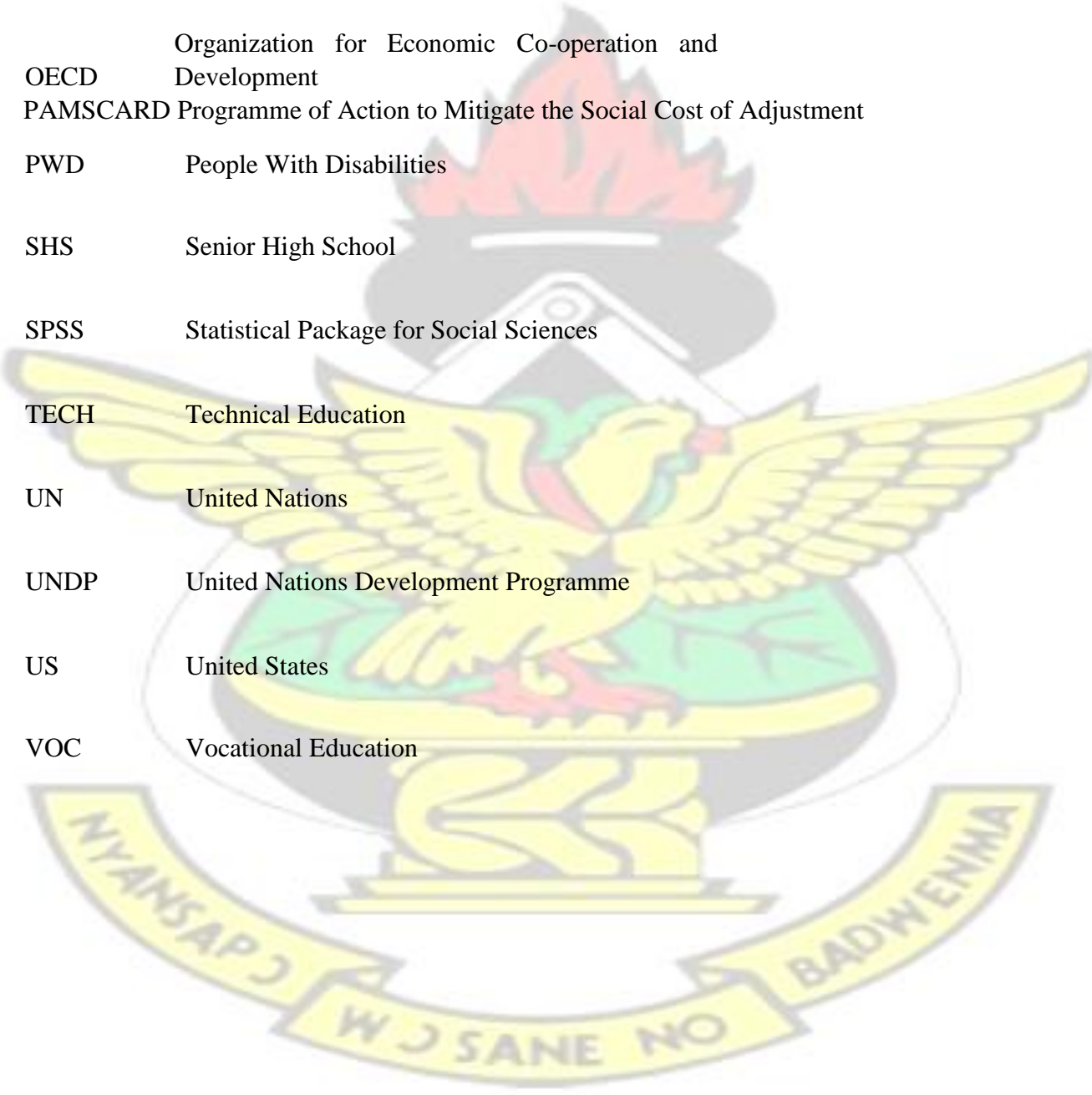
MMDAs Metropolitan, Municipal and District
Assemblies

MPP Micro-Project Programme

MSLC Middle School Leaving Certificate

NHIS National Health Insurance Scheme

| | |
|----------|---|
| NND | Nkoranza North District |
| NNDA | Nkoranza North District Assembly |
| NYEP | National Youth and Employment Programme |
| NGOs | Non-Governmental Organizations |
| OECD | Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| PAMSCARD | Programme of Action to Mitigate the Social Cost of Adjustment |
| PWD | People With Disabilities |
| SHS | Senior High School |
| SPSS | Statistical Package for Social Sciences |
| TECH | Technical Education |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| US | United States |
| VOC | Vocational Education |



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Poverty has been one of the key challenges to confront global civilization. Poverty is ubiquitous, although the form and nature of it differs (Domfeh and Bawole, 2009). Poverty is an issue that continues to afflict many developing countries around the globe and the number of people living in poverty keeps increasing. Poverty is the lack of capability to do things (Sen, 1999) and being poor implies deprivation of basic necessities of life such as food, shelter, clothing, healthcare and good drinking water. Poverty, chronic deprivation, isolation, vulnerability and powerlessness have been a woeful aspect of human life. The World Bank has labelled Africa as the poorest of the poor and the lowest region of the world with the poor constituting a majority or a larger plurality (Varshney, 1999; World Bank, 2003). Poverty has social, economic and political corollaries. The poor are materially disadvantaged, socially alienated, politically excluded and economically anathematized.

Poverty and underdevelopment are some of the major problems that many developing countries like Ghana are battling with and regarded as more predominant in rural areas. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), poverty involves a dearth of income, access to healthcare, education, potable water, good sanitation, good roads, markets and lack of employment (ILO, 2008). According to Ravallion (2000), about 75 percent of the world's poor people live in rural regions and that, in most developing countries the likelihood of being poor and the possibility of poverty are higher in rural than in urban areas.

Poverty in relative and absolute terms denotes a condition where a person is not able to provide adequately for his or her essential human necessities such as clothing and good accommodation, food, the fulfillment of socio-economic obligations, lack of access to fruitful employment, dearth of skills, resources and infrastructure. These encompass access to health care, education, potable water, good sanitation, and transportations. In all these incapacibilities, rural populations experience worse than the urban people. Rural poverty invariably affects the young, the sick, women, the aged and the disabled.

The need to tackle the issue of poverty is incontrovertible because more than forty percent of the world's populations of 2.5 billion live on two dollars or a smaller amount a day (Human Development Report, 2005). In the last decades, the fight against poverty has become significant in the development sector. The issue of poverty eradication is now seen as instrumental for achieving sustainable economic growth and human development. In an effort to eradicate poverty, innumerable efforts, approaches, policies and strategies have been recommended by scholars and other foreign donor institutions in order to help accelerate the growth of the economy and raise the living standards of the people. These include the European Union Micro Project (MPP); the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Poverty Reduction Strategy Initiative introduced in 1995 (World Bank, 2004); the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS); Ghana Vision 2020: The First Step (1996-2000); Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS) (2003-2005); and the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS) (2006-2009) (World Bank, 2012); the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) (GOG, 2008) and the Microfinance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC,2005), among others.

Also, the concept of poverty alleviation has been accompanied by the introduction of modern liberal democracy. According to Adejumbi (2006), democratic governance is seen as a powerful

tool to combat rural poverty in Africa. The advent of democratic rule gives in some semblance of hope in the eradication of poverty since a democratic governance gives an expectation of the enjoyment of rights and all forms of freedom including freedom from want and deprivation.

Governance has turned out to be a fundamental issue in the discourse of poverty eradication (Adejumobi, 2006; Earle and Scott, 2010). This is because, it helps set policy agenda for the proposal of poverty eradication programmes and for the development of the capacity of the poor to develop their physical circumstances. Nkum (2002), Hope (2004), and Grim and GyimahBoadi (2008) accentuate that good governance offers an effective mechanism to address the various magnitudes or signs of rural poverty and attempts to stimulate and sustain socioeconomic development. Sebudubudu (2010) also emphasizes that good governance is a critical policy prerequisite for an efficacious poverty reduction programme and human development. He therefore concluded that poor governance adversely affects development and continuous to create poverty and underdevelopment in Africa.

The successful growth and development of a country rests largely on political measures comprising the amalgamation of different groups of people and frontrunners in societies undertaking a chain of concerted efforts and programmes (Leftwich and Hogg, 2007). Thus, in all efforts to promote literacy, good health, growth and the reduction of poverty, politics, and for that matter, good governance is imperative for the active and effective implementation of poverty reduction policies. To reduce poverty, countries are anticipated to design and execute national poverty reduction measures by including the poor in the planning and implementation of the projects and the need to take practical measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the programmes (Anyang'Nyong'o, 2007). This is because poverty eradication entails more efforts than increasing incomes of people (Todaro and Smith, 2006).

People in rural areas live in poverty and experience hunger, lack of basic necessities of life, inadequate supply of social services as well as low agriculture output, no-income and low standard of living (Kyei, 2000; Glewwe and Twum-Baah, 1991). The poor people in rural areas are deprived of power, are physically isolated with inadequate transport, are not well organised and therefore need an external force to stimulate their unification (Khan, 1988). There is therefore the cause for concern for stakeholders of the nation to strengthen the best effective and rapid measures to end poverty, especially in rural communities in Ghana.

Nkoranza North District is a rural district with majority of the population (81.5%) living in rural areas whilst 18.5 percent live in the urban areas (GSS, 2012). Many of the population in the district (30.85%) are living in poverty (ibid). Even though there are efforts made by the District Assembly, the Central Government and other Non-Governmental Organizations to reduce poverty in the district there are numerous challenges.

There is the need for such a study to empirically ascertain how good governance has promoted poverty reduction in the remote areas of Ghana and Nkoranza North district in particular as it is imperative in the general battle against this social problem.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Ghana is battling with the problem of poverty. Most of the people experience poor living standards. Ghana's economy is predominantly agriculture with more than 60 percent of its populace found in the rural areas (GSS, 2012). Most of the rural dwellers earn their living from agriculture, and in many cases, the returns they derive from their labour are insufficient to meet their basic needs (ILO, 2008). The rural dwellers experience the high levels of poverty even though they contribute to the food production and security of the nation (ibid).

Ghana's poverty situation is mainly rural than urban and all the characteristics concomitant with poverty generally are identified in rural areas of Ghana. These encompass poor housing, poor water supply, low levels of education, poor health care delivery system, hunger, low capacities, exclusion, high levels of vulnerability of the people and limited livelihoods and opportunities (ILO, 2008). The problem of poverty and poor standards of living and how to alleviate it remains a quandary. However, democratic governance tends to promote poverty eradication as bad governance dissipates public funds and hence deprives people their socio-economic entitlements (Grindle, 2004; Karin, 2015). Good governments promote citizen's welfare and economic growth (Karin, 2015).

In the fight against poverty, diverse objectives have been formulated and implemented grounded in good governance. In Ghana, there exist numerous poverty reduction strategies geared towards socio-economic growth and development. Nonetheless, rural communities in Ghana are still experiencing poverty in all its dimensions. There are many reasons advanced for the continuous failure of poverty reduction strategies in Ghana. These include limited policy support and administrative inadequacy in organizing and implementing poverty reduction strategies, unsustainable measures and interventions and corruption. Even though many mechanisms, strategies and policies to alleviate poverty in Ghana abound, many people living in the rural areas are still suffering from want and deprivation. The various effects of poverty have necessitated the need by governments and district assemblies to deploy strategies and policies to mitigate this social malignancy.

Nkoranza North District has a population size of 65,895 with 33,263 males and 32,632 females. It has only two urban settlements, Busunya with 9,243 and Dromankese with 8,582 people which make up the major commercial communities (GSS, 2012). The remaining towns with population

less than 5000 people are categorized as rural and constitute 97.2 percent of the entire population (ibid). The District is basically rural with most communities having population of less than thousand. The key sector of the economy of the district is agriculture with 80 percent and commerce and industrial sector with 4 percent and 5 percent respectively (NNDA, 2010). In the area of education, the district has only two Senior High Schools located at Busunya, the district capital and Yefri, while the rest of the communities have basic schools with 34 Junior High Schools and 67 primary schools. The district experiences poverty at its highest intensity which comprises poor housing facilities, stumpy level of education, high unemployment, poor healthcare system, poor nutrition and teenage pregnancy. It also has some key development problems which include poor and deplorable road network, inadequate access to electricity, inadequate health professionals, poor and inadequate educational infrastructure, inadequate employable skills, among others (NNDA, 2012).

Since the establishment of the District in 2008, much effort has been put in place to reduce poverty. However, it appears that despite all efforts made by governments, the district assembly and other NGOs to reduce poverty, an estimated number of 20,121 out of 65,222 people (30.85%) are still living in poverty (GSS, 2015). The question therefore is, how are the people of Nkoranza North District feeling the effect of poverty eradication policies and programmes on their lives? Are the poor people in rural areas in Ghana feeling the intricacies of accountability, responsiveness, transparency, rule of law and participation in decisions that concern them? What is the correlation between good governance and poverty eradication? Is there good governance in Ghana, particularly in Nkoranza North District? These questions demand answers and this study seeks to provide answers to these questions. The research therefore seeks to explore the role of

good governance in alleviating poverty in the Nkoranza North District in the context of democratic governance.

Moreover, the numerous researches conducted on good governance and poverty have tended to pay less or no attention to the effects good governance has on rural poverty reduction, especially in Ghana (Sebudubudu, 2010; Oke and Oluwaleye, 2015; Adejumobi, 2006; Varshney, 1999; Bonfiglioli, 2003; Molini, 2015; Girishankar, et al., 2001; Kyei, 2000; Hyden, 2001; Poverty Task Force, 2002). As a result, this study focuses on good governance to ascertain how it affects the reduction of poverty especially in rural areas of Ghana and Nkoranza North district in particular.

The study is therefore intended to find out how good governance is promoting (or otherwise) poverty reduction in the remote areas of Ghana and Nkoranza North District in particular as it is imperative in the general battle against this social problem. It also seeks to discover how far the people of this rural district are enjoying these poverty reduction strategies from the government and how the district assembly is employing good governance in reducing poverty in the District. Similarly, the study is intended to ascertain how the government and the district assembly are implementing the various poverty reduction strategies in reducing poverty and then find out the challenges associated with the implementation of the poverty reduction programmes.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.3.1 General Objectives

The broad-spectrum objective of the study was to find out the impact of good governance on reduction of rural poverty in Ghana, with particular reference to Nkoranza North District, and to propose critical measures to augment the success of good governance in plummeting poverty in

the district.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives were to:

- i. Explore the causes and effects of poverty in the Nkoranza North District
- ii. Ascertain the relationship between good governance and poverty reduction in the District
- iii. Find out the policies employed by the Assembly to reduce poverty in the District, and
- iv. Discover the challenges facing the District Assembly in the reduction of poverty.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The research intends to find answers to the following proposed questions:

- i. What are the causes and effects of poverty in the Nkoranza North District?
- ii. What is the relationship between good governance and poverty reduction in the district?
- iii. What are the policies employed by the District Assembly to reduce poverty in the district?
- iv. What are the challenges facing the Assembly in the reduction of poverty in the district?

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

According to a UNDP report conducted in 2010, poverty mainly affects rural dwellers in Ghana. Governments have designed intervention programmes to empower the rural poor but fail due to lack of policy vision (IFAD, 2011). Many scholars and donor institutions have proposed the relevance of democratic good governance to the reduction of rural poverty. In spite of the existence of numerous mechanisms and strategies mapped against poverty by various governmental as well

as non-governmental institutions, a lot of people living in rural areas are still experiencing poverty because of the failure of the various institutions to adopt the various good governance principles to fight poverty.

This study of democratic good governance and how it impacts on rural poverty reduction will be of great significance as it will add up to the already existing literature and will bring to light firsthand facts on the causes, extent and effects of poverty. It will also provide additional useful insight into how good governance can help promote rural poverty reduction in Ghana and on the lives of rural people. The study has a policy dimension as it will serve as an important guide to policy makers and analysts, governments and local authorities to formulate and implement suitable anti-poverty policies and strategies with good governance as the principal foundation. This is because, it will bring new information to light that will help re-examine the execution of poverty reduction strategies with good governance in mind.

1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study concentrated on local government authorities and the measures adopted to reduce poverty grounded on the concept of democratic good governance, with emphasis on the rural areas of Ghana, with Nkoranza North District as a case study since the inception of Ghana's democracy from the year 2008 to 2017. This time frame is guided by the fact that, it is within this period that the district was created and in a period that Ghana has experienced multi-party democratic rule which is guided by good governance as sanctioned by international bodies and institutions like the World Bank and other donor institutions as the blueprint to eradicate world poverty. It generally looked at how good governance in the wake of democracy has affected rural poverty eradication.

The study focused on ascertaining the perceptions of the public on the concept of poverty, how it affects their lives and how local good governance can help eradicate the situation to improve the lives of the people of rural communities. Again, it tried to ascertain whether good governance has impacted positively or otherwise on rural poverty reduction in the Nkoranza North District. The study concentrated on only ten communities from the district due to time constraints and limited financial resources.

1.7 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This research was focused on only one rural district in Ghana and so the limitation is that, findings cannot be generalized to cover the whole of Ghana. Doing so will overlook other relevant variations in other rural districts in the country. Again, limited time and limited resources were limitations to the research.

1.8 DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study tried to explore the impact of democratic good governance and rural poverty reduction on the lives of the people of Nkoranza North District. The study emphasized on the causes and effects of poverty; the effect good governance has on poverty reduction policies and programmes; the policies employed by the District Assembly to reduce poverty; and the main challenges facing the Assembly in the reduction of poverty in the district. The liberal theory of poverty (morality, justice and utility) was the theoretical foundation on which the research was based.

The study confined itself to interviewing 150 people (from eighteen (18) years and above) selected randomly and purposively where necessary, to ascertain the existence, extent and effects of poverty in the study area and the existence or otherwise of democratic good governance in the district and

how it affects the reduction of poverty. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative methods to analyse data. Being a case study, the focus of the research was put on rural poverty and so ignored urban poverty. Again, no effort was made to unravel the prospects and challenges of poverty reduction programmes in the district.

1.9 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The research is put into five main chapters. The Chapter One embodies introduction to the study and informs the overall report by providing the general overview of the problem. Chapter Two of the study covers the review of literature on the important issues related to the study. The literature review contextualized democracy, good governance, poverty, poverty reduction, and the nexus between good governance and poverty reduction, and the various mechanisms of poverty reduction, as well as the challenges associated with poverty reduction efforts. Again, the literature review discussed the theoretical bases of the research as well as the conceptual framework.

Chapter Three covers the profile of the study area and the methodology of the study and constituted the research design; the study population; sampling and sampling procedures; sources of data; data collection instruments; ethical considerations and data processing and its interpretation.

The Fourth Chapter presents the data for the study and also interprets the findings of the research. It presents the key findings of the study, conceptualizes the idea of good governance and poverty reduction and establishes the relationship between these two concepts and how the former impacts on the latter. The final chapter provides the summary and analysis of how the findings relate to the objectives and then presents conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This section reviews the literature for the study. It embodies the meaning of poverty, causes and effects of poverty, and rural poverty in Ghana. It also defines democracy, good governance and the correlation between good governance and poverty eradication in Ghana. It examines the concept of poverty reduction, identifies the various poverty reduction programmes in Ghana and also pinpoints some of the challenges associated with poverty reduction. It finally explains the theoretical and conceptual framework upon which this research is built.

2.1 DEFINING POVERTY

Poverty is the lack of capacity to get what one needs. Poverty is pain, a disease and attacks a person both materially and morally. It takes away a person's dignity and pushes a person into total hopelessness (Narayan et al., 2000a). Conceptualizing poverty is often predisposed by the motive for defining it. Different institutions and authorities define poverty in diverse ways.

The World Bank (2001) defines poverty in terms of deprivation and refers to poverty as pronounced deprivation in wellbeing, the lack of basic goods and services indispensable for existence and not being able to attain a substantial living standard. Poverty is an unacceptable social deprivation, lack of economic opportunity, education, health and good nutrition, the dearth of empowerment, security and poor socio-economic wellbeing (OECD, 2001). Ahwoi (1998) also defined poverty as a privation of access to basic human needs. Poverty is seen as capability

deprivation, a lack of subsistence freedom a person needs to live the kind of life a person has reason to value (Sen, 1999).

Poverty is also conceived as a lack of income. According to Sen (1984), income poverty refers to incomes below a “minimum subsistence” of 50 percent or 60 percent below the median. To Sen, poor families are largely those who lack enough resources to obtain the minimum necessities of life. Thus, the poor is vulnerable because their economic strength is weak and is susceptible to highly inconsistent incomes (World Bank, 2000). Poverty displays itself in numerous forms which negatively affects the sufferers and thwarts them from realizing their potentials. Sen (1987) and World Bank (2000) define poverty as a sense of powerlessness, lack of skills for adequate income, lack of access to education, health, security, deprivation from the enjoyment of rights and lack of voice. Tiemann (1993) also perceives poverty as a lack of entitlement, social exclusion and low levels of income.

Balogun (1999) conceptualizes poverty as a situation where a society scarcely endures on a level of survival, a deficiency of basic necessities of life and a lack of shelter for maintaining a basic standard of living. According to Baratz and Grigsby (1971), poor people lack the resources to afford the things that are fundamental for their existence. This conception of poverty sees poverty as a lack of material goods or services and a deprivation of human beings from enjoying quality life.

Poverty can be absolute or relative. Absolute poverty is a condition characterized by serious dearth of basic necessities including food, water, health care, shelter, education, privation of income and access to social amenities (UN, 1995). Extreme poverty can also be christened as absolute poverty. Gordon and Spicker (1999) delineated that, in relative poverty, some people may be seen as poor

if they earn much less than other people in their area where they live but if they are compared to other people in another community they may not be seen as poor. Relative poverty denotes the circumstance whereby minimum basic needs for human subsistence such as food, shelter and clothing are scarcely achieved.

2.2.0 CAUSES OF POVERTY IN GHANA

Poverty is something that is caused by multifaceted factors. It is therefore imperative to digest some of the probable reasons for poverty in Ghana. The causes of poverty in Ghana include but not limited to the following:

2.2.1 Lack of Information

Poverty has numerous and multidimensional causes. Poor people lack access to significant information, knowledge and personal empowerment that could develop their living (AddaeKorankye, 2014). Poor people lack the relevant information that will help move them out of poverty and to live good lives.

2.2.2 Corruption

Corruption causes poverty faster than a hurricane as it deteriorates public service delivery, misuses public resources and destroys the growth that is necessary to get people out of poverty. It also weakens the robust powers behind reform and also siphons important resources and drives away foreign investors. Corruption is today recognized as an indication of bad governance and a major impediment to poverty reduction efforts (Mauro, 1997). Corruption increases income inequality, disrupts economic growth and development and increases poverty level of the country (Hendricks, 1998; Meltzer and Richard, 1981).

2.2.3 Lack of Education

Poverty is a complex problem that encompasses lack of opportunities for developing human resource and education (World Bank, 1994). Education increases incomes, reduces poverty levels, increases development of the country and decreases unemployment rates (Hoynes et al., 2006). Education increases people's understanding, encourages democratic development and widens social equity. However, lack of education limits people's capabilities and confidence to be active in society. It renders people unemployed and hence lack income. Lack of education incapacitates adults as they lack a basic means of survival and also lack voice and power- social, economic, as well as political.

2.2.4 Low Capabilities and Exclusion of the Poor

A capability has to do with a person's liberty to choose how he or she wishes to live (Sen, 1999). This includes the ability to be free from hunger, to be educated, and to earn a good living. Individuals entombed in tenacious poverty experience manifold capability deprivations concomitantly. According to Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS, 2003), poverty may be caused or aggravated by the privation of capacity of the poor to influence social processes, public policy and resource distributions. According to the BBC (2013), people will be considered as in poverty when they do not have a sufficient income for their necessities of life and when these situations exclude them from partaking in preferable daily-life activities in that society.

2.2.5 Ineffective Governance and Government Policies

Governments are controlled by the governing elites, educated and urban population who are impervious or antagonistic to pro-poor policies (Hillman, 2002). In areas of non-existence of democracy and accountability, governments are not answerable to the people. This has therefore

lowered the quality of public resources in spite of the great public spending. Murray (1984) also affirms that bad government policy perpetuates hardship and deprivation in human life. Poor planning and budgeting, corruption, lack of accountability and responsiveness and incoherent poverty alleviation policies also add to the existing picture of poverty in Ghana and its attendant predominance in rural communities.

2.2.6 Health and Poverty

Poverty has innumerable indicators which encompass the dearth of income and productive means adequate to guarantee bearable livelihood, hunger and malnourishment, homelessness, inadequate, unsafe and besmirched surroundings and death from illness (UN, 1995). Sudden or protracted ill health resulting to asset loss and destitution can cause poverty.

2.2.7 Unemployment and Low Levels of Income

Unemployment in Sub-Saharan Africa is the major cause of poverty and deprivations as many people do not earn enough to support their families to lift themselves and their families up from poverty (ILO, 2007). High rate of unemployment contributes a lot to poverty. Most rural people are unemployed or under-employed and so earn low or no income to provide for themselves basic necessities of life. Most of the youth always graduate from school without jobs and so continue to live in poverty.

2.2.8 Poor Agricultural Policies

The agricultural policies of Ghana have not been in the better position to guarantee good life for farmers in Ghana even though agriculture is seen as the bedrock of Ghana's economy (GLSS, 2008). These poor agricultural policies result to labour intensive agriculture, privation of adequate

irrigation facilities, over-reliance on rain-fed agriculture, poor roads and transportation network, non-existence of storage facilities and inadequate food processing plants. Rural poverty is caused by low productivity, poor market systems, inadequate skills and inputs needed to increase yields (GPRS, 2003). Poor farmers do not have market for their produce, and lack farm equipment and inputs such as fertilizers, and other agro-chemical products which therefore tend to limit their yields.

2.3 EFFECTS OF POVERTY IN GHANA

The consequences of poverty in Ghana are multifarious as it is often armor-plated by the interrelatedness of its causes thereby aggravating the problem. The persistence of prevalent poverty in Africa has very somber social and economic ramifications.

The effects of poverty encapsulate poor access to good health care and clean water, deplorable sanitation, powerlessness, scarce life opportunities and lack of education. Ayoade and Adeola (2012) assert that poverty brings about low standards of living, low income levels, low life expectancy, low rate of employment, poor housing condition, poor nutrition and high rate of illiteracy, crime and violence, incidence of infectious diseases and other health problems. Lack and deprivation degrades and repudiates the individual the capacity to participate importantly in all aspects of human life (OECD, 2001; Ahwoi, 1998; World Bank, 2005; Laderchi et al., 2003; Ayoade and Adeola, 2012).

Poverty creates insecurity, vulnerability, exclusion, lack of shelter and homelessness, unemployment and low income levels, as well as lack of access to reliable utilities (GLSS, 2008;

World Bank, 2000). Poverty and lack bring about physiological and social privation, and denial of basic necessities needed to promote one's life. Poverty weakens social justice, enslaves people and makes them susceptible to manipulations.

2.4 THE RURAL PHENOMENON OF POVERTY

Rural communities experience high levels of poverty. They are totally sidelined, lack development, live at the periphery of existence and lack opportunities (Chinsman, 1998). Olugboyega and Olayiwola (2005) affirm that most rural communities do not have drinkable water, electricity, good health care, education and good roads. Poverty is still primarily a rural phenomenon, and in Sub-Saharan Africa, poverty is likely to continue to plague rural people for a long time (Ravallion et al. 2007).

According to the World Bank (2008) and ILO (2008), about seventy-five percent of the people living in poverty the world over are in rural areas. Millar et al. (2002) and Mosely et al. (2004) contend that, all over the world, people living in rural areas are disadvantaged and have poor access to resources to help them to become better people. Poverty in Ghana is predominantly rural with a lot of poor people living in rural areas with a conspicuous evidence of inadequate access to basic needs and resources (IFAD, 2006b).

According to Molini and Paci (2015), poverty has become more predominant in rural areas of Ghana and by the year 2012, poverty rates in rural areas were 38.2 percent as compared with 10.4 percent in urban areas. Poverty is predominant in the Northern part of Ghana which can be attributed to unfavourable climatic changes (ibid), such as prolonged dry seasons and increasing soil erosion. Poverty is deepest among food crop farmers in Ghana. Low productivity, poor market systems, inadequate skills and agricultural inputs needed to increase yields cause rural poverty

(GPRS, 2003). In Ghana, another face of rural poverty is the phenomenon of poverty with the very old, children, people with disabilities (PWDs), and the very sick people who cannot actively engage in any productive work. They have no reasonable means of support to offer medical care and are stereotyped, marginalized or neglected.

2.5.0 DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Democracy is an approach of decision-making about mutually binding rules and policies over which the people exercise control, where all members of the community have equal rights to take part in such decision-making directly, and also recognizes to the highest degree the doctrines of popular control and equality in its exercise (Grugel, 2002). Chafe (1994) however opined that democracy means the involvement of the people in the running of the affairs of the polity. Huntington (1996) maintains that a political arrangement is democratic; if most of its decision makers are elected through fair and periodic elections where candidates are given free will to compete for power through a universal adult suffrage. Democracy encompasses the privilege to participate in decision making in the political process and repudiates arbitrariness and dictatorship (Oke, 2010; Odo, 2015; Cohen, 1975; Yio, 2012).

Democratic governance can also be conceptualized as the processes through which a society reaches consensus on and executes regulations, human rights, laws, policies and social structures in pursuit of social justice, welfare and environmental protection (Cheema, 2005). According to the Human Development Report (2002), democratic governance is the respect for people's human rights and fundamental freedoms, dignity, inclusion of people in decision making, people's ability to hold decision makers answerable for decisions they take and fair application of rules. It also guarantees freedom from all forms of discrimination as well as economic and social policies, and

all these guarantee poverty eradication. The characteristics of democratic good governance include legitimacy, rule of law, participation, responsible stewardship, transparency, predictability and accountability.

2.6 THE CONCEPT OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

Good governance, like poverty has been defined differently by different authors and other international bodies and institutions. Good governance is a truism in this epoch and has trapped public attention. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP, 2002), Ncube (2005) and Uddin (2010) define good governance as the exercise of authority to run the affairs of a country. The core characteristics of good governance encapsulate participation; rule of law; transparency; responsiveness; consensus oriented; equity (equal opportunity for improved well-being); effectiveness and efficiency; accountability and planned vision (UNDP, 1997).

The World Bank (2003) conceptualizes governance as consisting of the exercise of authority in the name of the people whereas good governance is doing so in ways that respect the dignity and needs of everybody within the state. The World Bank argues that good governance is epitomized by predictable, open and liberal policy making; a bureaucracy permeated with a professional ethos; government accountability for its actions; and an active civil society.

Governance is the use of political authority to exercise control in a society towards the management of its resources for economic growth and human development (Girishankar et al., 2001). In this perspective, governance is viewed as the steering of the affairs of state and society targeted at the realization of societal goals (Adejumobi, 2006; Peirre and Peters, 2000). In the view of Kaufmann, governance refers to the exercise of authority through formal and informal channels for the common good (Kaufmann, 2003).

The basic features of good governance embrace the manner of a comprehensive management where all the important stakeholders are permitted to contribute to the decision-making process. Governance is good if its processes and procedures are clear, its legal framework is predictable, accountable, transparent and information on the management of national affairs is available (Leftwich, 1994). It denotes a government that is constitutionally structured with efficient administrative organizations with the veracious policies mainly in the economic domain. It thrives in a democratic environment. Therefore, to realize the dream of good governance, democratic governance system must be present.

2.7.0 PRINCIPLES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

The principles of good governance include accountability, transparency, fighting corruption, participation, rule of law and predictability, responsiveness, equity, effectiveness and efficiency, and strategic vision (World Bank, 1992; UNDP, 1997; AfDB, 1999; IDA, 1998). These components are explained below in relation to poverty reduction.

2.7.1 Participation

The notion of equal and active participation of all in the governance process is a significant precondition to promote the principles that foster the respect for ethnic diversity, support multiethnic communication and the partnership between representatives of diverse ethnic groups and to take part in the decision-making processes in the society. Good governance requires political diversity, opportunities for broad involvement in politics, and incorruptibility in the use of civic powers and offices by administrators of the state (Punyaratabandhu, 2004). The principle of participation indicates that, all men and women should have a voice in the making of decisions. According to Gates and Stout (1996), citizen participation is tantamount to citizen power and

involves the restructuring of power that enables the underprivileged citizens currently relegated from the political and economic processes to be purposefully involved in the future.

2.7.2 Rule of law and Predictability

Rule of law implies a system where the laws are known to the general populace, with clarity in meaning and its equal applicability to everybody. Rule of law preserves and defends the political and civil liberties and also entails the right to a fair trial. The legal system, comprising courts, prosecutors and police must be levelheadedly fair, competent, impartial and independent (Carothers, 2004). Predictability of the legal system requires that laws and policies should exist to regulate society fairly and reliably and not to be used capriciously. Punyaratabandhu (2004) also asserts that, rule of law should involve good execution of justice, fair legal procedures, untrammelled access to justice and judicial unconventionality. The rule of law implies that a fair, predictable and stable legal framework is essential so that people may assess economic opportunities and act on them without fear of arbitrary interloping or expropriation (IDA, 1998).

2.7.3 Transparency

The concept of good governance involves transparent public administration and effective and efficient public administration involving the ability of government to project good policies as well as to execute them. In another instance, Punyaratabandhu (2004) postulated that transparency implies that government decisions should be taken and enforced in a way that complies with laid down principles, and that, information be made free and be open and accessible to those who will be affected by such decisions and their implementation.

Transparency also implies that information is delivered in comprehensible procedures and media and is freely accessible. The principle of governance transparency is the provision which makes it probable for the people to know about government decisions.

2.7.4 Accountability

Accountability and responsiveness are two important components of good governance and denote the willingness of the people who hold powers to respond to the demands of all manner of persons. Accountability and responsibility of government are significant prerequisites of good governance and demands public accountability of the participants in the political and economic processes for their decisions to the public (Punyaratabandhu, 2004). That is, elected persons and organizations that have been given a public mandate should be held accountable for their actions and inactions to the people who gave them power. Good governance requires governmental bodies, the private sector and civil society organizations to be accountable to the general public.

2.7.5 Effectiveness and Efficiency

According to Plumptre and Graham (1999), governance effectiveness and efficiency implies that processes and institutions produce results that meet the needs of the people by making judicious use of available resources. Effectiveness and efficiency principle of good governance again suggests that the local public officials apply accepted guiding non-discriminatory principles in the performance of their functions and apply appropriate legislation so as to guarantee that the political decisions do not impact deleteriously on the local minorities, and that they benefit to the same degree with the majority from the local policies. Government effectiveness examines the capacity of civil servants, the quality of public service provision, and also ensures how credible and committed government is in the implementation of policies.

2.7.6 Responsiveness and Equity

Government responsiveness connotes the degree of time consciousness in delivery of public services. That is, government institutions and processes must try to serve all stakeholders within a reasonable timeframe. Good governance mediates differing interests to reach a broad consensus on what is in the best interest of the group and, where possible, on policies and procedures. The principle of equity also has to do with the hallmark that all manner of persons in society, irrespective of their ethnic, tribal, social, economic or political affiliation have equal opportunity to improve or maintain their well-being (UNDP, 1997).

2.8 DEFINING POVERTY REDUCTION

The World Bank (2001) defines poverty reduction as planning and executing policies targeting the right procedures to ensure that limited resources are allocated in the right direction that are likely to have the maximum impact on the poor people so as to decrease their levels of deprivation. Poverty reduction is now a global agenda. The rising need to reduce poverty as the fundamental goal of development has necessitated the need to improve understanding of how policies impact on the lives of the poor. Its significance is grounded on the premise that poverty reduction has become an imperative and a requisite condition for development assistance.

2.9 THE LINKAGE BETWEEN GOOD GOVERNANCE AND POVERTY REDUCTION

Good governance is defined as the institutional arrangement and mechanism that are properly tailored to alleviate the sufferings of the people (Cobbinah et al., 2013b). The fundamental hallmark of good governance is grounded on the premise that, governments provide and build the basic capacity of people to enable them survive in a particular society. This therefore suggests that

governments need to ensure that basic infrastructure to promote healthy and good living conditions are accessible to all in society.

Problems of poverty and governance are inseparably interconnected. The connection between governance and poverty reduction is tenuous. On one hand, there is some empirical substantiation to suggest that weak governance underpins poverty. On the other hand, the link between governance and poverty reduction is sometimes accorded a priori status and presumed to be true. The connection between good governance and poverty eradication is premised on the conjecture that good governance stimulates economic growth and development. Bad governance is assumed to compromise the delivery of services and welfares to those who need them most. It is also presumed that the influence of dominant interest groups biases policies and programmes at the disadvantage of the poor. Thus, bad or poor governance engenders and reinforces poverty and also subverts efforts to reduce it. It is incontrovertible to stipulate that, when governance is strengthened it will facilitate the improvement of the lives of the poor. According to Hope (2004) and Adejumbi (2006), making the poor people have a voice in the policy process especially on poverty issues is a necessary and progressive step in an effort to stimulate and sustain growth, development and socio-economic transformation. Good governance provides the institutional and political framework to design and implement poverty reduction policies for the enhancement of the capacity of the poor to deal positively with and improve their physical conditions.

Anyang'Nyong'o (2001) and Chabal (2002) opined that good governance is perceived as a panacea to many problems that bedevil the world socially, economically and politically. Chabal (2002) again indicated that good governance is envisioned as having as its priority to build effective government where they are lacking. Grindle (2007) and Ott (2009) underscored that effective

government makes poverty a repugnance on its policy agenda and ensures that its people live good lives.

Poverty can be eradicated depending on how governments set their priorities towards poverty reduction and how national capacity is directed at enhancing the full realization of the collective good of society. According to Fikret (2008), getting governance direction towards poverty reduction is when government is bent on serving the interests of the people and promoting the common good of all in society. The basic conjecture of good governance is to make government institutional framework and capacity important to the society and grounded on the equality of all strata of society. Gender and racial equalities, government accountability, transparency, democracy, equal representation, education, health, environmental sustainability, employment and justice are all momentous mechanisms of good governance (Okinono and Mohammed, 2014) and when employed effectively can help reduce poverty.

2.10.1 POVERTY REDUCTION POLICIES/PROGRAMMES IN GHANA

Ghana has for some time now made celebrated efforts in the issue of poverty eradication and has streamlined a series of economic reforms since 1983 to combat poverty. Ghana had concentrated on macroeconomic stabilization through foreign exchange liberalization in the initial phase of reforms to fast-track growth and poverty reduction (Molini and Paci, 2015).

Ghana has made successful strides to reduce poverty and improve human lives. One of them was the ERP which was introduced in 1983 by the Government of Ghana (GOG) as a practical effort to eradicate poverty with the assistance of the World Bank, IMF and other donor organizations by making economic reforms and infrastructural restoration to improve investment and to invest in building human capital (World Bank, 1995). Another poverty reduction programme implemented

by the government of Ghana, the Programme of Action to Mitigate the Social Costs of Adjustment (PAMSCAD) was started in 1987 to address the needs of the poor and vulnerable groups who were deprived in the early periods of economic downturn in Ghana.

In the year 2000, the international community introduced Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targeted at halving poverty by 2015. Again, the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS I) was also implemented to safeguard sustainable equitable growth and to reduce poverty, protect the poor, the vulnerable and the excluded, to build the capacity of the poor and to reduce all forms of inequality in society (GPRS, 2003). Furthermore, the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II: 2006-2009) programme was implemented by the government of Ghana in 2006 to promote economic growth and stimulate development (GPRS, 2003).

In 2003, the government of Ghana executed the HIPC initiative as another mechanism to fight poverty. Also, the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA 2010-2013) was executed to address the economic discrepancies and to resuscitate the economy by reducing poverty.

Other poverty reduction strategies in Ghana include: the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) implemented to provide basic healthcare services in the country and especially to offer accessible and affordable health care to the poor (GOG, 2003). The Microfinance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC) was also implemented in 2004 to provide accessible microcredit and small loans to boost the Ghanaian economy and to create jobs (MASLOC, 2004). Moreover, the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) was also launched in 2005 to increase school enrolment, attendance and retention and to reduce hunger and malnourishment (GOG, 2005). Additionally, the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Social Grant Scheme was implemented in

2008 to provide a better life for the poor Ghanaian population (GOG, 2008). All these are calculated efforts to create jobs and to eradicate poverty in Ghana.

Again, one of the Government of Ghana's policy objectives to reduce poverty is to empower MMDAs to reduce poverty at the local level by giving credit schemes to all sectors of the economy; to grow micro, small and medium scale enterprises for women, peasant farmers and vulnerable groups to enhance productivity; and to create employment and improve incomes of the population (Guidelines for the Preparation of MMDAs' Budget, 2008). MMDAs are also resourced to make credit facilities available and to ensure effective and efficient implementation of all anti-poverty programmes at their various places of jurisdiction to help reduce poverty.

2.10.2 CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH POVERTY REDUCTION IN GHANA

Challenges are inevitable in the implementation of poverty reduction strategies especially in rural areas in Ghana. Among the core challenges facing the implementation of effective poverty reduction mechanisms is the dearth of effective programme with tactically prioritized actions coordinated for the measurement and evaluation of progress of government pro-poor policies. The dearth of the demand for accountability and transparency from government officials in the discharge of their duties has given them the unbridled power not to be responsible and answerable to their people for their actions and inactions (Tollens, 2002).

The lack of clear-cut measures to bring a synergy among traditional rulers, the local elites, opinion leaders and other influential groups and organizations in the communities to share power and resources and to assist in the planning, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes is yet another challenge in the fight against poverty (Tollens, 2002). The issue of utmost concern is how to amalgamate these stakeholders in the society to help reduce poverty.

Another challenge is the lack of competent persons and constant use of outmoded approaches and technology for development planning and deployment of resources and allocation at the local level (Tollens, 2002). All of these serve as a challenge towards the fight against poverty in Ghana.

2.11.0 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

The theories developed to address the concept poverty are influenced by how people conceptualize poverty. There exist a lot of competing theories that explain the cause of poverty with heaps of empirical proof to warrant support for each and hence has increased explanations of poverty and how to devise policies to address it. The definition of poverty and theories developed to explain it are deeply embedded in sturdily held research tradition and political values strengthened by some social, economic and political institutions that have a stake in the issue. Theoretical accounts of poverty embrace many variables as the causal agents of economic deprivation, such as individual characteristics, community effects and the broader social system, governmental policies, economic and geographic changes, lack of social capital and cultural values and aspirations.

The Liberal theory of poverty is selected as the theoretical foundation for this research. The reason for adopting the liberal theory of poverty is its conspicuous appropriateness for this study. Liberalism is a political philosophy established on the tenets of liberty and equity. Proponents of the liberal theory in general, like Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Baruch Spinoza, Jean Jacques Rousseau, John Rawls, Immanuel Kant, Thomas Paine, Karl Popper, among others support philosophies grounded in democracy especially the protection of fundamental human rights and the promotion of gender equality and international cooperation.

Liberalism as a theory is linked to Enlightenment philosophers and economists in the Western world. However, it dates back to Aristotle, who made significant strives to observe the different

forms of government and the nature of man. Aristotle coined the notion that a government can be described as the best form of government if it is able to provide a happy life and a happy society. In several countries, there are laws that task the state to care for the poor. For instance, the international Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (the Economic Covenant) enjoins the United States to provide good economic, social and political life and to provide the basic necessities of life to its people (Stark, 2009). Another instrument that was drawn on the principles of liberal theory to eradicate poverty was the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a UN General Assembly Proclamation in the year 2000, to eliminate extreme poverty and hunger (ibid). The MDGs are a strategic plan to realize eight strong goals including halving world poverty and halting the spread of HIV/AIDS by the year 2015. These post-cold war approaches to eradicate poverty are designed by liberal conceptions of Morality, Justice, and Utility (Stark, 2009).

2.11.1 Moral Duty to the Poor

The “moral duty to the poor” as a liberal theory does not focus on the individual as responsible for their poverty situation. This conceptualizes poverty as a problem that pricks our moral instincts and increases our moral responsibility to eradicate it. This theory is embedded in empathy. The tenets of this theory emphasise that people living in poverty should be supported because it is a moral responsibility to do so. The basic teachings of the world’s major religions are established on the idea that, it is amoral to see people suffer and continue to live in poverty when other people have the resources to assuage it. The doctrines of moral duty entail ongoing remediation, compassion and charity (Stark, 2009).

In the Doctrine of Virtue, Immanuel Kant, the proponent of this theory posited that, morality is grounded in reason, rather than religion, and that every human being has a responsibility to give a

helping hand to the poor because the axiom of self-interest opposes itself when it is made a universal law (Stark, 2009). Nonetheless, even though the needy needs help, everyone would be free to deny help to anyone in need. This theory is built on the premise that, whatever the cause of another's poverty, be it individual, community or structural, as human beings it is our moral obligation to exterminate it as we envisage other humans to do same for us. The MDGs were founded on the doctrines of the moral duty to the poor (ibid). Thus, the rich developed states are under moral obligation to help eradicate world poverty. However, whether poverty alleviation is a state responsibility or a responsibility of the people of the state is an issue for the state to resolve.

Even though this theory does not see government or poor governance as the cause of poverty, it sees poverty as a debilitating problem that adversely affects humanity and so must be eradicated. It is also relevant to this research because MDGs, NGOs and other organizations have devised measures to reduce poverty out of humane and moral principles and grounded on the tenets of democratic good governance.

2.11.2 The Rights of the Poor

Another component of the liberal theory is "the right of the poor". This theory perceives poverty as injustice by the state against poor people in society. It blames poverty on political and economic inabilities of the state. That is, poverty is injustice, a consequence of some inequity either caused by law and government or uncorrected by them. Consequently, poverty eradication and policies to reduce poverty becomes a matter of rightful claims by individuals against the state (Stark, 2009). The French philosopher, Rousseau, was the first to conceptualize poverty as injustice. This theory accentuates that the poor people in society have legitimate claims on the state for reasonable resources to survive and blames the government for not correcting this anathema, poverty.

Poverty eradication therefore becomes a matter of justice to the poor people in society and in effect positions the poor as active right-bearers rather than passive „unfortunates“. The theory employs some Marxian principles and perceives wealthy individuals as those who constantly exploit the poor to enrich themselves. It therefore proposes that the wealthy should be taxed by the state to give the poor people a good life. This is because the rich may demand the state to help them if they become poor someday. The South African Constitution of 1996 clearly outlines legal rights for the poor in society which seeks to restore more than eight decades of injustice in South Africa (Stark, 2009). Rousseau’s conception of poverty as injustice has spread and melded with its counterparts across Europe.

This theory is also relevant to this research as it conceptualizes poverty as a consequent of political and economic inequalities in society and could be addressed by democracy and good governance.

2.11.3 Poverty and Utility

Poverty as a matter of utility is the third component of the liberal theory of poverty. It perceives poverty as a consequence of political maladministration and economic mismanagement. Utilitarianism is the central component of liberalism and was spearheaded by Jeremy Bentham. The basic tenet of utilitarianism was based on the premise that public policy should pursue the greatest happiness of the greatest number.

The doctrine of this theory which was built on Jeremy Bentham’s theory of utilitarianism sees poverty as a question of utility (Stark, 2009). That is, poverty is a malignancy and needs to be examined and addressed. Bentham opined that, humans are ruled by a simple calculus of maximizing pleasure and minimizing pain, and so every action must be geared towards the promotion of the public good, the greatest happiness of greater number of people in society

(ibid).

Poverty, according to this theory, is conceived as a problem to be addressed particularly because it is painful not only for the poor but also for the entire society of which the poor people are part. Human beings must be considered about their collective well-being and happiness since a person's happiness is contingent on the collective happiness of the society the individual finds him or herself. Bentham accentuated that just the statement of rights is not enough. Reasonably, the emphasis should be geared towards eradicating poverty rather than „abstract justice“ (Stark, 2009). This means that, rights should not be on mere paper but calculated efforts must be made to improve people's hardships.

The issue of poverty should be the concern of all, and therefore, appropriate social intervention strategies should be designed to mitigate the sufferings of the poor so as to empower them to become the best of themselves. The liberal theory of poverty gives a strong theoretical foundation to this research. This is because, the study conceptualizes poverty as a situation where people lack the resources (self or governmental) to afford basic necessities of life, and therefore, improvements in governance can help reduce poverty in the society. Consequently, effective governance is seen as a fundamental requirement for bettering the lives of the poor and its concomitant economic growth and development.

2.11.4 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

The conceptual framework of the study establishes the relationship between democratization, good governance and poverty reduction. It also pinpoints the paramount factors which influence the relationship between good governance and rural poverty reduction. The study conceptualizes poverty as a situation where one lacks the basic needs of life, and therefore, improvements in

governance can help reduce poverty. Thus, democratic good governance is an important tool for reducing poverty and relies on a political environment with a strong connection between government and the local people that will help implement pro-poor policies successfully.

In poverty reduction efforts, good governance means empowering and strengthening the capacity of the local people in the implementation of pro-poor policies to achieve growth and development. Accomplishing pro-poor growth partly depends on the policies a country adopts such as social protection, capacity building of the poor and redistribution of state resources. The decision-making process that adopts the pro-poor policies requires active participation of the people, rule of law (justice), accountability, transparency, effective and efficient public sector/authority, inclusion and responsiveness to the people to achieve growth and development.

2.12 CONCLUSION

This chapter demonstrated the significance of democratic good governance to rural poverty reduction. The concept of poverty, causes and effects of poverty, the relationship between good governance and poverty reduction, and the various policies and programmes for rural poverty reduction and its challenges are the main issues that have been discussed. The theoretical and the conceptual framework of the study have also been explained.

CHAPTER THREE

BACKGROUND OF STUDY AREA AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the methodology which was used to collect and analyse data for the study. The chapter looks at the study area where the research was carried out, research design, study population, sample and sampling technique, sources of data, data collection instruments, pretesting, data collection procedure and the framework for data processing and analysis.

3.1.1 THE STUDY AREA

The Nkoranza North District (NND) is one of the districts created in the Brong-Ahafo Region in 2008. It has Busunya as its capital which is 19.2 kilometres away from Nkoranza. The NND was carved out of the then Nkoranza District and now shares boundaries with Kintampo South to the north, Nkoranza South District to the south, Atebubu-Amantin District to the east and Techiman Municipality to the west. The district has an estimated population of 65,895 with a growth rate of 2.5 percent (GSS, 2012) and comprises of 50.5 males and 49.5 percent females. The total land size of the district stands at 2,322 square kilometres. Nkoranza North District lies within longitudes $1^{\circ} 10'$ and $1^{\circ} 55'$ West, and latitudes $7^{\circ} 20'$ and $7^{\circ} 55'$ North (ibid).

The NND is a rural district and among the poor districts in the Brong Ahafo Region. Out of the total population of 65,895 in the district, 81.5 percent are living in rural areas whilst 18.5 percent are in the urban centres (GSS, 2012). Most of the people in this area are food crop producers, while others earn a living on casual menial jobs. Also, an estimated 30.9 percent (20,121) out of the total household population of 65,895 are poor (ibid).

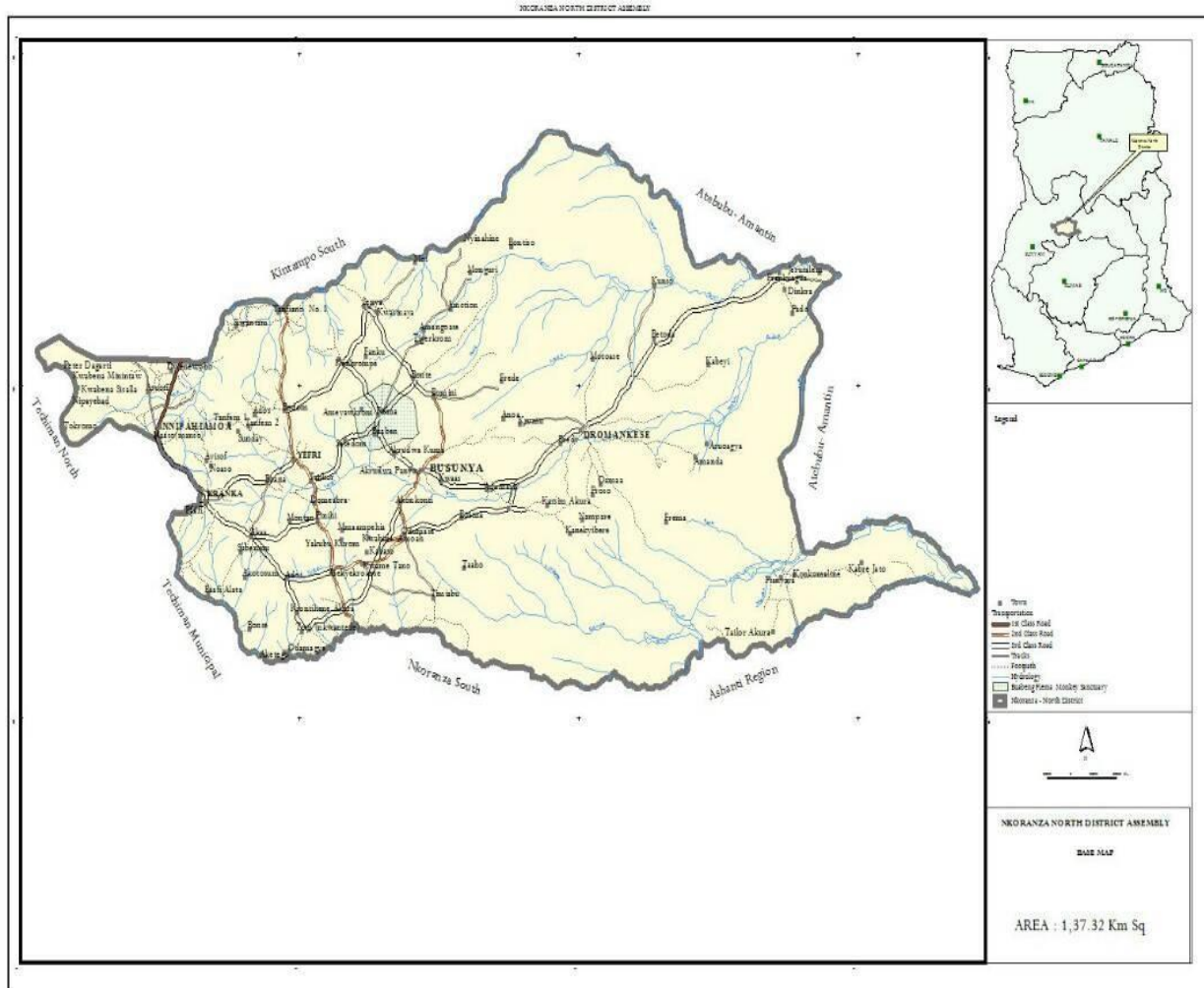
3.1.2 CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

The district is located in the savannah zone in the middle belt of Ghana. It is therefore located in the transitional zone between the moist-semi deciduous forest and the guinea savannah vegetation zones (GSS, 2012). It is also in the transitional zone between tropical interior and wet semi-equatorial climatic regions (ibid). The area has double maxima rainfall pattern. The major rainfall season starts from April and ends in July, while the minor rainfall season begins in September and ends in October. The heaviest rainfall in the district is recorded in June. The dry season is very sharp from November to March (GSS, 2012). Again, the highest mean monthly temperature is about 30.9°C and occurs between March and April. However, the lowest mean monthly temperature is 21.2°C. Figure 1 below shows the map of Nkoranza North District.

3.1.3 ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The Nkoranza North District has an economy dominated by agricultural and its related activities. The next sectors to agriculture are industry, service and commerce. Some of the crops cultivated include cassava, cocoyam, maize, yam, plantain, groundnut, cowpea, tomato, sorghum, cashew among others, although maize and yam are the main crops mostly cultivated. The industrial activities in the district are based on agro-processing and forest products. The small-scale manufacturing and processing industries are into cassava processing, carpentry, palm oil extraction, soap-making, blacksmithing, welding, dressmaking, bee-keeping and sawmilling. The service sector involves telecommunication, taxi and transport services, education and health services, general public administration and financial institutions which provide financial services (GSS, 2012).

Figure 1: The Map of Nkoranza North District



Source: Nkoranza North District Assembly (NNDA), (2017)

3.2.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

According to Inkoom (1999), a research design is a plan which guides the researcher to effectively collect, analyze and interpret observations and helps the researcher to draw conclusions concerning causal relations among the variables under investigation. The core objective of a research design is to guide the data gathered to address the research questions. A research design therefore refers

to the researcher's general plan for getting answers to the research questions and testing the research hypothesis (Polit and Hungler, 1999).

The case study approach was employed for the study, which helped to achieve the principal objective of the research, thus, to investigate the impact of democracy and good governance on rural poverty reduction in the Nkoranza North District. A case study approach necessitates an empirical enquiry into part of a subject with similar attributes to the entire subject under study to obtain an understanding of the whole subject. It enables a researcher to critically examine the data within a specific milieu and allows the assessment and understanding of multifaceted issues (Zainal, 2007).

The case study method was selected because studying the concept of poverty is multifarious. Again, this research method offered the foundation for an empirical investigation into the subject matter and helped to appreciate the forces underlying poverty reduction efforts in the Nkoranza North District. It also gave the researcher a conspicuous and practical opportunity to study poverty and other practical issues relating to poverty reduction related issues.

This research is a logical study into the impact of democratic good governance on the reduction of poverty especially in rural communities. Therefore in an attempt to obtain the needed information, qualitative and quantitative methods were used to analyse data. The qualitative method helped to analyse the data by describing the magnitude to which good governance has affected the implementation of poverty reduction policies and programmes and its impact on the lives of the people in the District. Community Members, Unit Committee Members, Assembly

Members, Opinion Leaders (active and influential people in the selected communities), and some key District Assembly Officials were interviewed using qualitative method with questionnaires and interview guide. Data were analysed qualitatively with tables and charts.

3.2.2 POPULATION OF THE STUDY

A research population can be defined as the group to which a researcher would like the results of the study to be generalized. A research population could also be a set of all cases of interest and might be essentially any size or might cover almost any geographical area (Gay and Diehl, 1992). It refers to the entire group of persons that have the characteristics in which the researcher is interested or all individuals about whom a research project is meant to generalize.

The target population of this study was people eighteen (18) years and above from the randomly selected communities in the Nkoranza North District. This is because, these people are the electorate, are economically active and most of them are eligible household heads of which most are affected with poverty. They include Community Members, Unit Committee Members, Assembly Members, Opinion Leaders, and some key District Assembly Officials in the Nkoranza North District (the District Chief Executive (DCE), District Coordinating Director (DCD), District Planning Officer and the Director in charge of Social Welfare and Community Development).

3.3.0 SAMPLE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

Sampling is a subset of the population under study. Sampling is making a conscious selection from a group of items, people in a community, an institution or society. Sampling therefore represents a small percentage or segment of a population to be used in a study. It is the process of selecting a

sub-group or a portion of elements and treating them as a representation of a larger group (Burns and Bush, 1995).

The sampling technique and sample size employed for the study are discussed below.

3.3.1 Sampling Technique

The study used both simple random sampling and purposive sampling methods to select the respondents. The simple random sampling technique was employed to select community members from the selected communities in the four area councils within the district meticulously so that all members had the chance or probability of being selected or being included in the sample. The lottery method under the simple random sampling was employed for the selection of respondents for the study. Households were numbered on pieces of papers and were folded and mixed up in a box. The numbers were then picked from the box randomly. In all, thirteen people were randomly selected from each of the ten (10) communities for the study. The lottery method was employed to minimize bias and it gave equal chance to every member of the sample frame to be selected.

The purposive sampling technique was also employed to select the Opinion Leaders, Assembly Members, Unit Committee Members, the DCE, the DCD, the District Planning Officer and the Director in charge of Social Welfare and Community Development. The purposive sampling technique was regarded as the most appropriate to select these people because these people were experts in the field whose special knowledge was beneficial to the study. The quality information the people possess by virtue of knowledge and experience helped to provide the accurate information to attain the objectives of the study.

3.3.2 Sample Size

Sample is a small group used to represent the whole. Ten (10) communities were randomly selected from the four (4) area councils in the district. They included Busunya, Dromankese, Yefri, and Kranka Area Councils. The selected communities were Busunya, Bonte, Dumase, Dromankese, Boama, Yefri, Tankor, Pinihin, Kranka and Bonomanso. In each of the ten (10) communities, thirteen (13) people, 18 years and above were the main respondents of the study with the use of structured-self-administered questionnaires.

Again, an interview guide (containing thirty questions) was used to solicit information from 5 Opinion Leaders, 5 Assembly Members, and 6 Unit Committee Members. The DCE, DCD, District Planning Officer and the Director in charge of Social Welfare and Community Development also answered questionnaires. In all, 150 respondents provided information for the study. This helped to ascertain their views and experiences on the impact that democracy and good governance that has led to the adoption of poverty reduction programmes impact on the lives of the people of the Nkoranza North District. Emphasis was placed on the level of community inclusion or participation by both men and women (whether direct or indirect in governance); the fairness or otherwise of the legal system and the protection of the rights of the poor; how free, available and accessible information is; how responsive and accountable local institutions are in the governance of the district; and how efficient and effective or otherwise of the District Assembly in implementing pro-poor policies.

3.4.0 SOURCES OF DATA

Data for the study were collected from both primary and secondary sources.

3.4.1 Primary Sources

The primary sources of data were acquired from the Community Members, Opinion Leaders, Assembly Members, Unit Committee Members, the DCE, DCD, District Planning Officer and the Director of Social Welfare and Community Development with the use of questionnaires and interview guide where appropriate. This gave the researcher the opportunity to get direct firsthand reliable information from the respondents as from their experience and knowledge. This source of data was reliable.

3.4.2 Secondary Sources

A number of published materials on poverty, poverty reduction, democracy, governance and good governance were used for the study. This source gave the researcher significant insight into how democracy that has led to the adoption of good governance can help reduce rural poverty as the local administration of the study area executes anti-poverty policies and programmes. The secondary sources of data were gathered from books, journals, bulletins and documents on democracy, governance, good governance, poverty and poverty reduction. Government documents, budget statements, scholarly books and text books were also extensively consulted.

3.5.0 DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS

The researcher designed an interview guide and a questionnaire as the data collection instruments for the study. The interview questions, based on the objectives of the research, were aimed at eliciting relevant first-hand information concerning the impact of democracy and good governance on poverty reduction strategies and how it has affected the lives of the people. A structured questionnaire was also designed to ascertain the impact of democracy and good governance on

rural poverty reduction and its impact on the lives of the people. Both the interview guide and the questionnaire helped to obtain first-hand information necessary for the research.

3.5.1 Interview Guide

The interview guide was used to elicit information from the Opinion Leaders, Assembly Members and Unit Committee Members. The interview guide had four sections. Section A demanded information about the background information of respondents. Section B was used to collect information about the existence (perception, extent, causes and effects) of poverty in the district. Section C sought to ascertain the existence of democracy and good governance in the district and their usefulness to poverty reduction. Section D looked out for poverty reduction policies and programmes in the district and the associated challenges.

3.5.2 Questionnaires

The questionnaires were used to elicit information from the Community Members, the DCE, DCD, the Planning Officer, and the District Social Welfare and Community Development Director. The questionnaire also had four sections, A, B, C and D. Section A collected data on background of respondents. Section B looked out for information about the existence (perception, extent, root-causes and the attendant effects) of poverty in the district. Section C inquired about the existence of good governance in the study area and their significance to the eradication of poverty. Section D looked for poverty reduction policies and programmes in the district and the associated challenges.

3.5.3 PRE-TEST OF INSTRUMENTS

A pre-test exercise was done at Dromankese to check the validity and reliability of the data collection instruments and also to check the data processing and analysis procedures. People within the ages of twenty (20) and thirty-three (33) were selected for their views and experiences concerning the impact of democracy and good governance on the efforts to reduce rural poverty in the area. The pre-test exercise gathered very useful lessons for the actual fieldwork. The researcher then realized the time that could be spent on a single interview. In addition, ambiguous questions within the interview guide and questionnaires were detected during the pretest and necessary corrections were made accordingly.

3.5.4 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ethical considerations in research are very important in social science research since research encroaches into respondents' private lives and divulges the information into the public domain. Ethical standards in research demand the researchers to maintain objectivity, demonstrate responsibility, competence and propriety as well as protecting respondents (Sarantakos, 2005). One other significant issue of ethics in research is that respondents should be sufficiently educated about the nature of the study and should not be pressured to take part in the study and must give their approval to it (ibid). The issue of informed and voluntary consent suggests that respondents are conscious of the benefits of the research and the risks involved in it. Informed consent must be observed throughout the interaction process, particularly in the face of unanticipated happenings. In this case, social science researchers are required to stress the fact that respondents can withdraw at any stage.

During the interviews in the selected communities in the study area, respondents gave out information freely, were not forced to give information and also understood the importance of the study. Respondents were permitted to quit the interview whenever they wanted and had the chance to decide whether or not to answer a particular question. Respondents were again assured of anonymity and confidentiality of their responses and this relieved their fears that the interview was meant for political reasons. In conclusion, the study adopted as much as possible ethical practices to ensure that the rights of respondents were sufficiently protected.

3.6 DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

Data for the study was analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively. The field data was screened and vetted for consistency, accuracy and completeness. The data collected were edited, coded and analysed into tables and figures based on the objectives with statistical tools and techniques such as Microsoft Word and Excel Spread Sheets as well as Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 20). Analysis of the results of the study were then presented in simple frequency tables and percentage charts.

3.7 CONCLUSION

This chapter discussed the study area where the research took place. It also presented how the research was designed, how the study population was determined and sampled. It also identified the sources of data for the study and how data was collected, processed and analysed.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter analyses and discusses the data collected for the study. It deals with the presentation of results and analyses based on the demographic characteristics of respondents, issues of poverty-perception, causes and effects of poverty, the existence of good governance in the district and its significance to poverty reduction policies and programmes adopted to reduce poverty as well as the challenges confronting the Assembly in reducing poverty in the district. The data are presented on frequency tables and pie charts for analyses and interpretations to describe certain variables where required.

4.1.0 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

This section describes the background of the respondents of the study. The characteristics of the respondents were analysed in terms of sex, age, educational level, marital status, as well as occupation of respondents. The data were gathered through questionnaires and interview guides administered to 150 respondents selected both randomly and purposively.

4.1.1 SEX DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

The sex distribution of respondents can be obtained from Table 1. An examination of the table indicates that, out of the sampled population of 150, males (81) constituted 54.0 percent whilst females (69) constituted 46.0 percent. This implies that both males and females were fairly represented and their responses were considered representative of the total population of the district. It also confirms that male population in the district outnumber female.

Table 1: Sex Distribution of Respondents

| Sex | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------|-----------|----------------|
| Male | 81 | 54.0 |
| Female | 69 | 46.0 |
| Total | 150 | 100 |

Source: Fieldwork, (2017).

4.1.2 AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

Table 2: Age distribution of respondents

| Age (yrs) | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| 18-28 | 30 | 20.0 |
| 29-39 | 35 | 23.3 |
| 40-49 | 38 | 25.3 |
| 50-59 | 28 | 18.7 |
| 60+ | 19 | 12.7 |
| Total | 150 | 100 |

Source: Filed work, (2017)

As indicated in Table 2 above, majority of the respondents aged between 40-49 years representing 25.3 percent, 23.3 percent of them were aged between 29-39 years, whilst 20.0 percent of the respondents were aged between 18-28 years. Twenty-eight (28), representing 18.7 percent of the respondents aged between 50-59 years, whilst 12.7 percent of them were above 60 years. It can be deduced that majority of the respondents (87.3 percent) were between 18-59 years and are in their

economic active age. Some are working while others are unemployed or underemployed and therefore have an in-depth knowledge of poverty and its consequences.

4.1.3 EDUCATION LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS

The respondents' educational level is a factor to determine their understanding of poverty, democracy and good governance and also for the fact that low level of education is identified as one of the causes of poverty in the District. Also, education constitutes one of the most important factors influencing people's active participation and their involvement or inclusion in governance processes and also indicates how one can be actively empowered.

As indicated in Table 3 below, the survey revealed different patterns of educational status in the district. It was found out that 24.0 percent of the respondents had primary education while 18.0 percent had completed Junior Secondary now Junior High School.

Again, 13.0 percent had either completed Senior High School, Vocational or a Technical school. Only 14.0 percent of the respondents had received formal education to the tertiary level. Of all the respondents, forty-seven (47) of them, representing 31.0 percent had not attained any formal education and therefore were illiterate. This can partly explain the high level of illiteracy, unemployment and poverty in the District. Education is a significant determinant of capacity and serves as a means to which one can move out of poverty. The educational level of the population to some extent reveals the level of social and economic development of a community.

Table 3: Education Level of Respondents

| Level of Education | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Primary/Adult Education | 36 | 24.0 |
| JHS/MSLC | 27 | 18.0 |
| SHS/VOC/TECH | 19 | 13.0 |
| Tertiary | 21 | 14.0 |
| None | 47 | 31.0 |
| Total | 150 | 100 |

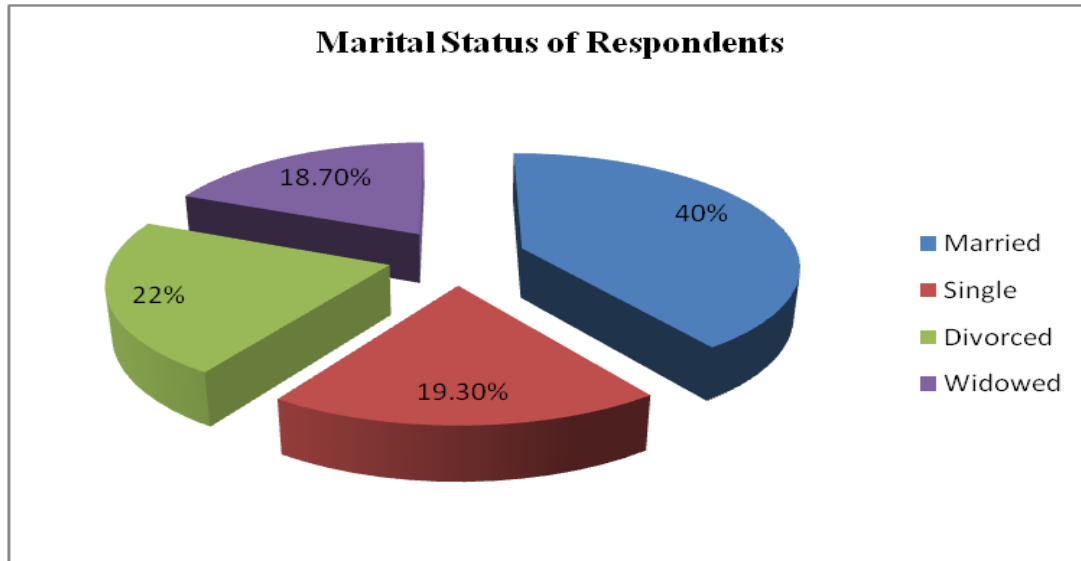
Source: Fieldwork, (2017)

4.1.4 MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS

From Figure 2 below, the data indicates that 19.3 percent of the respondents were single, 40.0 percent of them were married, 22.0 percent were divorced and 18.7 percent were widowed. It was realized that, the married who form the majority of the respondents with most of them underemployed had dependants.

This indicates low level of income, low savings and high dependency ratio which are all characteristics of poverty and its resultant vicious-cycle of poverty are experienced in the District. Respondents who were single or divorced also had more children of which most of them were not in school or had not had formal education, were not able to save and in situations where they do, it is minimal.

Figure 2: Marital Status of respondents



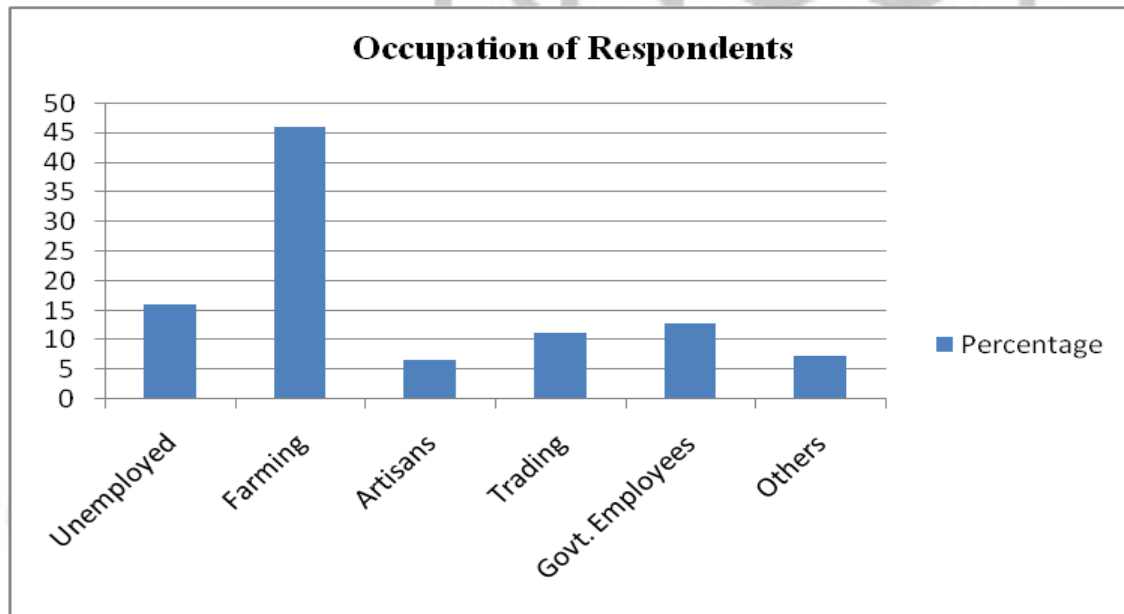
Source: Fieldwork, (2017)

4.1.5 OCCUPATION OF RESPONDENTS

Figure 3 below indicates that about 64.0 percent of the respondents were small-scale self-employed people who are farmers, artisans (radio repairers, carpenters, tailors, and dressmakers), traders (food vendors, fish mongers, provision-stall operators) and other small-scale business people with negligible annual incomes. The farmers were mostly peasant farmers with a few of them into cash crop farming such as cashew, orange and watermelon. Out of the 150 respondents, only 19 people, constituting 12.7 percent were public servants such as teachers, community health nurses, agricultural extension officers and employees at the District Assembly. This category of people receives salaries and can save money or take good care of their dependants.

Other sources of livelihood that made up 11 people, representing 7.30 percent of the respondents included people who were engaged in charcoal burning, farm labourers and other menial jobs.

The data further reveals that, 16.0 percent of the respondents were unemployed for various reasons such as lack of education, lack of job skills, laziness or physical disabilities. **Figure 3: Occupation of Respondents**



Source: Fieldwork, (2017)

4.2 EXISTENCE OF POVERTY IN THE DISTRICT

This section sought to ascertain the existence of poverty in the district. It sought to find out people's perception of poverty, causes and effects of poverty and the level of deprivation in the study area. One hundred and forty-two (142) constituting 94.0 percent of the respondents confirmed that poverty exists in the district. The remaining eight (8) constituting 6.00 percent could not say whether poverty exists in the District or not. The 94.0 percent of the respondents who indicated that poverty does exist in the district assigned some indications of poverty as: most people's inability to feed themselves and their families twice a day; many people do not have good places to sleep, or live in over-crowded households; cannot send their children or wards to school or

cannot pay their children's school fees and other family expenses; owe people and cannot pay; do not have jobs to do (no means of livelihood); do not earn good income or no income at all; have very low standard of living; and many people are in a high state of want.

An opinion leader therefore defined poverty as

“lack of capacity or ability to get what you want, lack of power and lack of basic things to support good life. Poverty is when one finds it difficult to feed himself and his family. One is experiencing poverty when he owes and cannot settle his debts and cannot take his children to school”

(Interview, an Ex-Assembly Member and Educationst, Busunya, June, 2017).

4.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POOR IN THE DISTRICT

The problem of poverty manifests itself in different ways in the district. According to many of the respondents (94.0 percent), poverty manifests itself in many of the population, from lack of basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, good drinking water and good accommodation, poor health, inability to settle debts, to emotional distress. The District Assembly Officials indicated that, a lot of people live in dilapidated houses, do not get enough food to eat and therefore are malnourished, and cannot take care of their families. Others also have no source of income, lack electricity in their homes, are unemployed, and are in poor health conditions.

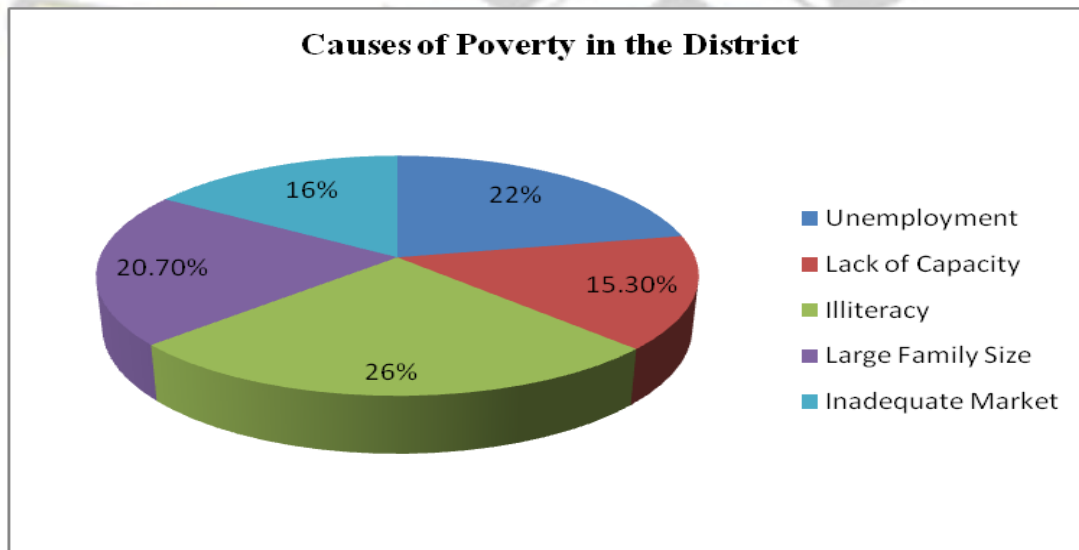
The data revealed that, many minors of school-going age were not in school because they cannot get food to eat at school and so they had to help their parents on their farms. Other respondents also pointed out petty stealing, child neglect, upsurge of teenage pregnancy and marital problems due to the people's inability to take care of their families as highly characteristic of the poor. The

data again revealed that, only about 26.0 percent of the respondents owned household asserts such as television sets, bicycles, cell-phones, radio sets or farm lands.

4.4 CAUSES OF POVERTY IN THE DISTRICT

As depicted in Figure 4 below, 22.0 percent of the respondents pointed out unemployment as the cause of poverty, 15.3 percent affirmed lack of capacity, 26.0 percent pointed out illiteracy, 20.7 percent also mentioned large family size (high dependency), whilst 16.0 percent of them confirmed inadequate market as the major causes of poverty in the district. That is, most farmers have to walk long distances to get farm inputs and market for their farm produce.

Figure 4: Causes of Poverty in the District



Source: Fieldwork, (2017)

4.5 EFFECTS OF POVERTY IN THE DISTRICT

Poverty has greatly affected the socio-economic development of the district as a whole and the emotional state of the very poor. This section sought to explore the effects of poverty on the lives

of the people in the district. Table 4 below shows that, 24.7 percent of the respondents indicated low level of education, while 30.0 percent pointed out poor living standards of the people as the effects of poverty in the District. They further explained that poor living standards involve poor living conditions, deprivation and being in need. Twenty-six (26.0) percent of the respondents identified hunger, poor health and low life expectancy as the effects of poverty on the lives of the poor people in the District. They expounded that, hunger leads to malnourishment, sicknesses, general poor health conditions and inability to go to hospital when sick, and death.

Again, 11.3 percent of the respondents confirmed crimes (petty-stealing and robbery) and violence as some of the effects of poverty that cannot be underestimated. Eight (8.00) percent of the respondents also indicated social issues such as child labour, child neglect, teenage pregnancy, prostitution, marital problems, rural-urban migration, and alcoholism as effects of poverty in the District. According to all the respondents, the consequences of poverty have been disadvantageous to the socio-economic development of the District.

Table 4: Effects of Poverty in the District

| Effects of Poverty | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Low level of Education | 37 | 24.7 |
| Poor Living Standards | 45 | 30.0 |
| Hunger and Poor Health | 39 | 26.0 |
| Crimes and Violence | 17 | 11.3 |
| Social Issues | 12 | 8.00 |
| Total | 150 | 100 |

Source: Fieldwork, (2017)

4.6 STANDARDS OF LIVING OF RESPONDENTS

The effects of poverty affect the standard of living of people. Respondents were asked how they would rate their standard of living as „very high“, „high“, „average“, „low“ or „very low“. Ten (10.0) percent ranked themselves „high“, 25.0 percent ranked themselves average, 20.0 percent ranked themselves as experiencing „low“ standard of living, whilst 40.0 percent of the respondents ranked themselves as living „very low“ standard. The data revealed that, the people living in high standards of living (10.0 percent) were made up of people who had good source of livelihood, could provide for their needs, take care of their families, had the capacity to acquire basic necessities of life and owned household asserts such as motor bikes, television sets, electric stoves and fridges. People in this category encapsulated people who work in the formal sector of the economy (government employees) and few self-employed people.

Equally, respondents who categorized themselves as enjoying „average“ standard of living (25.0 percent) were people with a reasonable source of income, could moderately feed themselves and their families and could afford shelter, clothing and healthcare. These people were made up of artisans (masons, carpenters and dressmakers), food vendors, cash crop farmers and skilled labourers. The remaining 65.0 percent constituted the „low“ and the „very low“ standard category. These were farm labourers, people with no source of income, those who perform other menial jobs, petty traders (groundnut, orange, chewing-stick, and fire wood sellers), among others.

4.7.0 EXISTENCE OF DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE DISTRICT

This section sought to ascertain the existence of democratic good governance in the study area. It therefore employed the following key principles of democratic good governance as the guiding foundation: participation and inclusion; rule of law and predictability; accountability and

transparency; equity, effectiveness and efficiency. Responses were analyzed based on these core principles of good governance in relation to the extent to which pro-poor policies are planned and implemented and geared towards effective poverty reduction.

4.7.1 Participation and Inclusion

The level of people's participation in governance, for the purpose of this research, was determined by equal and active involvement of people in decision-making processes and in planning and execution of projects; opportunities for public participation in politics; consultation of communities in governance processes and the empowerment of vulnerable groups in the attempt to reduce poverty. With respect to poverty reduction, participation was measured to ascertain how far the poor had equal opportunity to contribute to policy-making and implementation.

The participation of the people starts from the community level. Community respondents were asked if they were able to present their views or grievances to their Unit Committee or Assembly Members. Out of the 130 community respondents, 82.0 percent of them answered „yes“ whilst 18.0 percent of them answered „no“. The 18.0 percent of the respondents who answered „no“ to the question mentioned incompetence of their representatives as their major reason for not presenting their grievances to them. This notwithstanding the data still shows that, people have easy access to their representatives in their various communities. Of all the 150 respondents, 92.0 percent of them had voted in both the local and general elections. Only 8.00 percent of them did not vote for reasons such as lack of interest, sickness during the time of voting, while others had travelled out of town during the elections. This also shows the people's active involvement in political participation in the study area.

The data again revealed that, about 72.0 percent of the community respondents do attend community meetings with their Chiefs, Unit Committee and Assembly Members and the community members on issues of development and on District Assembly proposed projects. The remaining 28.0 percent do not attend community meetings because of busy schedules, sickness or lack of interest.

According to the District Assembly Officials, Assembly Members are very active in the performance of their duties. They also indicated that, Assembly Members serve actively as the mouthpiece of the people while the Area Councils are consulted in numerous ways. They concluded that, women, the local elite, Chiefs and Opinion Leaders serve as appointees and perform key roles in the District Assembly. Also, the people are freely and actively involved in the election of their local level representatives (Assembly and Unit Committee Members); participate in presidential and parliamentary elections and the approval of the District Chief Executive through their elected Assembly Members. Similarly, there is a District Assembly subcommittee for women and children, whilst the inputs of the physically challenged are also taken into the District Medium Term Plan (DMTP) prepared by the District Assembly.

4.7.2 Rule of Law and Predictability

The principle of rule of law in promoting poverty reduction for the purpose of this research was analyzed in relation to unbridled access to justice and a level-playing field for all; safety and security; fair and predictable application of laws; protection of human rights (especially of the poor); and the extent to which laws and pro-poor policies exist to protect the poor and to reduce poverty.

Again, respondents' views were sought on the level of security, justice and fair legal framework that exist in the district. Out of the 150 respondents, only 30.0 percent indicated the existence of active police protection in their communities, whilst the 70.0 percent indicated otherwise. It was realized from the data that, the few 30.0 percent were people living in the major towns that have police stations (Busunya and Yefri). The rest (70.0 percent) live in rural communities without police stations. Nevertheless, there are community police personnel in some communities protecting lives and properties and preventing crime. The other communities also had community watch-dog committees or volunteers protecting the people.

According to all the respondents (the District Assembly Officials, opinion leaders, stake holders, Assembly Members, Unit Committee and the community members), even though there are no court systems, there are customary dispute resolution mechanisms that are very active in dispensing justice with the help of the police. These community actors who help to administer justice include chiefs, priests, respectable elderly people and retired educationists. Also, the District Assembly Officials indicated that, human rights in the district are safeguarded through the enforcement of bye-laws made by the Assembly Members and the vibrant operations of the Social welfare, the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and the Police Service who are fair to all manner of persons including the poor and vulnerable groups.

4.7.3 Transparency and Accountability

The principles of transparency and accountability were analysed based on the level of information of state institutions accessible to the public concerning services, policies, magnitude of access of the poor to basic government services and infrastructure; and the extent to which public expenditure is pro-poor.

Consequently, respondents were asked to indicate the level of transparency and accountability of the local authorities in the planning and implementation of policies, the readiness of the local government authorities to respond to the needs and aspirations of the people; and their openness in decision-making processes. The data collected indicated that 45.0 percent of the respondents said the local authority was „transparent“, 20.0 percent stipulated that the local authority was „not transparent“, whilst 35.0 percent remained „neutral“. The 45.0 percent transparency indicates that, since Assembly Members, some opinion leaders and some government appointees (selected from the local people) represent the local people in the Assembly and play significant roles in the planning and execution of policies and projects their activities are transparent.

Again, the opinion leaders and Assembly Members indicated that, there are times the DCE and Assembly Members meet communities to discuss developmental issues. They further stipulated that, communities are sometimes consulted before programmes and projects are executed. Also, the media, especially the local information centres serve as a strong avenue for people to obtain information concerning the activities of the Assembly. In addition, they stated that openness in the dealings of the local authorities comes to bear in communities at town hall meetings and public hearing programmes with the communities from time-to-time. Again, respondents' views were sought on whether transparency and accountability of the activities of the local authority can help fight poverty or not. Of all the respondents, 75.0 percent indicated „yes“, 15.0 percent indicated „no“ whilst the remaining 10 percent were not sure.

4.7.4 Effectiveness and Efficiency

The principles of effectiveness, efficiency and equity were also assessed from the following parameters: the ability of the District Assembly to guarantee the equitable and equal delivery of

basic public services; ability to develop policies effective to reduce poverty; social protection and government credibility to the execution of policies.

The views of the respondents were sought on how efficient and effective the government and the local authority were in the provision of social services and other needs of the people. In terms of the provision of water, health care, education and electricity, 62.0 percent rated the District Assembly „effective“, 20.0 percent of the respondents rated the Assembly „neither effective nor ineffective“, whilst 18.0 percent rated the District Assembly „ineffective“. This implies that, the people have no serious problem with access to water, education and health care in the District. This is evidenced by the existence of a lot of CHPS Compounds (at Pienyinah, Bonomanso, Bomini, and Bonte), and Health Centres (Kranka, Busunya, Yefri, and Dromankese), and an effective Community Water Project in the District capital, Busunya. Again, 72.2 percent of children of school going age have access to education (DMTP, 2018-2020).

Also, of all the respondents, 80.0 percent „strongly agreed“ that good governance can help reduce poverty. They gave their reasons that, good governance will help: empower the people to participate actively in local governance and would be able to hold public officers responsible for their actions; promote public sector efficiency and development; develop open and accountable government that can combat corruption; and will promote equal opportunities for all persons in society. In addition, the rights and freedoms of the people will be safeguarded, and above all, good governance will promote equitable universal provision of basic services. The remaining 20.0 percent „neither agreed nor disagreed“ that good governance can help reduce poverty.

4.8.0 POVERTY REDUCTION POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES IN THE DISTRICT

AND CHALLENGES

Poverty reduction can only be successful in a democratic environment that has adopted good governance as the bases of governance. This section envisioned to find out poverty reduction policies and programmes existing in the district and how they are being implemented to reduce poverty through good governance. The anti-poverty mechanisms in the district stretch from Central governmental and District level programmes as well as community initiatives. The section continues to present the challenges militating against the reduction of poverty in the study area.

4.8.1 NATIONAL POVERTY REDUCTION POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Respondents were asked if they had ever received any form of governmental assistance to improve their living standards and in what form, and the existence or otherwise of pro-poor policies in the district. There is evidence to show that all the respondents confirmed the existence of the following central government poverty reduction programmes:

- i. National Youth and Employment Programme (NYEP). This programme aims at giving the youth employment and to offer work experience and employable skills. The programme package include Youth in Security service, Health extension, Youth in Waste and Sanitation, Community Teaching Assistants, and Trades and Vocation
- ii. Capitation Grant and School Feeding Programme;
- iii Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE);
- iv. National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS);
- v. Microfinance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC);
- vi. National Fertilizer Subsidy Programme; and

vii. Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP).

In addition, the District Assembly Officials (the DCE, the DCD, the Planning Officer, and the Social Welfare and Community Development Officer) confirmed the existence and active implementation of the above programmes in the district. They added the active implementation of other policies such as 3 percent of the DACF allocated for People With Disabilities (PWD); Elderly Welfare card (for people above age 65) to provide the aged easy and quick access to social amenities; and free registration of the aged (60 years and above) and PWD into the NHIS, among others. These, they stated, will help reduce poverty in the district.

4.8.2 DISTRICT-LEVEL POVERTY REDUCTION POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

The officials from the District Assembly (the DCE, DCD, and the Planning Officer) indicated that, poverty reduction programmes which are designed and implemented to reduce poverty in the District are done in consultation with the representatives of the local people, stakeholders, as well as opinion leaders. At certain times, the whole community is consulted in the citing of projects in the community. According to the officials, the District Assembly is effectively and efficiently implementing the social intervention programmes such as LEAP, MASLOC, NHIS, School Feeding Programme, National Fertilizer Subsidy Programme and the Ghana Social Opportunity Project (GSOP) programme all geared towards the alleviation of poverty in the district.

Also, as a district or local level initiative, the District Assembly has put in place some mechanisms or programmes to reduce poverty. These local-level poverty reduction programmes include the following:

(i) Human Resource Development

The DCE, the DCD, and the Planning Officer stated that, in the agenda to eradicate poverty, the Assembly has planned and executed programmes to reduce the problem of unemployment through human resource development. They further indicated that, these have been achieved through formulation of poverty alleviation programmes and training and capacity building of the people in business skills. They posited that, sixty (60) people have been trained in bee-keeping, fifty (50) in soap making, twenty (20) in mushroom production, thirty (30) in snails rearing as well as business management skills. Job-skills training are given to participants of these programmes, machines have been provided for people in the gari-processing industry and more than hundred (100) tertiary students are given financial assistance yearly. They concluded that, people have been trained and encouraged to form Co-operatives in order to access credit facilities and to engage in cash crop farming. These, they stated, have improved the living conditions of participants. Again, from time to time farmers are also given agricultural extension services, subsidized fertilizers as well as low interest rate loans to boost their agricultural productivity.

(ii) Infrastructural development

In the context of the definition of poverty encompassing lack of access to social services and deprivation, the only way to alleviate poverty will be to provide easy access to social services to all. According to the District Assembly Officials, the delivery of basic infrastructure and social services such as the construction and innovation of classroom blocks especially in remote areas, clinics or CHPS Compounds, construction and maintenance of feeder roads and provision of easy access to potable water is cardinal to reduce poverty in the District and therefore are been executed in the District. Attempts have also been made to extend CHIPS Compounds, electricity and good roads to many communities to boost the rural economy.

4.9 CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POVERTY REDUCTION POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES IN THE DISTRICT

The main objective of this section was to find out the challenges which beset the implementation of the various poverty reduction policies and programmes in the study area. Therefore, the main respondents were the key Management Body of the Assembly, viz, the DCE, the DCD, the District Planning Officer, and the Director of Social Welfare and Community Development. They all indicated the following as the major challenges:

- i. inadequate and untimely release of statutory funds to facilitate timely execution of projects;
- ii. low level of commitment from stakeholders to effectively assist in planning, formulation and implementation of programmes and projects aimed at reducing poverty; and
- iii. misuse of direct financial assistance by some beneficiaries.

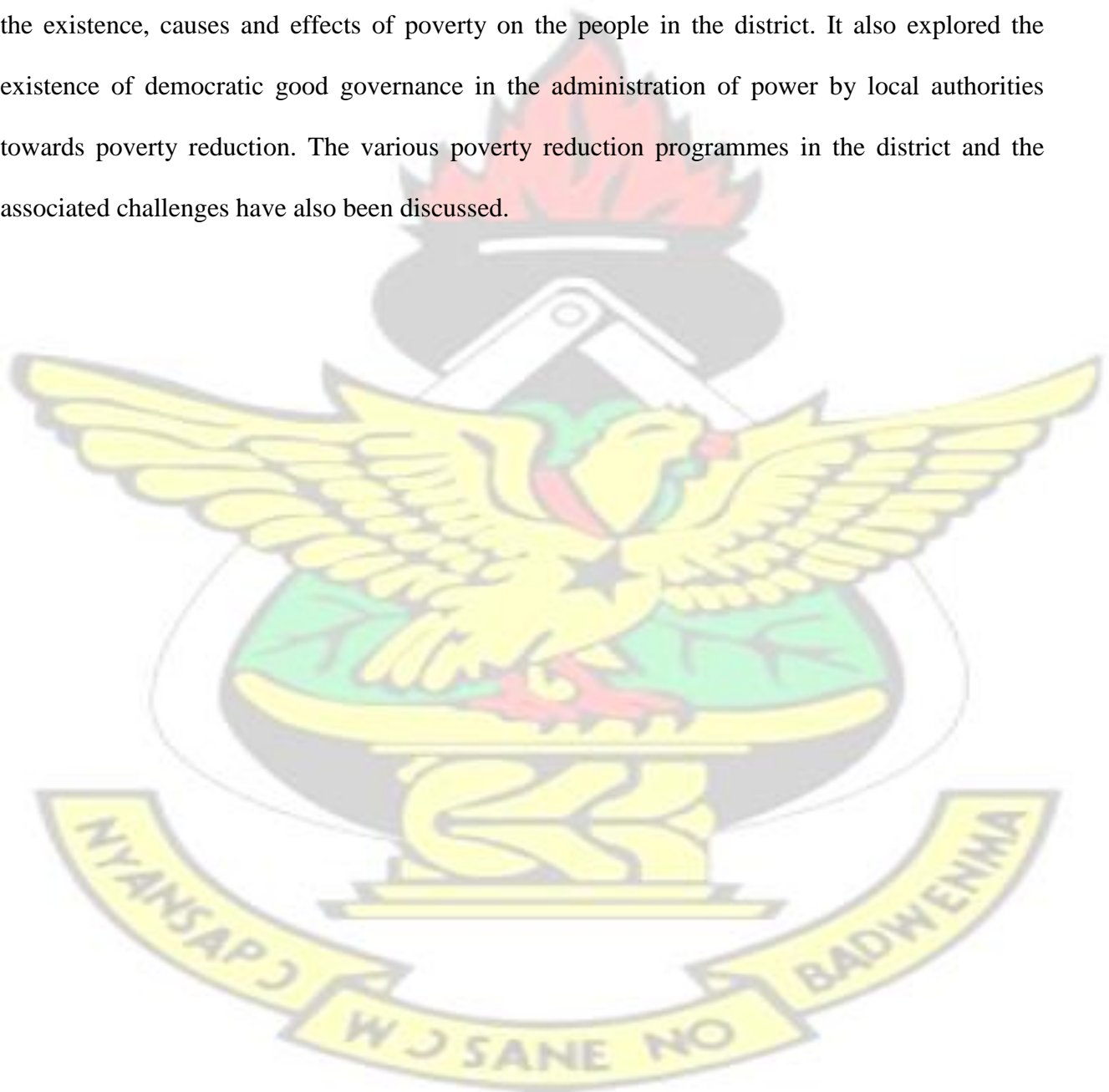
The District Social Welfare Officer bemoaned that,

“Our challenges are many. The untimely release of statutory funds adversely affects our activities. Another challenge is that, most beneficiaries of the LEAP programme and the physically challenged who receive direct cash transfer misuse the funds for trivial activities such as funerals, and the buying of clothing and other needless things. They don’t use the monies for the intended purposes. Some of the PWD misuse theirs” and go back begging. It is also difficult to reach PWD who are living in the remote areas to assist them. As such, they don’t benefit from the DACF allocation for PWD since monies are given to only registered members of their association”.

These challenges, they proclaimed, adversely affect effective implementation of programmes to alleviate poverty in the district.

4.10 CONCLUSION

The chapter has discussed the demographic characteristics of the respondents and has confirmed the existence, causes and effects of poverty on the people in the district. It also explored the existence of democratic good governance in the administration of power by local authorities towards poverty reduction. The various poverty reduction programmes in the district and the associated challenges have also been discussed.



CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to present the summary of findings of the study, draw conclusions and then make recommendations. The summary covers an overview of the entire study and the key findings per objective. This is followed by conclusions and the recommendations on the findings of the study. The chapter also presents an area for further research.

5.1 SUMMARY

This section of the study concentrates on the overview of the study as well as key findings. This study intended to ascertain how the adoption of democratic good governance as the foundation for the execution of poverty eradication policies and programmes in Ghana has impacted on the lives of the people in the Nkoranza North District. That is to say, the study envisioned to find out how poverty reduction strategies are being implemented to effectively and efficiently reduce poverty and how these have impacted the living standards of the people in the Nkoranza North District. It subsequently examined the causes, extent and effects of poverty on the lives of the people of the District.

It again analysed the effects of good governance on poverty reduction on the lives of the poor people in the District. It further sought to explore the various poverty reduction programmes employed by the Nkoranza North District Assembly to reduce poverty and the challenges facing the Assembly in the reduction of poverty in the district.

The research employed the case study research design for the study. It employed simple random sampling technique and the purposive sampling in its sampling processes. This was purposely used to search for primary data. Questionnaires and interview guides were used to collect data. People 18 years and above were used for the study. Community Members, Assembly Members and Unit Committee Members, Opinion Leaders, the DCE, DCD, District Planning Officer and the Director for Social Welfare and Community Development were the key participants. Data collected were carefully edited and coded in order to ensure accuracy and for easy analysis.

5.2 KEY FINDINGS

The cardinal objective of this study was to examine the impact that democratic good governance has on the execution of poverty reduction programmes on the people of Nkoranza North District. The study therefore examined good governance in the context of Nkoranza North District from 2008 to date.

The first objective of the study examined the causes and effects of poverty in the district. The key findings that emerged were:

1. The research found out that the causes of poverty in the district include unemployment, lack of employable skills, poor agricultural practices and bad weather, inadequate credit facilities, mismanagement of income, high illiteracy, inadequate market and large family sizes. That is, many of the people are wallowing in poverty because they do not have work to do to earn income. They are unemployed because they have not acquired formal education to possess the ability to be employed to work in the formal sector. Others also lack the basic job skills to work because they have not received any job training, or are physically challenged or their physical health and strength hinder them from working.

Sicknesses have plunged many households into destitution. Besides, those who are able to produce crops do not get market for their farm produce. Others also have large family size to cater for. They live from hand to mouth and therefore cannot save for present and the future.

2. The effects of poverty on the lives of the poor in the District encapsulate low level of education; poor living standards of the people; hunger and poor health; low life expectancy; poor housing conditions; crimes and violence; and other social issues such as child labour, child neglect, teenage pregnancy, prostitution, marital problems, rural-urban migration, and alcoholism.

The second objective of the study sought to find out the relationship between good governance and poverty reduction in the district. The research found out that:

1. There is the existence of good governance in the District and much effort is put in place to reduce poverty through diverse ways. The application of good governance in the implementation of pro-poor policies is helping to reduce poverty.
2. Community stakeholders, opinion leaders and the representatives of the people are actively participating in the governance of the District in the planning and execution of policies and programmes targeted at reducing poverty.
3. The views of the poor and vulnerable, the community members, and the elite are respected in the planning and implementation of local-level poverty reduction programmes.
4. There is access to justice as civil cases are amicably settled by traditional authorities in the communities with fairness whilst criminal cases are then referred to the Police. There is safety and security through the effective activities of the Ghana Police Service and the community police or community watch-dog system.

5. The activeness of Assembly Members in their participation in the planning and implementation of policies to reduce poverty in the District is a strong factor that cannot be underestimated. Information regarding policies and programmes get to the people through the Assembly Members, Unit Committee Members, and with the help of the media, particularly, the radio and the community information centres. Thus, the people have access to information.
6. The District Assembly is able to plan and execute poverty reduction policies and programmes and is able to provide basic social services in the district.

The third objective of the study sought to explore the various poverty reduction policies and programmes employed by the Assembly to reduce poverty, and the following were the key findings:

1. The Assembly is committed to the implementation of the various national anti-poverty programmes such as NYEP, Capitation Grant and School Feeding Programme, FCUBE, NHIS, MASLOC, National Fertilizer Subsidy Programme and LEAP.
2. The District Assembly is empowering and building the capacity of the people and giving them job-skills training in areas such as bee-keeping, mushroom production, soap making, mechanized gari-processing and snails rearing and also educate farmers on good methods of farming and provide them with subsidized fertilizers.
3. The Assembly is reducing poverty and deprivation through the building and expansion of social services and infrastructure as well as financial assistance to tertiary students.

The final objective of the study sought to ascertain the challenges that the District Assembly is facing in the implementation of poverty reduction programmes. The study identified the following challenges:

1. statutory funds to facilitate the implementation of pro-poor policies and programmes are untimely released and hence delay proposed plans and projects. Again, funds to execute those pro-poor policies and programmes are sometimes inadequate.
2. stakeholders who are expected to help plan and implement the pro-poor policies and programmes in the District are not fully committed to support the fight against poverty.
3. some of the beneficiaries who receive direct financial assistance from the District Assembly misuse the funds.

5.3 CONCLUSION

From the findings of the study, it can be established that poverty exists in the Nkoranza North District and manifests itself in diverse dimensions. It is caused by unemployment, lack of employable skills, poor agricultural practices and bad weather, inadequate credit facilities, mismanagement of income, high illiteracy, inadequate market for farm produce and large families. The effects of poverty include low level of education, poor living standards, hunger, poor health, low life expectancy, crimes and violence, and other social issues such as child neglect, teenage pregnancy, prostitution, marital problems, rural-urban migration, and alcoholism.

As the second objective, the study examined how good governance promotes poverty reduction in the district. The study confirms that there is evidence of political participation and inclusion, transparency, accountability of the local authority, equity, and institutional efficiency and effectiveness in fighting poverty in the district as safety and security are also guaranteed in the District.

Again, the study confirms that, the District has designed numerous strategies to reduce poverty.

The various national poverty reduction programmes such as NYEP, Capitation Grant and School Feeding Programme, FCUBE, NHIS, MASLOC, National Fertilizer Subsidy Programme, LEAP and other social intervention programmes are being implemented with good governance as the foundation. The District Assembly is empowering and building the capacity of the people by giving job-skill training, education of farmers, as well as the building and expansion of social services and infrastructure in the district.

However, this attempt to reduce poverty is beset with some challenges such as inadequate and untimely release of statutory funds to facilitate timely implementation of projects, low level of commitment from stakeholders, and misuse of direct financial assistance by some beneficiaries.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

This section presents the recommendations on the findings of the study and also suggests area for further research. From the analysis, findings and the conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. More people should be actively involved in the planning and implementation of local level pro-poor policies and programmes.
2. The commitment to reduce poverty should be geared towards provision of social services to the people, improving the needs of the poor, the development of human resource and provision of affordable credit facilities for farmers and small-scale businessmen and women in the District.
3. Women should be empowered and be offered the chance to partake actively in decision-making processes in the district.

4. People should strive to acquire basic job-skills like carpentry, masonry, rearing of snails and grasscutters, bee-keeping, tailoring, dressmaking, welding and soap making. Also, people should be encouraged to have small families and place premium on education.
5. Farmers should adopt modern agricultural technology such as irrigation to boost crop production. Farmers should be given credit facilities and agricultural extension services as well as ready markets for farm produce.
6. Government needs to provide more job opportunities, make education accessible to all, improve healthcare and also put measures in place to expeditiously monitor and evaluate poverty reduction programmes.

5.5 SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

This study sought to find out the impact of democratic good governance and rural poverty reduction on the lives of the people of Nkoranza North District. Being a case study, much focus was put on rural poverty and so ignored urban poverty. Therefore, a further study could also look at the impact of democratic good governance on urban poverty, as poverty is not only linked to people living in the rural areas. Again, a further research could be done on assessing the strengths and weaknesses of poverty reduction programmes in rural communities in Ghana.

5.6 CONCLUSION

The chapter presented the summary of the findings of the study and conclusions as the study depicts. Therefore, recommendations were made based on the findings and then concluded the chapter with suggestions for further studies.

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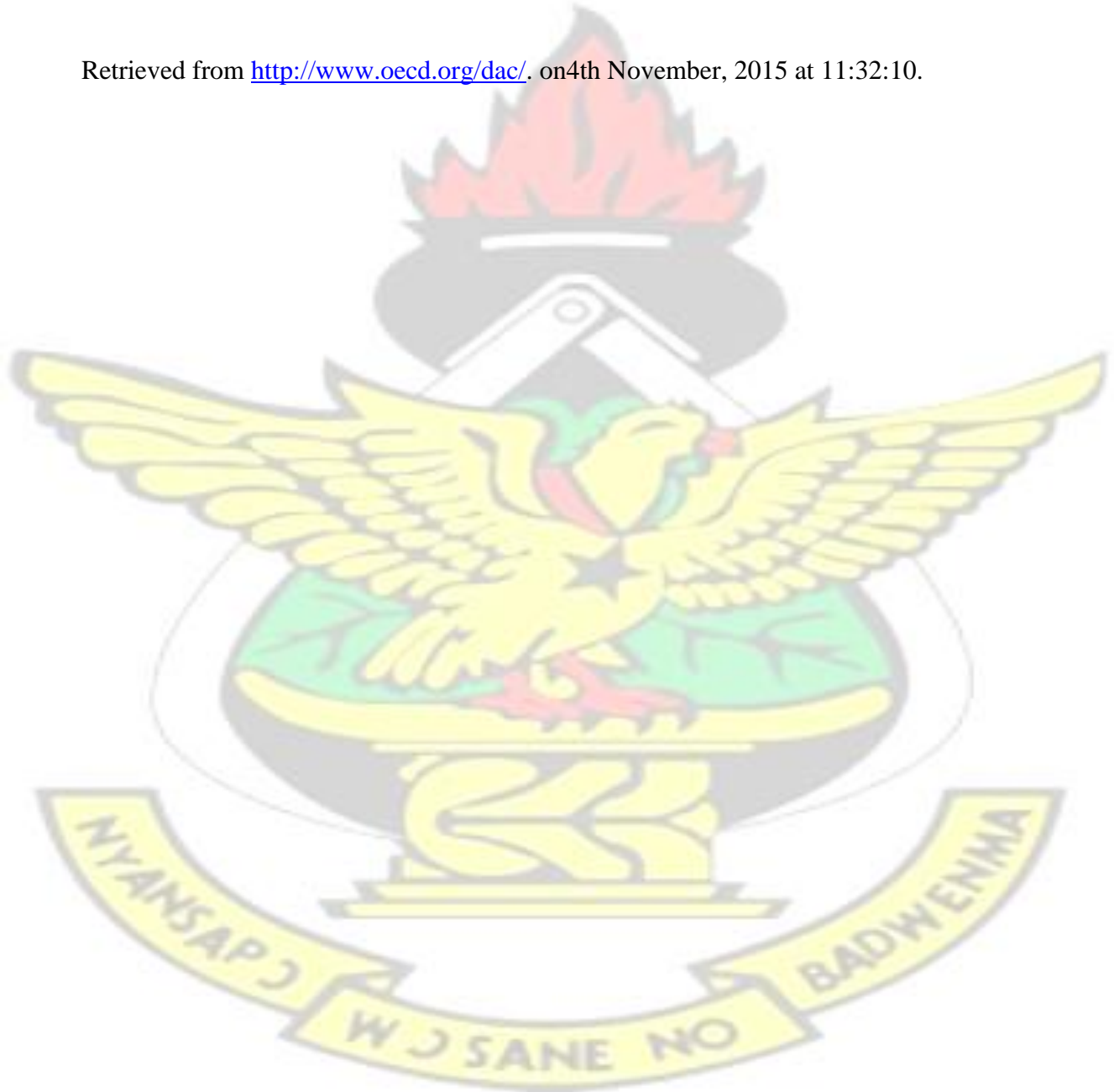
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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL STUDIES

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

This research is being conducted to find out the Impact of Good Governance on Rural Poverty Reduction: The Case of Nkoranza North District. The main purpose of the study is academic and respondents and participants are assured of anonymity and confidentiality. It would therefore be appreciated if the following questions could be responded to as accurately as possible.

Your willingness is appreciated. Thank You.

NB: Please tick in the appropriate box or fill in where spaces are provided.

A. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

1. Sex, Male [] Female [] Other []
2. Age, 18-28 [] 29-39 [] 40-49 [] 50-59 [] 60+ []
3. Level of Education, Primary/Adult Educ. [] JHS/MSLC [] SHS/VOC/TECH []
Tertiary [] None []
4. Marital Status, Married [] Single [] Divorced [] Widowed [] Other []
5. Occupation, Farming [] Trading [] Gov't employee [] Unemployed [] Artisans []

Others []

6. How many dependents do you have? None [] Two [] Three [] Four and above []

B. PERCEPTION, EXTENT, CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF POVERTY

7. (a) Does poverty exist in this area? Yes [] No [] Neither Yes nor No [] (b). If Yes, what

do you understand by the term poverty?

.....
.....

8. What are some of the characteristics of a poor person?

.....
.....

9. What do you think poverty brings upon people?

.....
.....
.....

10. How would you rate your standard of living? Very High [] High [] Neither High nor

Low [] Low [] Very Low []

11. How would you describe the state of your home? Very Good [] Good [] Neither Good

nor Bad [] Bad [] Very Bad []

12. How do you seek for health assistance whenever you or any of your household members is sick? Drug Store [] Herbalists [] Clinic/Hospital [] Other [], please specify.....

13. (a) Are you able to see a Doctor /Nurse when you or any of your household members is sick?
Yes [] No [] Neither Yes nor No []

(b) If No, why?.....

14. Do you have easy access to: (a) Water, Yes [] No [] Neither Yes nor No []

(b) Electricity, Yes [] No [] Neither Yes nor No []

(C) School, Yes [] No [] Neither Yes nor No []

C. EXISTENCE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ITS IMPACT ON POVERTY REDUCTION

15. (a) Have you ever been able to present your views on the state of affairs of this area to a local council, Assembly Member or District Chief Executive? Yes [] No [] Neither Yes nor No []

(b) If Yes, how.....

16. (a) Have you ever contested an election? Yes [] No []

(b) If Yes, in what position? Please tick as many as apply to you

Member of Parliament [] Assembly Member [] Unit Committee Member []

Leader of a Club [] other (please state).....

17. Do you belong to any political party? Yes [] No [] Neither Yes nor No []

18. Did you vote in the last general elections? Yes [] No [], State reasons..... 19.

Did you vote in the last local elections? Yes [] No [], State reasons.....

20. How do you see the performance of the Assembly Members and Unit Committee Members?

Very Good [] Good [] Neither Good nor Poor [] Poor [] Very Poor []

21. What prevents you from participating actively in local politics?.....

22. Participation in governance can help reduce poverty.....

Strongly Agree [] Agree [] Neutral [] Disagree [] Strongly Disagree []

23. How many times do you meet your Assembly Member for a meeting in a year?

Once [] Twice [] Thrice [] More than four times [] None []

24. (a) Do you attend community meetings? Yes [] No [] Neither Yes or No []

(b) If No, give reason.....

25. How does your community get its views/request to the District Assembly? Through

Assembly Member [] Chief [] Unit Committee Chairman []

Opinion Leaders in the community [] Other (please state).....

26. Can you please tell me some privileges (freedoms/opportunities) you must enjoy as a citizen of the country?

.....

27. Have you ever sought the assistance of the Police? Yes No

28. Have you ever sought the service of the court? Yes No

29. How are disputes settled in this area? Through

Assembly/Unit Committee Members Chiefs/Queen mothers Opinion Leaders

The Police The Court Abusuapanim (Clan heads)/ Elderly persons Priests

30. Do you have enough protection (security) in this community?

Yes No Neither Yes nor No

31. Promotion of rule of law can help reduce poverty

Strongly Agree Agree Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Disagree

32. Transparency and Transparency of local authorities in their activities can help reduce poverty

Strongly Agree Agree Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Disagree

33. (b) Do your community sometimes meet the District Assembly officials? Yes No

(b) If Yes, what do you meet to discuss?.....

34. (a) Do the local authorities account to this community in what they do? Yes No

(b) If Yes, how.....

35. Do the local authorities respond to the needs of this community? Yes No Neither

Yes nor No

36. What are the mechanisms or institutional structures that enable people to hold state and non-

state actors to account?

.....
.....

37. Do the local authorities address the needs of the people of this community? Yes [] No []
Neither Yes or No []

38. Effective and Efficient performance of the local authorities can help reduce poverty
Strongly Agree [] Agree [] Neutral [] Disagree [] Strongly Disagree []

D. STRATEGIES FOR POVERTY REDUCTION AND CHALLENGES

39. (a) Are there some strategies to combat poverty in the District? Yes [] No [] Neither
Yes nor No []. If No, jump to question 41.

(b) If Yes, list some of the strategies for poverty reduction that you know

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

40. Are those mechanisms really helping to combat poverty? Y [] No [] Neither Yes
nor No []

41. Suggest ways by which one can get out of poverty

42. What are the community initiatives to fight poverty in this area?

43. In your opinion, what are some of the challenges militating against the strategies listed above?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS TIME.



APPENDIX II

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR DISTRICT ASSEMBLY OFFICIALS

This research is being conducted to find out the Impact of Good Governance on Rural Poverty Reduction: The Case of Nkoranza North District. The main purpose of the study is academic and respondents and participants are assured of anonymity and confidentiality. It would therefore be appreciated if the following questions could be responded to as accurately as possible. Your willingness is appreciated. Thank You.

A. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

Name of Respondent.....

Position of Respondent.....

Sex: Male/Female/Other..... Educational Level.....

How long have you been in this position?

B. PERCEPTION, EXTENT, CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF POVERTY

1. Does poverty exist in this district? Yes [] No [] Neither Yes nor No []

2. How do you see the poverty in the district?

.....
.....
.....

2. What do you think are the causes of poverty in this district? Please, list them.....
.....
.....

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3. What in your opinion are the effects of poverty in the district?

.....
.....
.....
.....

4. What are the effects of poverty on the people in this district?

.....
.....
.....
.....

5. Do people have easy access to the following amenities? Electricity [] Health Care []
School [] Good road network [] Market for agricultural produce [] Credit facilities []

6. (a) Does the Assembly involve the local people in its decision-making processes?

(b) If Yes, how? (Please state).....
.....

.....

C. EXISTENCE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ITS IMPACT ON POVERTY REDUCTION

7. Do you agree that the active participation of the local people in decision-making of the district can help reduce poverty? Strongly Agree [] Agree [] Neutral [] Disagree [] Strongly Disagree []

8. What is your opinion about the legal systems in this district?

.....

.....

9. How are the human rights of the local people safeguarded?.....

.....

.....

10. How are the local authorities responsive to the needs of the people?.....

.....

.....

11. (a) Do the people enjoy quality life? Yes [] No [] Neither Yes nor No []

(b) If Yes, how?.....

12. How will you assess the living conditions of the people, in terms of basic necessities of life?

Very High [] High [] Neither High nor Low [] Low [] Very Low []

13. (a) Do the local people have access to good drinking water? Yes [] No []

Neither Yes nor No []

(b) If Yes, in what ways?

(c) If No, why?

14. (a) Do the people have access to good education? Yes [] No [] Neither Yes nor No []

(b) If Yes, how?.....

(c) If No, why?.....

15. (a) Do the people have access to health care? Yes [] No [] Neither Yes nor No []

(b) If Yes, state how.....

(c) If No, Please, state why.....

16. How are the following people actively involved in the governance of the district?

i. Women.....
...

ii. The Physically Challenged.....

iii. The local elite..... iv. Chiefs and other traditional leaders.....

v. Others (Please state).....

17. How effective is the Assembly able to provide the needs of the people?

Highly Effectively [] Effective [] Neutral [] Effective [] Not Effective []

18. How transparent is the Assembly to the local people? Highly Transparent [] Transparent []

Neutral [] Highly Not Transparent []

19. In your opinion, what prevents the local people from getting actively involved in local governance?.....

.....

20. What measures are there to enable the institutions to be accountable to the local people?.....

.....

D. STRATEGIES FOR POVERTY REDUCTION AND CHALLENGES

21. In your own opinion, suggest ways by which poverty can be reduced in this district?.....

.....

.....

22. How do you see the performance of the Assembly in combating poverty?

.....

.....

.....

23. What are the national policies and programmes to combat poverty in this district?

24. What measures are put in place by the District Assembly to combat poverty in this district?

.....

.....

.....

25. What are the local people in the district doing to alleviate/reduce poverty in their communities?

.....

.....

.....

26. Are the Assembly Members included in the planning, formulation and implementation of pro-poor policies? Yes [] No [] Neither Yes nor No []

27. What are the challenges associated with the combat of poverty in the district?

.....

.....

.....

28. What measures are put in place to tackle those challenges?

.....

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS TIME



APPENDIX III

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR ASSEMBLY MEMBERS/AREA COUNCIL/UNIT COMMITTEE
MEMBERS/OPINION LEADERS IN THE DISTRICT

This research is being conducted to find out the Impact of Good Governance on Rural Poverty Reduction: The Case of Nkoranza North District. The main purpose of the study is academic and respondents and participants are assured of anonymity and confidentiality. It would therefore be appreciated if the following questions could be responded to as accurately as possible. Your willingness is appreciated. Thank You

A. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

Position of Respondent.....
Sex: Male/Female/Other..... Educational Level.....
Name of Area Council.....

B. PERCEPTION, EXTENT, CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF POVERTY

1. Does poverty exist in this area? Yes [] No [] Neither Yes nor No []
2. What do you understand by the term poverty?
.....
3. In your opinion, what are the causes of poverty in this area?
.....
4. What are some of the characteristics of a poor person?
.....

5. What are the effects of poverty on the lives of the people?.....

6. Do people have easy access to the following amenities? (Please, tick as many as exist in this area): Water [] Schools [] Electricity [] Good Roads [] Health Centre/ Clinic []

Others.....

7. What are some of the needs of the people in this area? Please list them.....

8. (a) Are these needs provided by the District Assembly? Yes [] No []

(b) If No, why?.....

9. Suggest ways by which one can get out of poverty.....

C. EXISTENCE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ITS IMPACT ON POVERTY

REDUCTION

10. How do you see the performance of the District Assembly in solving the problem of poverty? Satisfactory [] Unsatisfactory [] Above Average [] Average [] Below Average [] Poor []

11. What prevents you from participating actively in local governance/politics?.....

12. How many times do you meet your District Chief Executive/Assembly Member for a meeting in a year? Once [] Twice [] Thrice [] None []

13. Are the local people involved in decision making processes in this area? Yes [] No []

(a) If Yes, how?.....

(b) If No, why?.....

14. In your opinion, what prevents the local people from getting actively involved in local governance?.....

15. (a) Are your rights protected? Yes [] No [] Neither Yes nor No []

(b) If Yes, how?
.....

(c) If No, why?.....

16. How do you seek for legal assistance?.....

17. What can you say about the legal framework in this area?.....

18. How transparent is the Assembly to the local people? Very Transparent []
Transparent [] Somehow Transparent [] Not Transparent []

19. What measures exist to enable the institutions to be accountable to the local people?
.....

20. What forms of institutional structures and processes exist to enable people living in poverty to hold state and non-state actors accountable?.....

21. How can decision-making and decision-making processes be made more responsible to the needs of the local people?.....

22. How effective is the Assembly able to provide the needs of the people?

Highly Effectively [] Effective [] Somehow Effective [] Not Effective []

Please, give reason(s):

23. What do you think the Assembly should have done but has not done to combat poverty?

.....

24. Why do you think the Assembly has not done those things you want it to do?

.....

D. STRATEGIES FOR POVERTY REDUCTION AND CHALLENGES

25. What are some of the governmental policies/strategies to combat poverty in this district?

.....

26. How effective is the Assembly able to provide the needs of the people?

Highly Effectively [] Effective [] Somehow Effective [] Not Effective []

27. In your own opinion, suggest ways through which poverty can be reduced in this district?

.....

28. What are some of the local measures in this area to combat poverty?

.....

29. In your own opinion, suggest ways through which poverty can be reduced in this area.

.....

30. What are some of the challenges against the combat of poverty in this area?

.....

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRECIOUS TIME.

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